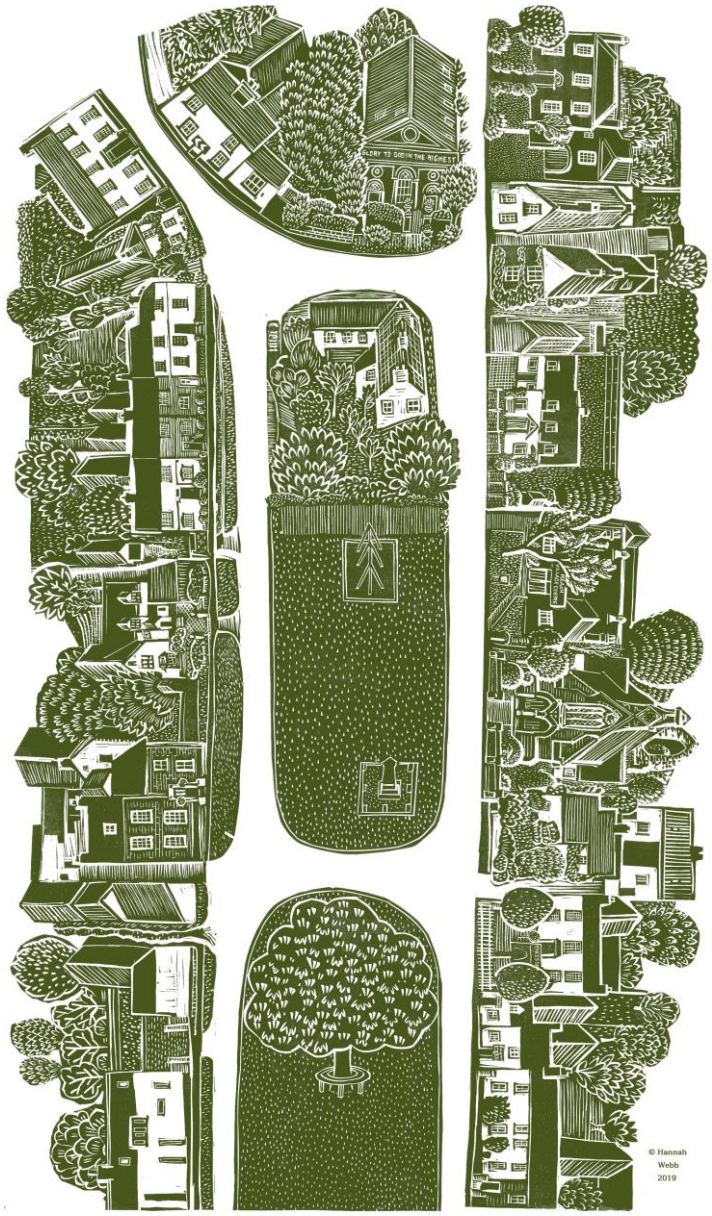

Within Reach
Dec 2019/Jan 2020



This year we have **Tea Towels** available for sale – in the three colours of:

Burgundy

French Navy Blue

Olive Green

Big thanks go to Hannah Webb for her work in creating these

They cost £4.00 each, £7.50 for 2 or £10.00 for 3

We also have **Christmas Cards**, with big thanks going to our photographer Gareth Davies

They cost £7.50 for 5, £10.00 for 10

To place orders for either of these items, please send an email to davidmparr@btinternet.com or call 07887 563720



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From the Editor



So now it's nearly Christmas – always an exciting time of year in Reach, with plenty going on as you'll see in the Events Team article on page 5.

The first event is the Christmas Tree lights switch-on, this coming Sunday with the customary Brass Band and legendary mulled wine.

And then we have the Senior's Christmas Lunch on Wednesday December 11th which promises to be even more enjoyable than last year.



The news regarding our tree is less good however, as you will read in Alex's article on page 3. The above picture was taken in May 2009, so 10 years ago when it was in its prime.



As you should now be aware, Claire Halpin-McDonald has agreed to act as the co-ordinator of a new team which will take over the running of Reach Fair. How it will be structured has now been determined and can be found in the Draft Parish Council Minutes for November.

The team meets every second Tuesday in the Village Hall starting at 8.00pm. These meetings are open to all villagers so please go along to either help or learn more.

And finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a superb 2020!

David Parr
davidmparr@btinternet.com or 07887 563720

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 *Within Reach* magazine and its predecessor *Out of Reach* can be found on the village website www.reach-village.co.uk. The next copy date is 15th January 2020. This magazine (which is fully funded from advertising) is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

The Team

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Events Team	Debbie Quilter
Gardening	Danuta Gibson
IT Advice	David Macmillan
Parish Council	Alex de Giorgio-Miller
Reach Riders Group	Sue Cameron
Rosanna's Ramblings	Rosanna Moseley Gore
Snakehall Farm	Liz Pitt
Then and Now	Chris Patterson
Wicken Fen	Julie Hammond
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild



Village Update

Horse Chestnut Tree update



Thank you to all for your comments on the future of the large horse chestnut tree on the green. For those who didn't catch the article on the flyer tucked into the last issue, we reported that our wonderful horse chestnut tree on the green now has many dying branches which must be removed as they pose a risk to safety. Sadly, despite the use of an air-spade to reduce compaction in 2014/15 and mulching around the tree, the decline of the tree appears to be continuing. The Parish Council sought advice from the Trees Officer at ECDC and a highly qualified tree surgeon on the best course of action.



As the large horse chestnut tree is in decline, the new replacement tree must now be seen as the more important tree. The advice we have received is that the new tree will not grow in a balanced form while the canopy of the horse chestnut remains, and it will be too late for a balanced crown to form soon.

Originally, the recommendation was to pollard the horse chestnut to leave it as a "Bolling" in the short term. The "Bolling" would produce new growth and this can be removed every 2-3 years, none of this will be large enough to be a hazard. The horse chestnut will die eventually and it can be removed. The other alternative was always to remove the whole horse chestnut including the roots, leaving the new tree to develop unhindered.

We asked for comments and suggestions from the village and thank you to those who contacted us. The topic of the tree was discussed at our November Parish Council meeting and it has been decided that the best course of action is to remove the whole tree. The reasons for this include the lower overall cost and the many comments that the 'bolling' would look odd.

The Parish Council are currently getting a couple of further quotes for the work and the final decision on contractor will be taken at the Parish Council's December meeting (4th Dec). If you wish to comment further, then please contact the clerk: clerk@reachparishcouncil.org.

Alex de Giorgio-Miller
Chair – Reach Parish Council
a.degiorgiomiller@reachparishcouncil.org

Wednesdays are Pie and a Pint Nights at the Dyke's End





Neighbourhood Plan

Funding



Our application for central Government support for the project has been successful. Funding for the remainder of this financial year has been approved. This enables us to task consultants on work for which we as a Project Group (and village) lack the time and expertise.

Consultancy

The Group had an initial meeting with Ian Poole, our town planning consultant, on 9 October at which work to date was reviewed and the drafting of a residents' survey was initiated - see below.

The Group has appointed Alison Farmer www.alisonfarmer.co.uk/ as the landscape architect to undertake an appraisal of the landscape of our neighbourhood, a key underpinning of the Plan. Alison has an excellent reputation and her work was central to defeating a widely opposed application for a major housing development in Burwell recently. Alison is currently undertaking a landscape appraisal of the Wicken Vision area for the National Trust and there is a helpful overlap between this and our task as about two thirds of our neighbourhood falls within the Wicken Vision area.

In addition to providing funds, central Government also provides technical support to neighbourhood plan projects. Having undergone some scrutiny, we are awaiting final clearance for AECOM www.aecom.com/uk/about-aecom/ an architectural and infrastructure consultant, to produce a design code for Reach. The code will guide the layout, scale, materials, and density of new building in the village to better protect our historic buildings and the sense of place that currently exists in Reach. We are keen to hear your views about what you like and don't like about the current buildings of the village so that we can steer AECOM's work. There will be a section on this in the forthcoming residents' survey.

The Hythe

There has still been no response from Anglian Water to our proposals to improve the recreational and environmental benefits of the Hythe following what we gauged to be a positive meeting on 5 September. We are chasing the utility company.

Communication - the Residents' Survey

As mentioned in previous articles, the project group can only deliver a successful neighbourhood plan if we accurately reflect how the majority of villagers want the village to evolve over the next two decades.

While we continue to welcome your informal, adhoc comments and your active involvement in our meetings, we now need to undertake a more systematic gathering of your views to build an evidence base and to test our emerging thinking. We are in the advanced stages of drafting a survey which will be open everyone over 16 living in Reach. In parallel we will gather the views of younger residents at a forum. We will tell you more about the survey and the forum in the near future.

Nick Acklam
Chair Reach Neighbourhood Plan Project Group
acklam@reach-village.co.uk 743749

Burwell Museum Coach Trips



- **Norwich Christmas Market**
  Wednesday 11th December – tickets £17

Tickets on sale at Tina's North St, Burwell or ring Barbara on 01638 741581 or 07887 712296

Bottisham Village College Adult Learning

Interested in learning something new? Our full range of courses for the Autumn Term is now available and can be booked online at: www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

New courses include . . . .

What is Art? (Contemporary Art Theory)
Mindfulness and More
Spanish for Beginners
Just Look Up! (Astronomy for Beginners)

We have lots of new Cookery courses including: Brunch, Mexican, Italian and Indian

If you missed out on your Maths GCSE you may be eligible for a fully-funded place on our one year evening class

Our full range of courses is available on our website: www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

Tel: 01223 811372 or Email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Events Team

Here we go again….

Christmas is on its way and the events team have a jammed packed schedule of events to encourage us all to share some Christmas spirit.

Sunday 1st December at 5.00pm, we'll be **switching the tree lights on**, with the customary brass band, mulled wine and mince pies - and whatever the weather, it'll be snowing, so please come along and enjoy.

Sunday 8th December, 3.00pm to 5.00pm we have our **Christmas Craft Workshop for the children**. This is a chance for the children to make Christmas decoration for the Seniors lunch with some to take home too. We are hoping to keep the event as green as possible so please don't forget to be saving your loo roll tubes to bring along. Children must be accompanied by an adult please.

Wednesday 11th December, Senior's Christmas Lunch - starting at 12.30pm. We have had a great response so it should be fun – it certainly was last year!

Sunday 22nd December, 5pm, Christingle service at the church. Join us as the Christmas story is told with readings by the village children. Please let Debbie know if your child would like to be involved.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th 6-6.45pm, Carol singing around the Tree. We have tried to simplify this event. Many of us on the team have family commitments and have struggled in the past with the logistics. Our plan is to simply gather around the tree, share a drink and a few Christmas songs and carols. Bring a torch and wish each other a Happy Christmas.

Village merchandise will be available to buy at many of our events.

Reach village Christmas cards. Same pricing of 5 for £7.50 and 10 for £10.00. To get further information, including seeing the new design, go to the inside front cover of this magazine.

And our **Tea Towels** have been updated to reflect changes in the village over the last 7 years and will be on sale in 3 different colours. Pricing £4.00 each, £7.50 for 2 and £10.00 for 3. Again, to get further information, including seeing the new design, go to the inside front cover of this magazine.

Debbie Quilter



So What's This Raspberry Pi Thing Then?



For the last decade, Liz and I have been busy building the Raspberry Pi Foundation, an educational charity which aims to get young people involved in computing and electronics. Over that time, it has grown from an evenings and weekends project which we did at our kitchen table at number 11, to a not-for-profit business employing over 200 people in Cambridge, London, Dublin and Oakland, California.

The Foundation's signature product, the Raspberry Pi computer, has sold 30 million units, making it the UK's most successful computer and the third most successful general-purpose computing platform of all time after the PC and Apple Mac.

An Educational Crisis

Like many people my age (I'm 41), I grew up surrounded by programmable computer hardware. In my case, I had a rather battered second-hand BBC Micro in my bedroom and later a Commodore Amiga. From the age of ten, I learned to program these computers, first in BASIC and later in lower-level assembly language. I used to get books out of the library and attended my local computer club every fortnight.

When I arrived to study Computer Science at Cambridge in 1996, I found that most of my cohort had had a similar route into computing: not via formal computing education, which was almost non-existent in the UK, but as a hobby. We hadn't necessarily bought our computers with the aim of learning to program, but the programmability of our computers had almost tricked us into becoming programmers.

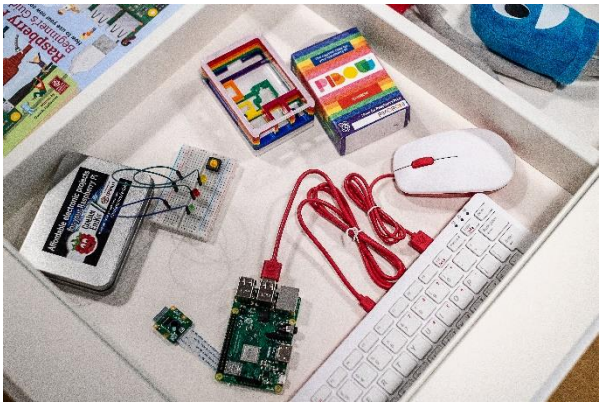
Throughout the 1990s, Cambridge had roughly 600 applicants each year for 100 places on the Computer Science Tripos. But starting in 2000 this number rapidly declined, reaching 200 applicants by 2008; at the same time, the typical skillset of a typical first-year undergraduate also declined. As Director of Studies at St John's College from 2004-2007, interviewing my handful of candidates took an afternoon and I found myself barely able to fill the three or four places available to me with good-quality candidates.

A group of us, mostly based at the University Computer Laboratory, started to ask ourselves what had happened. We settled on the disappearance of programmable hardware, replaced from the early 1990s onwards with fixed-function devices like games consoles and (much later) mobile telephones.

Filling a Niche

Having decided that a lack of hardware was the problem, we set out to build something to fill the gap. We wanted something which was cheap (we settled on $25 as the typical cost of a school textbook – the sort of price you can ask most parents to bear), robust, fun (Raspberry Pi isn't supposed to be a "take your medicine" product – it should be able to play games and videos, surf the web etc.) and of course programmable.

After a lot of experimentation, we came up with a single-board computer the size of a credit card, designed to plug into a television and a regular USB mouse and keyboard and using a mobile phone charger for power. Originally we had planned to distribute a few thousand units directly to potential Cambridge applicants (perhaps attendees at open days) but when we launched on 29 February 2012 we were overwhelmed with demand.



We sold roughly 100,000 units on the first day and 1,000,000 units in the first year. Many of these went into the hands of adult hobbyists, but over time we started to see them being adopted in formal and informal educational settings. Many of those hobbyists from the first year turned out to be parents or teachers or became volunteers at Raspberry Pi-themed clubs and events.



In the eight years since, we've created three more generations of Raspberry Pi computer. Raspberry Pi 4, launched in June this year, is roughly forty times as powerful as Raspberry Pi 1, with up to sixteen times as much memory and on-board wireless networking. For the first time, most users will find it indistinguishable from a "regular" desktop PC. At some point in December we will sell our thirty-millionth unit.

Forward the Foundation

The original aim of the Raspberry Pi Foundation was simply to make Raspberry Pi computers available inexpensively to anybody who wanted one but selling so many units has generated a substantial surplus. This has allowed the Foundation to fund teacher training and to create free online educational resources.

We merged with the Code Club and Coder Dojo networks of computer clubs, which we now fund; we reach more than half a million children around the world just through those two projects. In November last year a consortium of which the Foundation is a member won an £82m series of government contracts to run teacher training provision for Computing in England. And this year saw over 1,400 applicants to Computer Science at Cambridge, a seven-fold increase since 2008.

While it's easy for me to look back on the 1980s as a golden era in which to learn about computers, we have to recognise that access to opportunity was unevenly distributed, participation skewed heavily male and formal education was almost non-existent. In its work to reboot interest in computing and electronics, the Foundation is aiming to address these issues, focusing on access for underprivileged children, promoting positive female role models and attempting to balance engagement with formal and informal channels.

So there you have it. If you'd like to learn more about Raspberry Pi, or try out a Raspberry Pi 4 for yourself, why not visit our website at www.raspberrypi.org, or drop in to our store on the first floor of the Grand Arcade in Cambridge.





Eben Upton

Wicken Fen



Wicken Hayrick under construction – Julia Hammond

Groups of winter thrushes are creating colourful sights and chattering sounds around the reserve. Corvids can be seen swirling overhead, particularly just before dusk. The first short-eared owls and hen harriers have now arrived too, so it's a great time for wildlife watching. You can join us for a Winter Wildlife Safari with our rangers on 1st December or 26th January and take a guided walk looking for wildlife out in the wider reserve – see *www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on for details.*

We're excited that a new artwork is being constructed at Wicken Fen, created by artists Heather Peak and Ivan Morison of Studio Morison. It has been commissioned by Cambridgeshire based Wysing Arts Centre as part of the region-wide arts commissioning programme: New Geographies. New Geographies aims to bring contemporary art to unexpected places in the East of England.

The Wicken Hayrick is a sculptural structure; a pavilion; that has been created specifically for Wicken Fen Nature Reserve. The artists hope that visitors to Wicken Fen will enter into the work to sit, contemplate nature, and to read or write.

Work on our café expansion project is now underway. Our new mobile café unit (affectionately named 'Doris') is looking very smart. We've got a new coffee machine so we can now make barista coffee. Do pop in and try one – bring your own cup and you'll receive 25p discount on your hot drink and help us minimise the number of compostable cups that we recycle.

Our Learning Team are preparing for Father Christmas's return to the Fen! Our event includes a festive trail, meeting Father Christmas and receiving a gift, and making Christmas crafts using natural materials in our winter wonderland. Tickets are selling quickly so book soon - see http://bit.ly/WickenFatherChristmas

A lovely crisp, wintery walk is one of the best ways to escape from the hectic run up to the festive season or walk off the excess between Christmas and New Year. We are open every day except Christmas Day.

Healing the Landscape: Restoring Cairngorm's Forests



Abernethy Forest is the largest surviving remnant of natural Caledonian pinewood in the UK. Forest does hang on elsewhere but over most of the Scottish Highlands the forest has been lost, replaced with open moorland, bog and heath. At Abernethy, as elsewhere, large scale tree-felling initially took place to meet the demand for timber for ship building during the Napoleonic wars and the forests were further exploited during the First and Second World Wars. Since then forest regeneration on Scottish hills and glens has been suppressed by land management for sheep grazing, grouse and deer shooting. The ambitious vision of the Cairngorms Connect project is to restore pine forest and other natural habitats across a massive 60,000 hectares (600 sq km) of the Scottish Highlands.

I knew that forest restoration could be a challenge, but until I visited the Cairngorms Connect project I had no real idea of the complexity involved. I started my visit at the project's tree nursery at Forest Lodge deep in the heart of Abernethy Forest. A fenced enclosure makes sense to keep out deer and rabbits that might be tempted by the young plants, but it also serves to control entry of people into the nursery area. I was made to stand at the gate whilst my boots were disinfected. Neil Cowie, Conservation Ecologist at the RSPB explained: "*We need to avoid bringing disease and invasive species, like nematodes, into the nursery and then transporting them out into the wider environment. So we take strict precautions. We aren't bringing any compost into the nursery and tree seedlings will be transported and planted 'bare-rooted' to further avoid the transfer of disease*".

These strict controls also extend to the use of seed and cuttings for propagation – all are taken from the project area so that the plants produced are the same genetic stock as that which currently exists in the landscape. The project is giving genetics a helping hand. Again, Neil explains: "*For some species, like downy willow, the population is made up of widely separated individuals, in remote locations, with no prospect of cross-pollination. We'll be helping to address this through the propagation and planting out of trees from different parts of the project area*".

Of course, propagation and planting is in some ways a 'last resort' but an essential one where there are no natural seed sources. The preferred approach is to let natural regeneration do the work – it is both economically more efficient, the trees are healthier and establish more quickly and the result is a more natural looking woodland than can be achieved through planting. But even where seed sources exist, forests won't recover where the factor preventing regeneration for the last 100 years – deer – are still present in large numbers.

On the hillsides around the Ryvoan Pass between Nethy Bridge and Glenmore, naturally regenerating forest appears to be marching up the slopes of Meall a' Bhuachaille. As we turn off the main path we meet with two of the people helping to create the conditions for such success. Jack Ward and Cieran Watson are two deer stalkers recently recruited by the project to control deer in the project area. Jeremy Roberts, the Cairngorms Connect Programme Manager, explains the strategy: "*It's not about having no deer on the hills - they are an important part of ecology. It is all about balance. What we aim to do is create conditions where there are so many tree seedlings that they swamp the ability of deer to find and eat them. We don't want to fence deer out – and we don't believe that is necessary. If we can achieve the right balance it should be possible to restore forests with deer on open, un-fenced hills*".

Typically, stalkers work within the boundaries of the estates or organisations that employ them. But of course, deer don't recognise those boundary lines or know where they lie. In a unique approach to deer control in the Highlands, Jack and Cieran are now working across boundaries to help deliver the shared objectives of the project's four partner organisations.

Even where seed sources still exist there are still many unanswered questions about how best to regenerate forest. A thick mat of heather and sphagnum moss can deny seeds access to bare soil, where they can germinate. The project is carrying out experiments to learn more about how to create these conditions. Controlled plots are being burned, scarified or mowed and rates of seedling survival recorded by the project's scientists. Answering questions such as this could help to make restoration much more efficient and cost-effective – critical questions to be answered given the extent of the Scottish Highlands requiring restoration. Get the starting conditions right and nature will restore itself. Mark Hancock, RSPB Ecologist, pointed to a cluster of 20-30 Rowan seedlings: "*Field fares and thrush feed on the rowan berries in flocks and then roost overnight on the ground under cover of the blaeberry bushes. They leave behind seeds, in their own packet of guano-fertilizer, delivered right to the ground in places good for germination".*

As we start our descent towards Glenmore Lodge we pass ancient Caledonian pines, multi-limbed, collapsed and contorted. There is a thick understory of heather and bilberry. Such a sight will be unfamiliar to anyone who has only ever seen a pine tree in a commercial plantation, tall, straight, limbless, a dark interior devoid of vegetation. Many people come here for the chance to see red squirrels and if they are very lucky Capercaillie, a species for which the Cairngorms Connect area is the UK's stronghold.

Further to the south we enter the Glenfeshie Estate where we are met by Thomas MacDonell the estate's manager. This property was acquired by Wildland Limited over 10 years ago. Thomas explains that the immediate priority was to reduce the overabundant deer to allow the forest to naturally regenerate. The result around the River Feshie, where remnant mature Scots Pine and birch provide an abundant seed source, is a clear demonstration of the results of this approach.

Standing in the braided river channel I feel transported to the wilds of Canada as Thomas points out to me the regenerating trees that carpet the hillside. But it is a different story outside the valley in areas far from abundant seed sources and where exotic Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole pine have been cleared. Here Wildland Limited are replanting but doing so with care and attention to topography and local micro-climate. Armed with tablet computers and GPS codes the contractors have planted 3 million trees at specified mixtures and densities to try to recreate the natural ecosystem as quickly as possible under these often-harsh conditions.

It's a complicated picture. Right across the Cairngorms Connect area, from the exposed, craggy mountain tops to the sheltered bottoms of the glens, the partnership of the RSPB, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Wildland Limited is reversing the impact of centuries of land use that have contributed to the loss of biodiversity and the decline of ecological services that the land provides. But it is clear that in a landscape this complex there is no single remedy for the restoration of forests.

It may not be a useful metaphor, but as I boarded the train back to Cambridge the efforts to restore the Cairngorms Connect area put me in mind of an ailing body being tended to by a number of different physicians intent on returning the body back to health. Different parts of the body are suffering from different ailments or injuries and the physicians are treating their particular limb or organ, using their knowledge and expertise to apply the most appropriate treatment. By working together, and sharing experience, they will restore the body-landscape in a way which would be impossible acting individually.

David Thomas



Glenfeshie



Natural Regeneration of Trees at Ryvoan

Rosanna's Ramblings

A Tale of Three Chimneys



As with last issue's ramblings on sloes, blackberries and beans, the topic for my musings usually presents itself to my conscious mind a few days before the copy deadline approaches. Charles and I were walking in the wood the other day, making a point as we have done recently of capturing it in its utmost autumnal splendour and the sight of the increasing number of bare branches got me thinking. Of firewood. Of open fires and wood burners. And of … chimneys.

You could say that chimneys are the unsung heroes of the house. Clearly this heroic status has been utterly overlooked by the architects of many new housing developments – take a careful note, next time you drive past one – because chimneys have mostly been done away with, leading to collections of what I have started to refer to as Monopoly Houses. Rectangular boxes with pitched roofs. And no familiar vertical stack to punctuate the skyline. They look quite odd, once you pay attention.

Which brings me back to the unsung-ness of their heroism. When the fireplaces are in use (which in our house was triply needed during that long snowbound patch the winter before last), properly swept and maintained chimneys just get on with their job of propelling smoke up, up and away (and yes, I know the reasons why that very fact is now, justifiably, problematical for our environment, our climate, and our lungs). Even when they aren't in use, structurally the solidity and nature of a chimney running up through the middle of a house, or at its edges, creates a strengthening buttressing of old walls – particularly when, as in Reach, foundations are … well … rather lacking.

But all that silent do-gooding, or doing good, can so easily flip into minor irritations (smoking chimneys, bird's nests, or even as my old dad once had – an unwelcome intrusion of a young, very scared jackdaw in his house whose presence in the empty house was only noticed after a trail of splodges and smears was followed through to its sad end – a very dead bird on the floor by the picture window which had tantalized him with the dashed belief in escape).

Once the minor irritations are dealt with, then there are the less minor challenges that can creep up on one unawares. Or in the case of what happened at our house a month ago, not creep but announced by a trickle and rumble, a clatter and a thump. Upstairs. While we were sitting, innocently enjoying an evening chat, downstairs. "What on earth was that?" we asked ourselves.

After gingerly heading upstairs we discovered, fanning out on the floor in front of a small bedroom fireplace, an array of sediment, detritus, deposits that would have done justice to the speedy retreat of a glacier – a jumble of dust, crumbled brick and mortar and a couple of large bricks like boulders left on a valley bottom. "Oh", said I. "Oh dear", said Charles while, unwisely in my annoyingly cautious opinion, sticking his upturned face up the chimney to attempt to peer into the darkness and ascertain What Had Happened.



Photos were taken for the house insurance (ah, how naïve we were … "wear and tear", "standard maintenance", "not our problem, gov!") and a vague plan hatched to call someone to have a look at what Charles speculatively diagnosed as a problem with the 'feathers' in the flue. Whatever they may be.

Then we forgot all about it until three weeks later – while enjoying a quite evening chat downstairs – we were disturbed by a trickle and rumble, a clatter and a thump. Upstairs. Delph End Cottage's very own Groundhog Day moment.

Hmm, thought my husband. Better do something about it then. So a very nice chap came to call and looked inside and looked outside and sent a camera up the chimney – and hooray, there is a problem, but it's not a serious problem and no it doesn't need a whole new chimney being built (and I know of at least one Reach household reading this who will be muttering "well, we're so glad YOU were that lucky!") – and work will begin to make good the discrete failings of an ageing chimney quite soon.

So that's Chimney No.1.

Chimney No.2 and Chimney No.3 are at the 18th century house we're renovating in Ely and what stories they tell, and what stories they keep secret! When I first saw the house in August 2017, the 'parlour' had a hideous 1930s monstrosity (cracked tiles of a mottled pinkish grey that somehow reminded me of a morgue, not that I've ever been in a morgue). Its removal at first revealed a cobbled together botched job of brick and wood in front of a very deep chimney breast, but alarmingly NO LINTEL holding the whole structure up. Careful shoring up by our Listed contractors then revealed a beautiful curved-backed fireplace and a tiled hearth that had to be replaced because it was sitting upon a void created by two hundred years of heat causing the underlying lime mortar to crumble and degrade. Looking up the revealed flue, we can now see the beautiful brickwork and are waiting to get it lined so a wood burner can be installed. But why was the fireplace so very wide and so deep? It's the wrong shape for a range. Did it have some sort of roasting spit arrangement? Was it a bread oven which long ago lost its component part? Who knows.



And Chimney No.3? Behind a modern gas fire with a tombstone-like polished black marble fire surround (all sold on eBay for £30), we found another chimney breast lacking a lintel – and a completely unlined flue which was a bit alarming considering the gas fire. The contractor said "Somebody could have died from the fumes". Well, I like to think the nonagenarian lady whose house it had been was not the victim of those fumes – she was well loved, and cared for by her sons – but I'm sorting out a flue lining because it seems, well, a rather good idea.



And considering this issue is coming out at the start of December, do make sure your chimneys are swept in time for Christmas Eve!

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Foody Markets and Food Festivals Happening Near You

Burwell Farmers Market (Burwell Village College) 2nd Saturday of the month (9.30- 12.30) – 14th December & 11th January.

Ely Farmers Market 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month (8.30 -2) - 14th December and 23rd & 11th & 25th January in addition there is a Vegan Christmas Fair on December 15th.

The big **Christmas Market** is on December 23rd.

Cambridge's Mill Road Winter Fair Saturday 7th December with market and food stalls lining the street and a food fair in Gwydir Street Car Park (10.30 – 4.15)

La Hogue (farm shop near Chippenham) has Father Christmas visiting on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th December (booking essential)

Stretham Farmers Market Saturday 14th December (9am-1pm). There may well be carol singing as there often is!

Bury St Edmunds Farmers Market – held on the second Sunday of every month on the Traverse – 8th December.

Catherine Gibson

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, nothing was stirring – not even a mouse, except for the photographer leaving the house early to catch a sunrise. That squeaky floor board has a lot to answer for…..

While out and about taking photos a photographer's mind will wonder to items of photographic kit that they own – or more importantly, items of kit they don't have. I have enough photography equipment and don't need anything else.- said no photographer. Ever.

So, I thought I would tell you about some of the items I have in my camera bag to help give ideas, if, being this time of year, any readers needed ideas . . .

The one thing I always take is my little emergency "get out of trouble kit", as you never know. This is a little waterproof zip bag containing, lens cleaner and cloth, velcro cable ties, a mini reversible screwdriver, spare batteries for your camera, a small torch (USB re-chargeable bike light), pack of nail files, small long nose plyers, multi tool, spare memory card(s) for your camera, an OS map of the area, a grey sharpie pen (the grey can be seen on any type of surface) and lip balm – chapped lips are bad. A small, but well stocked First Aid kit – for life's little accidents and a roll of Gaffer Tape – Gaffer Tape will be your photographic best friend.

A really good, comfortable camera strap. I don't wish to be rude, but the camera strap which came with your camera tends to be small, weak, ugly and uncomfortable. The difference between a good strap and a free "kit" strap is like night and day. You won't regret it.

A big must have is a tripod. I have three, but that's an argument for my wife and me. They are: A small Gorilla tripod, a normal size lightweight one and a Bembo Trekker Mk2 that weights the same as a small Elephant. Whether you're shooting landscape, portrait, night, street, or even wedding photography, you are going to need a tripod as some point or another.

If you need advice with any elements of your photography, then please, pop on over to the Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club, every Tuesday night at 7:30 at the Baptist Church Hall in Lode.

These are just some of the highlights from the next few weeks – Quiz night on the 10th of December. Demonstration of Photoshop and Lightroom on the 7th of January and on the 14th of January we have "Never Seen Anything At Wicken Fen" by National Trust photographer Richard Nicoll.

As always for more information about the club please visit our web site at bottburpc.org – or better yet come over and see us..

Remember, though, all your gear will not make you a better photographer, getting out and taking images will. Kit will just make taking photos more fun, and there is definitely value in that. OH, and socks. A good pair of warm socks. You cannot go wrong with a pair of good socks...

Happy Snapping everyone…..

Elliot Needham
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club.

Burwell & Reach Car Scheme

If you are unable to use conventional transport, the scheme can help you to travel from Reach or Burwell to:

Chiropodists, Dentists, Doctors, Opticians, Shops, Visit Friends . . . .

Transport cannot be provided for Hospital Outpatient Appointments

Contact hours are 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday – please give us 24 hours notice

01638 742543 (answerphone) and we will return your call

Reach Riders



We have purchased some new show jumps for the arena, so lots of choice of what to jump.

We also have a set of dressage markers, so there is a dressage arena set up too.

Future events include a festive ride from the village green up to the No Hurry Pub on the 29th December.

Also a social at the Dyke's End on Friday 31st Jan.

All latest information is on the Reach Riders Group Facebook page and all updates will be posted there.

Contact **Sue Cameron** - ewenandsue@btinternet.com

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PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

Christmas is approaching! The time of year when we're enjoying a tipple with friends, cooking up festive feasts for the family and entertaining loved ones. With all the fun to be had it is easy to be distracted when cooking in the kitchen.

50 per cent of all fires in the home start in the kitchen and more than half of those are as a result of distraction whilst cooking.

We want to help ensure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke this Christmas by sharing our tips below for safe cooking over the festive season:

Never leave cooking unattended

Do not cook when tired or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication that makes you drowsy.

Regularly clean the grill pan and oven. Built up fat can easily catch fire

Never leave anything cooking if you leave the house.

Do not leave anything flammable on or near the hob – tea towels, oven gloves and even washing baskets can catch fire.

Take care when using microwaves. Fires can start when people put food in too long.

Oven chips or temperature control deep fat fryers are safer than using a chip pan. If you do use a chip pan, do not fill it more than one third with fat and turn the heat down if the oil starts smoking.

Fire can break out in household appliances so you should regularly maintain dishwashers, washing machines and driers, never leave them on if you go out or go to bed and register your appliances online to ensure you are made aware of any faults or recalls.

Have a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home. If it keeps going off when you are cooking it is probably in the wrong location or you may have the wrong type of smoke alarm.

Never take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

If you do have a fire in the house, get out, stay out and dial 999.

For more information log onto: www.cambsfire.gov.uk, follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.

Burwell Museum and Windmill



Many, many thanks from all at Burwell Museum and Windmill!

Thank you to everyone who has supported, visited and/or volunteered at Burwell Museum and Windmill this year. We've had over 3,500 visitors over the year and our amazing volunteers have put in over 4,000 hours between them to make sure that the museum continues to be a really great day out. We're also very grateful to the Parish Council, the Carnival, Cambridgeshire County Council and Newmarket Waitrose for financial support over the year and to Newmarket Tesco and Burwell Co-op for giving us gifts in kind (and in the Co-Op's case lots of very much appreciated staff time). Thank you to everyone who has been to the museum either as a visitor or a volunteer in 2019!

Do you have any time to spare?

Although we are now closed to visitors for the winter, there is still a lot going on behind the scenes and WE NEED YOUR HELP! Are you enthusiastic, community-minded and want to offer some time to a local charity? If this sounds like you then please get in touch about becoming a volunteer with the museum. No previous experience is required and you'll receive a very warm welcome! We're especially looking for:

Mill volunteers

We need more people to help with the Mill as we work to prepare for its 200th birthday next year. Mill volunteers work on Tuesdays, usually from around 9.30am until 4pm. You don't have to commit to every Tuesday but it's helpful if you are able to say in advance when you will be there so that work can be planned. Jobs range from routine maintenance tasks to operating the mill itself; full training is provided for the jobs involved. If you want to find out more, you are welcome to come to the museum on a Tuesday or to contact Colin, our Mill manager, on cmarshall@cantab.net.

Site maintenance volunteers

Keeping the museum site going needs lots of people for a wide range of jobs including painting, repairing things and keeping all of our buildings clean and tidy. Previous experience of plumbing, electrics, IT systems etc. would be massively useful but there are plenty of jobs which don't require specialist skills! If you can spare us time on a Tuesday or Thursday to help either with a specific job or with general maintenance tasks, we'd love to hear from you at volunteers@burwellmuseum.org.uk or on 01638 605544.

Website: www.burwellmuseum.org.uk
Tel: 01638 605544
Address: Mill Close, Burwell, Cambridge CB25 0HL

Out and About Autumn/Winter 2019



The beautiful colours of Autumn, crisp mornings and early nights have arrived. The rusty red, orange, purple and yellow pigments replace the usual leaf greens, trees discard leaves as protection from disease and water loss (which would be replaced with difficulty from frozen ground). This time of year also treats us to blazing sunsets, visible to greatest effect in these expansive fen skies.

Fallen leaves provide a warm carpet which benefits insects and mammals. It would help if gardens were not raked for a while, then leaves swept into corner piles to make perfect homes for hibernating hedgehogs.



From the garden studio I observed the food hoarding antics of a fat grey squirrel, it worked tirelessly all day burying walnuts (probably from Glen and Janet Newman's tree next door) in each plant pot, casually discarding autumn bulbs along the way.

During October bird murmurations began, from starlings to large flocks of geese. It is thought these mesmerising displays take place by those avians seeking safety in numbers.

The parking space/gateway to Tubney Fen provides a prime viewing position for local starling displays.

Many of our common garden birds will move south and west within Britain to find a warmer climate. Song and mistle thrushes are joined by two other members of the thrush family, fieldfares and redwings. These colourful birds migrate south, flying in flocks during the night from Scandinavia, Finland and Russia. They are clearly visible in the fields and farmland outside Reach.



Fieldfare



Redwing

A vocal kestrel (affectionately known as a 'windhover') has been behaving oddly today, 15 November, hovering in various central village locations rather than above the outlying fields. Populations of these small birds of prey are in significant decline, possibly due to a decrease in their daily food supply - the quantity of rodents (mainly voles) depends on the quality of their habitat, which is under threat.



Kestrel

On 16th October Shaun Mayes, from Ditchfield, found a most unusual bird casualty at one of the St. John college properties in Queens Road, Cambridge - a dead juvenile long tailed skua (photo below), which is a rare migratory sea bird. Identification was confirmed and recorded, the find added further evidence to the idea that migratory seabirds travel overland to shortcut migration routes.



Skua



God Of The Open Air (Henry Van Dyke 1852 - 1933):

These are the things I prize
And hold of dearest worth
Light of sapphire skies
Peace of the silent hills
Shelter of forests, comfort of the grass
Music of birds, murmur of little rills
Shadows of cloud that swiftly pass
And, after showers
The smell of flowers
And of the good brown earth
And best of all, along the way, friendship and mirth

Nick Acklam's nature notes:

18 September: in the warm afternoon sun about seven Southern Hawker dragonflies cluster close to the tall hedge flanking the Earthworks Way.

20 September: grey squirrels numerous and active, frequently carrying walnuts, presumably to winter food stashes.

Daily in late September: large flocks of Greylag (numbering over 100 birds) and Goldfinch on Tubney Fen. The geese fly out to glean the stubble of nearby fields. On 23 September, spooked by something, the geese lift simultaneously, a sight as spectacular as anything I have seen on the Norfolk Coast.

4 October: a completely tailless Crow flies over the Hythe. My eye is drawn to its oddness but the bird is seemingly untroubled by its loss. I had spotted a similarly afflicted bird (probably the same one) in the same place some months ago.

1 November: first sighting of large numbers of Redwing, present in a noisy and loose group in the hedges of Straight Drove.

7 November: a flock of twenty or so Golden Plover on Burwell Fen.

8 November: a traditional scene of the field adjoining the 24Acres - a large swirling flock of Black Headed Gulls follows a smallish 'old school' red tractor as it converts the field from pale orange to black.

9 November: we disturb three Redshank on Tubney Fen close to the Mere. As always, their flight calls sound cross and complaining.

13 November : five Roe deer by the electricity pylons to the north west of the village. The brisk easterly winds appear to push small flights of Fieldfare and Redwing westwards.

Many thanks, as always, to the article contributors, please keep the village wildlife sightings coming through.

Joss Goodchild
jossbmg@icloud.com

Angelsey Abbey



Join us at Anglesey Abbey to celebrate the festive season throughout November and December. Enjoy Christmas cheer across the estate as we celebrate Tinsel and Tweed with the House dressed to impress, carol singing and festive fare, or enjoy an evening visit at our sell-out illuminated event, Anglesey Abbey Winter Lights.

Tinsel and Tweed
30 November – 5 January

This Christmas the House will be decorated in a 1960s style, reflecting fashions of the day; from Fortnum and Mason style decorations and traditional foliage arrangements in the main House, to gloriously tacky tinsel in the Domestic Wing. This will all be set to the backdrop of Lord Fairhaven's winter country pursuits, when he held shooting parties to entertain his guests. You'll be able to get into the spirit with festive tastings and retro crafts in the Domestic Wing.

Entry to the House is by pre-booked timed ticket only. This event is free of charge, normal property admission applies. Tickets can be pre-booked online on our website or by calling the NT Box Office on 0344 249 1895. Please note that the time on your ticket denotes your window of entry to the House, and once inside feel free to take your time as you soak up the festive atmosphere.

Anglesey Abbey Winter Lights
Selected dates between Friday 29 November and Sunday 5 December

We're excited to being back Anglesey Abbey Winter Lights for its 9th year, welcoming in lots of change to this year's event. This year, our renowned Winter Lights will feature a brand new route, new food and all new features so you can experience the estate after hours in a way you never have before. Absorb the magic within our grounds with a new look and feel to what will be our most spectacular event so far.

We are excited to announce that this year's live music will be hosted by:
Cambridge Folk Festival and **Cambridge International Jazz Festival**.

Also new this year will be film screenings and projections developed specifically for the event by **Cambridge Film Trust**, creators of the **Cambridge Film Festival.**

There are still tickets available for this year's Winter Lights, but these are limited in number, so do be quick! You can find out more about the event and book your tickets on our website at:
nationaltrust.org.uk/AngleseyAbbey or by calling the box office on 0344 249 1895.

Carol Singers

Lord Fairhaven welcomed carol singers from Lode village each year to sing Christmas carols in the turning circle in front of the house. This year we will be continuing the tradition by welcoming carol singers on selected Saturdays:
Saturday 30 November- Sing! Choirs
Saturday 14 December- Burwell Community Choir
Keep an eye on our website for any additional dates.

Anglesey Abbey: The Board Game
30 November – 5 January

For our family visitors this Christmas, we'll be transforming the gardens into a life-size board game. Inspired by a popular family game, explore the gardens, bidding on parts of the estate as you go to try and raise a fortune, having a go at fun challenges along the way. Pick up a game kit from Visitor Reception for £1 per player (maximum of 5 players).

Chloe McMath
Senior Visitor Experience Officer





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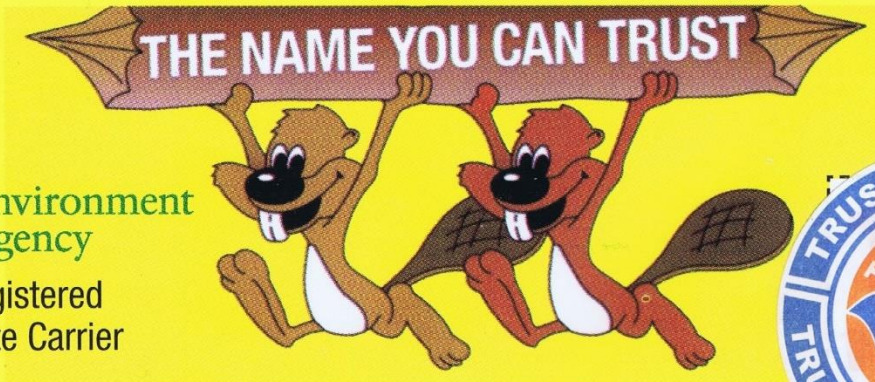

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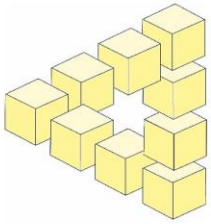

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Swaffham Prior School

It is with great excitement that I share our consultation document to extend our Early Years provision to a maximum of six children aged 3 and up from April 2019 creating an Early Years Centre similar to that currently operating in Swaffham Bulbeck. We believe that providing quality Nursery provision within Swaffham Prior is a valuable resource which is currently lacking in the village and will be an asset to the community. A mixed class of both Nursery and Reception children would be of huge benefit for all the children and would help to develop a robust and sustainable pure early years setting for the future.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on our consultation, both for and against, via the agreed method shared in the consultation document.

Yours sincerely

Helen

H Bartley, Head teacher, Swaffham Prior CE Primary School, 01638 741529

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Head teacher

Consultation on a change of age range at Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School

Swaffham Prior Primary school has been looking at the potential to lower the age range of the school to provide 8 early years places for children from aged 3 for 3 hours per day as there is currently no provision within the village. We believe that we can offer Nursery provision that is of high quality and that will give children a positive start to their school life. The school's governing body sees this as a positive opportunity for the school and is giving its support to the proposal.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to advise you of and request feedback on proposed changes to the provision of early years' education at Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School. The proposal changes would involve the lowering of the schools' age range by 1 year to enable it to admit children from age 3. The aim would be to start taking in pupils from Easter.

The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from Friday 22nd November 2019 until Thursday 19th December 2019 and will involve all relevant stakeholders. DEMAT working with the School's Governing Body will give very careful consideration to all comments received during the consultation period before reaching a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposed changes.

What change is being proposed?

The school currently provides early years' education for children aged four and over from the September before their 5th birthday. The proposal is to extend the early years and provide nursery provision for children aged 3 and up within the current setting. This changes requires a formal change to the age range of the school in accordance with current and relevant legislation and is subject to approval by the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The proposed nursery class would operate each day (Monday to Friday) with sessions offered initially in the morning.

The new Nursery class would be accommodated within the current Reception class with access to the mobile classroom too as both are linked by the Early Years external area.

Please note that, if implemented, this would not affect the determined admission arrangements. Parents will still need to follow the school admission process when applying for a place for their child in Reception.

How can you ask questions, or get more information and comment on the proposal?

If you have any questions, or wish to make a response to this consultation please email the Chair of Governors on cgoodfellow@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk ,or alternatively, write to the school, using the address above by Thursday 19th December 2019.

Tales from a Reach Garden



I'm writing this on a rare day this Autumn – there's barely a cloud in the sky and the sun is shining although the soil is sodden and saturated due to all the rain we've had over the last 6 weeks. The garden (and most of East Anglia) needed the rain as it had been a very dry year up to October.

However, although the weather has been unbearably gloomy recently, the autumn foliage colours have been lovely. One of the best performers in our garden have been the clump of "Golden-twig dogwoods" (*Cornus sericea "Flaviramea"*). The leaves turned various shades of yellow and lime green and appeared to be lit from within, helping to brighten even the gloomiest, soggiest days. The leaves have almost completely fallen from the dogwood shrubs now, leaving their colourful stems on display. The metallic-green sheen of the stems will intensify over winter and the golden-twig dogwood will live up to its name. To ensure a display of bright coloured stems, they need to be cut down to the ground at least once every two years, which I do in February or March. This also helps to keep the shrubs reasonably compact, otherwise there will be a thicket of brown-stemmed small trees where there used to be glowing leaves and stems in autumn and winter. This maintenance regime of removing old stems can be applied to all the shrubby dogwoods (such as *cornus sibirica*) because removing the old stems spurs on the growth of the more intensely-coloured young stems.



Golden-twig dogwood (Cornus sericea "Flaviramea") in its' Autumn colours

Another source of delight in this otherwise gloomy autumn has been the performance of our maincrop potatoes. It's always a risk when growing potatoes, especially maincrop because the growing season is quite long, the weather has a huge impact on yield and tuber health and you have no idea what's happening underground – the only clue is the state of the haulms (stems and foliage) above ground.

Our first-early and salad potatoes were not heavy croppers this year in spite of the watering we gave them and potatoes need a lot of water for decent yields, so we were concerned about the yield of our maincrop potatoes if the dry weather continued. The maincrop potatoes are usually lifted in September, but we left them in the ground for longer thanks to the dry summer. And then the rains came. The downside of heavy rain, especially for maincrop potatoes is blight disease which rots the potatoes in the ground via their infected stems - these should be removed as soon as they're spotted and the potatoes lifted soon after. Even apparently healthy tubers can rot fairly quickly in storage. One bad potato can infect a whole sack of them, so they need to be checked regularly and rotting ones removed. It's easy to tell if you have a rotten potato, the smell is disgusting and the blighted potato has turned grey/brown under the skin. Occasionally a potato looks healthy on the surface, but has a rotten core and collapses under mild thumb pressure, releasing a brown, foul-smelling liquid and a yelp from the owner of the hapless thumb.

This year we planted three varieties which are among the best for blight resistance: "Sarpo Mira" which provides smooth red-skinned, floury tubers and is quite a good all-rounder, making tasty potato wedges and chips; "Setanta" which provides red-skinned, almost spherical tubers and makes very good roast and boiled potatoes; and "Cara" which provides plentiful large tubers which are good for baking and mash.



"Cara" potato plants in August

We were pleasantly surprised by “Cara” potatoes. I’d read that they provide plentiful large tubers come rain or drought and found it to be true. All through this summer the “Cara” potatoes had the greenest leaves which continued to be green and healthy even when the haulms of other potatoes were starting to wither, so we left them in the ground to be the last to be dug up. We had good yields of decent sized “Sarpo Mira” and “Setanta” potatoes but were stunned by the plentiful “boulders” of “Cara”.



From left to right: “normal” size “Setanta”, “Sarpo Mira” and huge “Cara” potatoes

Thankfully we do like baked and mashed potatoes and so do our friends. I’ve read online that some people find them insipid and they can break up when boiled. To my mind that makes them easy to mash and the creamy texture of the baked potato flesh means you don’t need to use as much butter for creaminess. They’ll also be great for shepherd’s pie and Italian potato dumplings called “gnocchi”. Hopefully their superior blight resistance will mean we can get to eat them all too.

It has been a good autumn after all.

Danuta Gibson

World Scout Jamboree 2019

As many of you will know, 1st Swaffham Prior & Reach Scouts sent 3 explorers to America this summer to attend the 24th World Scout Jamboree along with 40,000 other scouts from over 150 different countries. As part of our journey we had to each fundraise nearly £4,000 and many of you helped us in this process in many forms - especially by employing us to carry out jobs, or attending our curry evening (and buying produce from Harry) along with other generous donations. Your support, which funded us to get there, also subsidised children from less economically developed backgrounds to attend, making this a truly global experience.

Whilst we were abroad, we saw some amazing sights including New York and Washington DC, as well as the beauty of North Bay in Canada. However, the main part of our journey, the Jamboree, was truly incredible.

We met people from all corners of the globe, including the 14 scouts attending from Papua New Guinea and the 12 Scouts from Belize. Unfortunately, we didn’t get to meet the singular scout from Jamaica, which would have been a great claim to fame. We took part in some amazing experiences including mountain biking around the largest mountain in the Bechtel reserve as well as cultural activities and even meeting the former UN General Secretary, Ban Ki-Moon. The true Jamboree experience though was down to getting the opportunity to meet people from all around the world, of different faiths & ethnicities, while still feeling bonded together by the unity of scouting.

The next World Scout Jamboree is being hosted by South Korea in 2023, and we would strongly urge anyone who wants to see the world from a different perspective, meet new people, or just have the best few weeks of your life, to apply. All application details can be found on the UK contingent website and is open to any scout or guide who will be between the ages of 14 and 18 in the summer of 2023.

This was a truly amazing experience and we want to thank everyone that contributed.





Harry, Dylan & Anis

The Dyke's End



Our **Lunch Menu** is below – but please visit our website at www.dykesendreach.co.uk/ and you'll be able to see all our menu's and our special events

We have a **Christmas Period Menu**, we're serving a **Christmas Day Meal** and also a **Boxing Day Brunch**!



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Food: Midday to 2pm, 6pm to 9pm

Saturday
Bar: Midday to 11pm
Food: Midday to 2.30pm, 6pm to 9.30pm

Sunday
Bar: Midday to 10pm
Food: Midday to 4pm

And we will be open on **Christmas Day** for food!

Mel Longfoot

Tel: 743816

Church Building Update

Back in July, I reported that the PCC had decided to progress the work on the arch as soon as possible. Accordingly, we started the process of applying for a faculty, but unfortunately, we then faced a very frustrating 3-month delay while the wheels of the authorities turned extremely slowly. By the time you read this, however, we hope the faculty will have been granted. The architects are in the process of selecting a suitable contractor, though the work will have to be delayed till after the risk of frosts. We have asked whether there are any measures we can take to protect the arch during the winter and will act on whatever advice we receive.

Meanwhile, the newly formed Reach Development Group considered the priorities and practicalities for phasing the development work on the church and produced a proposed schedule, which would see the basic services, ie water, drainage, electricity being installed first, together with improved disabled access. The next phase would be the heating, kitchen and a toilet and associated work, with the final stage involving furnishings and extra items like audio visual capabilities. The architect has now been asked to work out detailed specifications so that a faculty application can be made.

One good piece of news was that the government scheme by which we can claim a grant to cover the cost of the VAT on most church building works has been extended for a year beyond next April when it was due to finish. With a project of this size, this could make a very significant difference to the final bill.

Pat Chalmers
On behalf of the Reach Development Group

Letter from the Vicarage



I've been 'Busy, busy, busy getting ready for Christmas' - lines from a song for children, but it's often what the weeks leading up to Christmas can feel like for all of us. People sometimes say to me: 'This is your busy time, isn't it?' Well, yes, there are more events in the diary, but during Advent I do try to deliberately pause each day, even if it's just for a few moments, take a deep breath, remember what it's all about, and pray.

Family, friends, parties, presents, cards, carols (and not forgetting the sprouts!) and at the heart of it, the 'reason for the season', the baby in the manger - the one who came to be God with us, the Prince of Peace. This year, in the midst of the busyness and all that's going on in the world, it seems a huge thing to hope and pray for 'peace on earth, goodwill to all people' - but that is my prayer - would you join me?

Forthcoming services in Reach: Candlelit Advent Sunday@7 at 7pm on 8th December- an informal service with time for reflection, Christingle & Nativity service at 5pm on Sunday 22nd December - we'll make christingles and light them, as we share together in familiar carols and Christmas readings. On Christmas Day there is an 8am communion service, and on Sunday 29th at 10am will be our main morning service with another opportunity to sing carols.

Services in St Mary's Burwell include Christingle at 4.30pm on 1st December, Carols by Candelight on 15th December at 6.30pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Guildhall. On Christmas Eve at 3pm in St Mary's is our Family Nativity & Carols, then Midnight Communion at 11.30pm and Christmas Day service at 10am. Another special event in St Mary's is Create for Christmas 7 - 9pm on Wednesday 4th December. The Remembering Tree will be in St Mary's from early December, with stars bearing the names of loved ones who have died - all welcome to add a name. Both our churches are open each day, and St Mary's will stay open a little later during the week before Christmas if you want to pop in for a quiet space to remember (for times please see notices on church door).

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.

Best wishes for an Advent full of hope, a Christmas full of joy and a New Year filled with peace, from all of us at St Mary's and St Etheldreda's!

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







Food Focus

Pheasant Pilaf



In my experience good pheasant recipes are in short supply. I find roast pheasant dries out and pheasant casserole doesn't do justice to the meat. To me casseroling it is just a mildly acceptable way of dealing with a pheasant you didn't particularly want, while barely making the birds death worthwhile.

In most circumstances I'd rather have chicken. However, this recipe is different and whether you have accidentally run the bird over, shot it or been given it, you can be thankful that this recipe does justice to the birds loss of life (although some carnivores may complain that it's a bit girly). It's also come firsthand from quite a famous food writer via my Mum…you saw it here first!

Ingredients (for 8 people)
Serve with greek yogurt and a green salad

12oz Long grain rice
4 medium onions
Oil
Salt
8 pheasant breasts

(you can use whole birds, it's just more of a faff getting the meat off the bone, or you can use leftover roasted meat)

4 tbsp sultanas
1 tbsp toasted cumin seeds
4 tbsp flaked almonds toasted in a dry pan
A few mint leaves
Pomegranate seeds

Boil rice until tender – not soft, leave to cool (the South American method of cooking rice would be perfect here and never fails in my opinion. Dry fry the rice in a bit of oil to coat it, then add 2 quantities of water to the pan – each one equal to the quantity of rice.
Then leave the rice to come to the boil and cook without stirring or touching until holes appear in the surface of the rice).

Heat some oil in a pan and cook the pheasant breasts for 3 minutes on each side. Remove to a warmed plate and cut into ½ inch slices. Add the onion to the pan and fry until soft. Salt the pheasant and return the pheasant to the pan with the rice and sultanas. Warm through and put into the serving dish. Scatter over the cumin, almonds, mint and pomegranate.

Thrive

How I learnt to Thrive

I've just retrained to deliver a mental health programme called The Thrive Programme which has changed my life. Several years ago my daughter's anxiety was so disruptive to our family life and to her that I was desperate to find a solution. Fortunately, I came across The Thrive Programme (TTP) online and arranged to see a Thrive Programme Consultant. I was advised to complete the programme myself and then deliver it to my daughter.

It took me six weeks, but it changed both of our lives so radically that I became a bit of a Thrive Programme bore, recommending it to all and sundry somewhat evangelically (this approach, I have subsequently learnt, can be rather unproductive)!

However TTPs mission - to democratise mental wellbeing, is well worth being enthusiastic about. How many people do we all know and care about who struggle through life, surviving rather than thriving? How many times in your own life have you felt you have existed rather than lived life to the full? How empowered would you feel if you were the person who initiated that change?

Almost every issue or problem that a person can suffer from, is driven by psychological and/or emotional forces. TTP teaches you how to manage your thoughts, emotions and beliefs so you can be in control of your life. Once you have been through TTP you will understand that you have a choice in how you react to situations and life events. It's also a really enjoyable way to learn about how we all tick (de-code your mother-in-law or understand why your best friend ignored you!).

In theory and certainly outwardly I've never suffered from any mental health issues, but I know that in the past I have let things effect me. TTP has taught me how to become my best self, to be a better parent, partner, colleague and friend, as well as a more efficient person generally.

I offer face-to-face sessions either in Reach, at Salus Wellness in Cambridge, or online via Skype. All Thrive Consultants offer free no obligation initial consultations to anyone who thinks they would benefit from optimising their lives or overcoming a mental health problem.

Catherine Gibson

Thrive Consultant
www.thriveprogramme.org/catherine-gibson

Metal Detecting



I thought it would be a good idea to give an update on my recent metal detecting activity as you may have seen me searching on the village green. After sharing my story in the last issue of the magazine it came to my attention that David Parr had lost a ring a few years back that was of great sentimental value. I offered to search for it and the relevant permission was given by the Parish Council.

I'm often asked questions by passers-by while I'm detecting, so I thought I'd give some information here for those who are curious and hopefully alleviate any concerns too. I metal detect because I enjoy it and not for financial gain. I am a member of a club that has been running for 30 years. I've found many items of interest, one of which was handed in to the local finds liaison officer, as required by the Treasure Act 1996 and has been recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (www.finds.org.uk item number CAM-9C0FC6 – see below). In addition, I have returned two wedding rings to their rightful owners since taking up the hobby.



A complete but slightly squashed silver annular (or ring) brooch of Medieval date c. AD1200-1400.

At the time of writing I have spent around 3 hours looking for David's ring and in that time I have, as anticipated, found a number of coins which will be handed in to the Parish Council as per the conditions of the permission they have given. I take a great deal of care whenever searching in areas such as ornamental gardens and well-kept grassed areas and ensure that, when I need to dig a hole, I remove the turf carefully so that it can be replaced.

The machine I am using for this search is very advanced and allows me to be selective about which signals I dig, based mainly on the conductivity of the item detected, the idea being to reduce the number of holes needed. Inevitably though, drinks cans, ring pulls and bottle tops occasionally fool the machine (and me) and I'm taking these away as I find them.

If you see me detecting on the green and want to know more then please feel free to stop and chat.

Luke Mercer

Great Lane, Reach

Arthur Rank Hospice

Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme is back and bigger than ever!



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity will be running their annual Christmas Tree Recycling scheme once again in January, along with the support of the council, Just Helping and numerous local businesses and volunteers.

On Thursday 9, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 January 2020 their team of volunteers will be collecting trees from postcodes CB1, CB2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CB22, CB23 and CB24 and in exchange they welcome a donation to the hospice.

The trees are then taken to the waste management park near Waterbeach for composting.

If you would like your tree to be collected, or if you can spare a few hours to volunteer, visit arhc.org.uk/treerecycling or call the Hospice fundraising team for further information on 01223 675888.

After costs, 90% of the monies raised will go to the Hospice and the remaining 10% will be donated to other local charities.

Last year the Hospice's volunteers collected 1800 trees and raised over £26,000! Feel good about saving yourself the hassle of disposing of your tree and take part! Registrations close at 1pm Wednesday 8 January 2020.

Know Your District Councillors



John is on the Planning Committee and thought that residents might be interested in the planning process. Planning applications can be Outline or Full. For the former, the application is only indicative and is more to do with the suitability of the site, whether access to the planning site (adjudged by the County Council Highways department), flood risk, etc. is acceptable. The Full application has detailed drawings, elevations, dimensions, etc.

Planning applications are submitted to the Planning Department. In some cases, the applicant discusses the application before submitting it and this can save time and effort, as the Planning Officers can give good guidance on what is acceptable or not. The Planning Officers are given delegated powers and almost all applications are decided by them, based on strict criteria. Sites with more than 50 houses, or those that are contentious, are passed onto the Planning Committee which meets on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Planning Committee members are driven in a mini-bus to each site and the case officer gives an explanation of the application on site. The Committee then meets at two o'clock and discusses each case. Interested parties are given five minutes to speak to the committee and then asked questions by committee members. First any members of the public, then the submitter of the application (or their agent), then the Parish Council, followed by the District Councillor, although not every one may be present. The Committee then debates the application and a vote is taken.

District Councillors receive a report of all the planning applications in the Ward and can comment on them. They can also call in a planning application that may be going through delegated powers if they feel that this application needs wider debate, or they have been requested by residents to do so.

We are not holding a Councillors' Surgery in December, so our next surgery is on Wednesday 22 January at 6.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Sports and Social Club, followed by meet your Councillors in The Bell from 7.45pm. We wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Charlotte Cane & John Trapp, October 2019

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Chair	07771 348013
Charlotte Cane	Vice Chair	741064
Rebecca Fordham	Councillor	743331
David McMillan	Councillor	741259
Andrew Trump	Councillor	07980 955490
Diana Ward	Councillor	744210
Vacancy	Councillor	

Charlotte Cane	District Councillor
John Trapp	District Councillor
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor

Your Clerk is Susan Bailey
29 Great Lane Reach CB25 0JF; 01638 743794
clerk@reachparishcouncil.org

Meetings take place in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. They start at 7.45pm and all Reach villagers are welcome to attend.

Reach Grant Fund

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

Application forms should be downloaded from:
www.reach-village.co.uk/grant_fund.html
and should be completed and sent to the Clerk, Susan Bailey whose contact details are above.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

As most people will be aware, this charity, SPPC, helps pensioners and anyone else who considers themselves in need of assistance at Christmastime.

This help is not only at this time of year – the charity is always happy to listen if our help is required at any time of the year. We are also wondering if there are any students who may wish for help with any educational needs, such as reference books etc.

If you wish to discuss this opportunity with me, please give me a call.

Pam Waters
Clerk to the Trustees
01638 741035

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd October 2019.

Attendance

Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Chair	Not Present
Charlotte Cane	Vice Chair	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Not Present
Andrew Trump	Councillor	Present
David McMillan	Councillor	Not Present
Rebecca Fordham	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Present

1. Declaration of Interests
There were none.

Forum for members of the public.
There were none.

2. Planning Applications
19/01335/FUL resubmission. - 1.5 storey rear and side extension 30 Swaffham Road.
PC had no comment to make.
19/01212/FUL - single storey front extension, 16 Swaffham Road.
PC had no comment to make.
19/01228/FUL - side loft dormer. 12 Great Lane.
PC had no comment to make.

3. County Councillor Report
None Received.

4. District Councillor Report
1. Finance & Assets Committee agreed to give £10,000 to Bottisham Village College for improvements to the swimming pool, including a new cover and a disabled pool hoist
2. East Cambridgeshire District Council is reviewing bus services in the district and has formed a working group to consider how bus services can be improved, Charlotte is a member of the working group, which is due to report by 31 March 2020. Isleham Parish Council had put forward an interesting and imaginative proposal to operate a bus that would connect with the Newmarket – Ely bus on market days, unfortunately, the decision on their grant request was deferred because it was decided to use the funds budgeted for community bus grants as seed corn funding for any actions from the bus review.
3. ECDC had drafted its response to The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Local Transport Plan consultation. Unfortunately, the vision for East Cambs is wider roads, hardly any mention of public transport, the dualling of the A10 from Ely to Cambridge which will only bring traffic more efficiently to the bottleneck at the A14 junction. The much-vaunted Cambridge Autonomous Metro has no stations planned for East Cambridgeshire, and so increasing the dependence on private cars. The plan does not include any consideration of protecting and enhancing the environment; for example, there is no encouragement for electric vehicle charging points or a significant improvement to bus services. We therefore
voted against the response and have submitted our own calling for greater investment in public transport and proper provision for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
4. The external audit of ECDC's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 is due to start on 14 October and report to the November meeting of Finance & Assets Committee.
5. The accounts for the East Cambs Trading Company, effectively the commercial property arm of the District Council, were not presented to the meeting, despite being on the Agenda and listed as papers to follow. As at 1 October, they had still not been circulated to Councillors. There were significant concerns about the Business Plan for 2019/20, not least that approval was being sought 6 months into the year. Although several Conservatives also raised concerns, they approved the Business Plan by 5 votes to 4, with John and Charlotte voting against – the Plan will go to Full Council later in October for their approval.

6. John and Charlotte asked whether ECDC was supporting the Woodland Trust Tree Planting campaign and were told that the Council Leader had decided that this should be left to Parish Councils and Community Groups. Charlotte raised this at F&A Committee and was assured that Parish Councils and Community Groups could request permission to plant trees on District Council Land – the list of Council owned land can be found at https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/notices/open-data and is called 'asset register'.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan
Funding and Resources
An application to Locality, for funding and technical support for the project for FY 2019/20, was submitted on 19 September. The overall sum requested was £8750, primarily for consultancy support (phases 1 to 3 of Ian Poole's proposal plus a provisional sum of £4,400 for landscape appraisal). Locality states that it may take up to 20 days to process our application. I have subsequently had two positive conversations with Locality and AECOM (consultants retained by Locality to support Neighbourhood plans) which strongly suggests that our request (at least for assistance in developing a design code) has been well received.
Consultancy
The project group's first meeting with Ian Poole, to review our work to date, is scheduled for 9 October. I have asked Ian if he wants to proceed at risk as there is a possibility that the Locality won't have ruled on our funding application by then.
Infrastructure
Members of the Group and PC met with three Anglian Water (AW) representatives on the Hythe on 5 September. The atmospherics were good. The AW staff had only recently taken responsibility for the sewage works and were unaware of the village's previous attempts to negotiate a reduced AW footprint and better public access to the site. They were, though, sympathetic to our case and could see PR benefits for AW in engaging with us. Steve Carlaw, AW's lead at the meeting, undertook to research the back-ground to establish what had prompted previous AW's op-position to the proposal and revert to us. I have yet to hear back from Steve but will chase him once a month has passed since our meeting.

6.2 Reach Grant Fund
Nothing to report.

6.3 Finance
Nothing to report.

6.4 Parish Council Members
A resident had asked the PC to look at the trees in the playing field and the boundary hedge as these are very large and causing shadow in the gardens of the adjoining houses. These are established trees that were in place long before the houses were built. ***Clerk*** to contact the ECDC Tree officer to establish what the PC responsibilities are in these situations.

6.5 Play Spaces
Some of the matting in the play area has been damaged by the mower. ***Clerk*** to contact the mowing contractor to discuss why this has happened. PC will monitor the situation.

6.6 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

6.7 24Acres Committee
The PC have received the insurance claim payment for the mower stolen from the 24Acres storage container. The Cricket Club will decide over the winter whether they would like to buy another mower and where this would be stored. It was agreed that should it be decided that owning a mower is not the best way forward the insurance claim money will be distributed to those accounts that paid for the original mower.

6.8 Friends of Reach wood
Following the criticism received regarding the cutting of the meadow, the PC has received notice from Steve Boreham of his resignation as lead of the Friends of Reach Wood Group.
The PC are very sorry that this situation has arisen and thank Steve for all his hard work, which has been much appreciated over the past 4 years.

7. Protecting the Green from travellers

Following the Traveller problems experienced at Swaffham Bulbeck, Councillor de Giorgio-Miller had met with their PC Chair to discuss the situation. Number of points need to be considered by the PC.

- Contact 'key players' for advice on green and playing fields and any other PC land. Police (PC Mark Rabel at Ely). Traveller Liaison Officer (Angela Parminter at ECDC). Enforcement Officer (George Hay at Cambridgeshire council) ***Councillor de Giorgio-Miller***
- Creating a reserves fund in case we do have an unlawful encampment. It costs ~£2000 to evict. Swaffham Bulbeck estimate it has cost them more that £5000 so far, and that is with a lot of public helping with the clean up, the logs on loan, and no permanent solution in place. ***Clerk*** to check insurance cover prior to decision on reserve fund.
- Putting in place policies for if we have an unlawful encampment, e.g. clerk can authorise greater spend, how we can make decisions by email. Advice is that eviction needs to happen quickly else it becomes more of a problem, and defences need to be in place immediately after they are evicted to prevent return, so decisions can't wait for a meeting. ***Clerk*** to contact Milton PC who have strong policies on this.

8. Horse Chestnut tree on the green

The Horse chestnut tree on the Green now has many dying branches which must be removed as they pose a risk to safety. Sadly, despite the use of an air-spade to reduce compaction in 2014/15 and mulching around the tree, the decline of the tree appears to be continuing. The Parish Council have sought advice from the Trees Officer at ECDC and a highly qualified tree surgeon on the best course of action.

The new replacement tree must now be seen as the more important tree. The advice we have received is that the new tree will not grow in a balanced form while the canopy of the Horse Chestnut remains, and it will be too late for a balanced crown to form soon. The recommendation is to pollard the Horse Chestnut to leave it as a "Bolling" in the short term. If the crown (including all dead branches) is removed, the bench can remain as the risk of stem or branch failure would have been removed. The "Bolling" will produce new growth and this can be removed every 2-3 years, none of this will be large enough to be a hazard. The new tree can then grow on and develop a balanced crown and the old tree with bench will still remain in the short term as a feature. The Horse Chestnut will die eventually and it can be removed and the bench be moved around the new tree.

A information will be added to this months magazine asking for comments and ideas as to the bet use of the woodremoved. Comments to the Clerk. A final decision will be made at the November meeting.

9. Telephone Box

Telephone box has been fixed. The phone will only allow emergency calls to be made, the PC are content that this is adequate. Thank you to Charlotte as District Councillor for her help. Councillor de Giorgio-Miller is confirming quotes to get it cleaned and repainted to potentially include in a grant application with swings and benches.

10. Reach Fair

The Fair will run as a subcommittee of the Village Centre. They will be able to use the Village Centres insurance and bank account. Any additional insurance costs will be deducted from the Fair income as an expense.

The Village Centre committee are in the process of updating their operating documents and these will include confirmation that they are able to gift the Fair profit to the Grant Fund. And also state that the Village Centre takes no responsibility for the continued running of the Fair.

Following discussions with Charlotte Cane, Joshua Schumann County Councillor, offered to investigate the possibility of CCC running the carpark for the Fair.

11. Cricket Pavilion

The Cricket club are waiting for comment from the NT.

12. Information Items

There were none.

13. Payments

S Bailey – Clerk salary	£1002.30
CR Contracting - Mowing contract	£295.00
E. on - power on the green	£9.61
D Thomas – Apple day expenses	£19.95
National Trust – 24Acres lease	£10.00

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 6th November 2019.

Attendance

Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Chair	Present
Charlotte Cane	Vice Chair	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Andrew Trump	Councillor	Present
David McMillan	Councillor	Present
Rebecca Fordham	Councillor	Not Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present

1. Declaration of Interests
There were none.

Forum for members of the public.
Several members of the public attended the meeting to put forward their objections to the planning application below. The main objections were relating to the road, its width, surface and parking. Another objection related to the Archaeology in the area and its National importance.

Another resident attended to ask the PC to manage the hedge at the side of their property.

2. Planning Applications
19/01439/FUL - 1.5 storey detached dwelling Land East of 11 Chapel Lane.
Following discussion, the PC's decision was to object to the application and the following comments would be made.
- Loss of Privacy – The plan shows that the build will be dug down by 1m, to reduce loss of privacy to surrounding properties. However, digging down will cause additional sewerage problems as there will not be enough fall in this area, as the pipes run very close to ground level. There is concern for rain water running down The Hythe into the new property. Digging down will also add to the concerns for the Archaeology.
- Highways issues – Parking is always a problem in the area. There is no provision for visitor parking, so the problem is likely to be increased. Curbs are high to stop heavy vehicle going too close to houses, therefore parked cars make it impossible to pass. There have been incidents of emergency vehicle not being able to access The Hythe until parked vehicle have been moved. It is understood by residents that the road in this section of The Hythe is unadopted. It is badly maintained. Is it understood where the public highway ends and who owns the unadopted road? Has access been granted across the unadopted road?
- Capacity of physical infrastructure – There have been problems with sewerage in Reach for many years, additional homes will add to this.
- Effect on listed buildings & conservation area – the plot is opposite a Grade 2 listed building, the setting of which will be affected by a change in its surroundings.
- Archaeology – The plot is at the centre of a very significant archaeological area, which will be reflected in the Neighbourhood plan being prepared in Reach. The archaeological site could be of national importance and should be considered as such within this application.

3. County Councillor Report
None Received.

4. District Councillor Report
Full Council discussed two motions relating to the Climate Emergency. The motion which was seconded by Charlotte was voted down. Charlotte and others tried to amend the other motion, to include some commitments for the Council to take action, but the only amendment which was accepted was for the Council to declare a Climate Emergency. The weaker motion was passed despite a petition being presented to the Council calling for strong targets and early actions. The people who brought the petition have set up a Group called East Cambridgeshire CAN (Climate Action Network) to find ways to make East Cambs zero carbon by 2030. Anyone interested in joining can contact them on - eastcambscan@yahoo.com.
Full Council also agreed the latest projects to receive funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Most of these are in the north of the District, so we are keen to support applications from this ward. In order to be eligible for CIL funding a project must:
- Be necessary to support local growth.
- The total cost of the project must be between £50,000 - £2,000,000.
- Match funding and a financial contribution from the organisation submitting application must have been secured.
- The project must be deliverable within 3-5 years.
- If the project is highways or education related, the application must be accompanied by a letter of support from the relevant CCC department.

We would like to hear suggestions for bids for this funding, eg for cycle paths, community heating schemes or traffic management schemes.
Full Council considered a motion not to start a new Local Plan for at least 18 months, instead relying on the 2015 Local Plan. Local Plans are expensive, and we could understand the reluctance to commit about £1million to developing a new Plan. But we are only too aware of the planning 'Wild West' that local communities continue to face since the withdrawal of the Emerging Local Plan. We therefore asked that the Council should consult with Parish Councils before deciding not to act for at least 18 months. Unfortunately, the amendment calling for this consultation was defeated. Supplementary Planning Guidance will be drafted to address areas not currently covered by the 2015 Local Plan. Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan will have better control over local developments, and we are pleased some of our Parishes are working on Neighbourhood Plans. But we do not think it is right that the District Council has abrogated its responsibility and is instead relying on Parish Councils fill the gaps left since it withdrew its Emerging Local Plan. The 2015 Plan is out of date in many ways, for example there are no plans for electric car charging points to be a standard requirement for new developments.
Full Council also approved a recommendation from the Independent Panel to increase some allowances for Councillors with additional responsibility. This will cost an extra £40,000 each year.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan
Funding
Our application to Locality, for funding for FY 2019/20 has been approved. We await confirmation that the funding (£8750) has been received in the PC bank account.
Consultancy
The Group had an initial meeting with Ian Poole on 9 October at which work to date was reviewed and work to develop a residents' survey was initiated. Our aspiration is that the survey will gather evidence from everyone (over 16) living in Reach and, along with other with other evidence, will inform the policy recommendations of the NP. We want to test our emerging thinking in all work streams although housing will inevitably be prominent. There is some way to go in some areas of the questionnaire, but we hope that it will be ready for circulation to villagers over the festive period which should assist our response rate.

In early October the Group sought tenders from recommended landscape architects to undertake a landscape appraisal of our neighbourhood, a key underpinning of the Plan. Three architects bid for the work. The Group has assessed the options and wishes to appoint Alison Farmer. A summary analysis of the bids which explains the Group's decision is available.

The Group has had an initial 'diagnostic' interview with Aecom, the London based consultants appointed by and paid for by Locality to produce a design code for Reach as part of the Plan. In essence the design code will guide the layout, scale, materials, layout, density of new building in the village. We understand that Aecom are content with our aims and requirement, have made a recommendation to Locality and are awaiting final approval ahead of a site visit to take our more detailed views and to survey our existing buildings
The Hythe
There has still been no response from Anglian Water following what we gauged to be a positive meeting on the Hythe on 5 September. A second chasing email was sent on 5 November.

The PC approved the appointment of Alison Farmer as Landscape Architect.

6.2 Reach Grant Fund
Nothing to report.

6.3 Finance
Nothing to report. A budget meeting will be held Wednesday 27th November 2019.

6.4 Parish Council Members
There were none.

6.5 Play Spaces
Work has started repairing the bus shelter – thank you to David Pallant of MultiTrade. We look forward to seeing the finished work.

A request has been made by a resident for permission to allow an experienced metal detector to investigate the lower green to look for a ring of high sentimental value. PC approved this request, asking for minimal disturbance of the green, and stating that any finds would be the property of the PC.

6.6 Rights of Way
A complaint had been received regarding over grown hedges at the corner of Barston Drove near to the Swan Lake Barns. ***Clerk*** to report on the highway's website.

6.7 24Acres Committee
Following the theft of the mower, the Cricket club have decided to use the mowing contract for next season and see how this works. Cricket Club to arrange with contractor. The appropriate insurance money received will be repaid to the Cricket Club.
The NT are happy with the pavilion project and would like to extend the 24Acres lease. PC approved. The Cricket Club will need to apply for planning and a grant which will be processed via the PC, all fees will be paid by the Cricket Club.

6.8 Friends of Reach wood
Following the decision at the October meeting the PC had received a response from the WT – below.
Thanks for the letter, which is understood. I do not have anything to add that I haven't said already.
Hence, from now on The Woodland Trust will manage the meadow and the site directly without any involvement of the Parish Council and we will communicate with the Friends of Reach Wood directly. Any future concerns, opinions or comments that the Parish Council have regarding the management of Reach Wood should be addressed to The Woodland Trust directly and not to the Friends of Reach Wood.

Therefore, the PC no longer has any involvement with the mowing & maintenance of the wood and meadow. The PC will continue to communicate with the Friends of Reach Wood should they continue to operate following the resignation of Steve Boreham.

7. Protecting the Green from travellers & PC policy
Councillor de Giorgio-Miller had met with the Traveller liaison officer to seek advice. The actions suggested at this stage are to convert any water taps to ones with removeable taps, and that a policy be put
in place to allow the PC to act quickly should a situation arise. ***Councillor de Giorgio-Miller*** to produce and circulate a PC policy for approval at the December meeting. A contingency allowance will be included in the budget and ***Clerk*** to get a quote for a removeable tap for the cemetery.

8. Horse Chestnut tree on the green
The old Horse Chestnut tree on the green will be removed, this will allow the new tree to flourish. It was felt that the other options would look odd and the old tree would continue to take nutrients from the new tree.
Councillor Trump to seek additional quotes for the work. Contractor will be appointed at the December meeting.

9. Boundary hedges & tree cutting
Several Ash trees in the village look to have Ash dieback, which will need work or removal. ***Clerk*** to check with the ECDC tree officer for advice on Ash dieback.
Residents had asked the council to maintain the hedge at the back of their property. Members of the council met with the resident and looked at the site. Although the PC accept that the hedges belong to the PC, they do not think that they need cutting. Unfortunately, the PC does not have enough fund to work on hedges, unless there is an urgent need. If residents would like to do maintenance work on PC hedges and trees the PC will look favourably on this should permission be requested.

10. Reach Fair
The village hall is unable to take on the running of Reach Fair due to its trust deed regulations and also concerns of liability.
Therefore, a small committee will be formed as a subcommittee of the PC in order to run the next Fair. ***Clerk*** to update the PC insurance. As a subcommittee, agendas and minutes must be published and the PC must approve all decisions. All critical actions and payments to be bought to the December meeting. ***Councillor de Giorgio-Miller*** to produce terms of reference for the December meeting.
An agreement has not been made regarding the CCC running the parking element of the Fair. ***Clerk*** to write to the County Councillor to seek justification of the £1000 charge, and details of how this figure is reached.

11. Christmas events
Risk assessments have been received. The PC asked whether the tree was being purchased? ***Clerk*** to find out.

12. Fees – cemetery & mooring
A 10% increase will be applied to all charges except to interments of stillborn and children under 12, which will remain the same. This will bring the charges more into line with other local cemeteries.

13. Information Items

14. Payments

E. on - power on the green	£17.76
CR Contracting - Mowing contract	£381.50
British Legion poppy appeal	£17.00

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 7.45pm.

Diary Dates

December	Event	Location	Time
Sunday 1	Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on	Village Green	5.00pm to 6.00pm
Wednesday 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.45pm
Thursday 5	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Sunday 8	Christmas Craft Workshop	Village Hall	3.00pm to 5.00pm
Wednesday 11	Senior's Christmas Lunch	Village Hall	12.30pm
Thursday 12	Recycling Day (Green)		
Friday 13	Mobile Library – Route C12	Village Hall	2.20pm
Thursday 19	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 24	Carols Around the Christmas Tree	Village Green	6.00pm to 6.45pm
Friday 27	Recycling Day (Green)		

January	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 8	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.45pm
Friday 3	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wednesday 15	Village Hall Committee Meeting	Village Hall	8.00pm
Thursday 9	Recycling Day (Green)		
Friday 17	Mobile Library – Route C12	Village Green	2.20pm
Thursday 16	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 23	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 30	Recycling Day (Blue)		

Church Services in Burwell and in Reach

December 2019	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 1st Advent 1	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service with baptisms 4.30pm Christingle Service	
Wednesday 4th	10.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion at Ash Grove	
Thursday 5th		8.15 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th Advent 2	10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Churches Together Songs of Praise at Ness Court	8.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Candlelit Informal Advent Service
Wednesday 11th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 12th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 15th Advent 3	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies	
Wednesday 18th	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Thursday 19th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd Advent 4	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion 4.00 Messy Church	5.00pm Christingle service
Tuesday 24th **Christmas Eve**	3.00pm Family Nativity with Carols 11.30pm Midnight Communion	
Wednesday 25th **Christmas Day**	10.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 29th Christmas 1		10.00am Holy Communion with Carols
January 2020	**St Mary's Burwell**	**St Etheldreda's Reach**
Sunday 5th Epiphany	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Service 4.30pm Messy Gathering	
Wednesday 8th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 9th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 12th Epiphany 2	10.00am Holy Communion 4.30pm Messy Gathering 7.00pm Sunday @ 7	8.00am Holy Communion
Wednesday 15th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 16th		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th Epiphany 3 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Churches Together United Service at the Baptist Church 4.30pm Messy Gathering	
Wednesday 22nd	10.30am Holy Communion at Ness Court	
Thursday 23rd		8.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th Epiphany 4	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion 4.00pm Messy Church	
Wednesday 29th	10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 30th		8.15am Morning Prayer

Bus Timetable

Reach is served by the Stagecoach number 11 bus service - summary of all buses serving Reach is shown below.

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

Cambridge to Bury - Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Cambridge Drummer Street	**Reach**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Bury Bus Station**
06:50	07:35	07:45	08:17*	08:49
07:50	08:35	08:45	09:17*	09:49
09.50	10:35	10:45	11:17*	11:49
11:50	12:35	12:45	13:17*	13:49
13:50	14:35	14:45	15:17*	15:49
15:50	16:42	16:45	17:24	17:55
18:15	19:00	19:10		
19:15	20:00	20:10		

Cambridge to Bury - Saturdays (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Cambridge Drummer Street	**Reach**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Bury Bus Station**
06:50	07:35	07:45	08:17*	
07:50	08:35	08:45	09:17*	09:49
09.50	10:35	10:45	11:17*	11:49
11:50	12:35	12:45	13:17*	13:49
13:50	14:35	14:45	15:17*	15:49
15:50	16:35	16:52	17:17	17:55
18:15	19:00	19:10		
19:15	20:00	20:10		

Bury to Cambridge - Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Bury Bus Station	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Reach**	**Cambridge Drummer Street**
		06:14	06:29	07:22
		06:39	06:54	07:50
	08:40	09:08	09:23	10:13
10:05	10:35*	11:08	11:23	12:13
12:05	12:35*	13:08	13:23	14:13
14:05	14:35*	15:08	15:23	16:13
15:05	15:35*	16:08	16:23	17:13
16:05	16:35*	17:08	17:23	18:13
17:05	17:35*	18:08	18:23	19:13

Bury to Cambridge - Saturdays (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Bury Bus Station	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Reach**	**Cambridge Drummer Street**
		06:19	06:34	07:22
		06:49	07:04	08:00
	08:40	09:08	09:23	10:13
10:05	10:40*	11:08	11:23	12:13
12:05	12:40*	13:08	13:23	14:13
14:05	14:40*	15:08	15:23	16:13
15:05	15:40*	16:08	16:23	17:13
16:05	16:40*	17:08	17:23	18:13
17:05	17:40*	18:08	18:23	19:13

* These are departure times, buses will arrive approximately 5 minutes earlier

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

Then and Now *(see opposite page for pictures)*

'White Roses' seems to have weathered the last sixty years very well and noticeable external changes seem limited to the lowering of the chimneys. A former merchants house and vicarage, it has an interesting history with parts of the building dating from 1516 through to its Victorian extension on the right. A priest hole exists behind the central chimney breast and the main hall has a large inglenook fireplace and folded leaf carved cross beams. In one of the rear rooms all the exposed beams are numbered consecutively with carved Roman numerals probably representing an early type of prefabrication.

In my Grandfather's day the 'green' in front of the property was just that and provided a light and attractive open space for that part of the village. The County Council, I believe, were responsible for the addition of trees and a low brick wall that now stand there and were designed to stop cars from parking on the green.

The small gulley and village tap (one of a few in the village) did not survive the transition either.

Chris Patterson

Contact Information

Parish Council – see "Know Your Parish Council"			
Village Centre			
	Chair	Grahame Radford	01638 742814
	Finance	Andrew Trump	01638 743335
	Bookings	Grahame Radford	01638 742814
Marquee Bookings		Andrew Hall	01638 743737
Church			
	Vicar	Eleanor Williams	01638 741262
	Curate (duty days Wed, Fri and Sun)	Reverend Paula Spalding	07545 868549
	Priest in Retirement	Reverend David King	01638 742924
	Parochial Church Council Member	Pam King	01638 742924
	Churchwarden	Dr Stephen Martin	01638 611235
	Churchwarden at Burwell/Reach	Sarah Wingate	01638 742498
Emergencies			
	Electricity (Eastern Electric)		0800 783 8838
	Police (Emergency/Non-Emergency)		999/101
	Water (Anglian Water)		08457 145145
Doctors, Burwell			
	Appointments and Emergencies		01638 741234
	Enquiries		01638 743602
	Community Nurses		01638 742382
	Surgery Hours	Mon 8.30am to 6.00pm with extended hours on a Monday please phone the surgery for details	

Then and Now pictures – see facing page







