Within Reach



April/May 2020



The first flowers in the 24Acres orchard – courtesy David Thomas



Canada Geese over the Lode – courtesy Rosanna Moseley-Gore



Ron, with Geoff, removing the bench around our Jubilee Tree



And Ranald, who built the bench for the village



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From the Editor



So - this is the 10 year, 60th Issue anniversary of Within Reach magazine. But any celebrating seems wrong somehow, with the world being in the state that it is. Even printing this issue has not been possible, so for now at least it has to be viewed online – although I will maybe print off a few copies for those that cannot access the internet.

As you would expect, villagers have reacted absolutely wonderfully to the crisis (too many names to list). All sorts of initiatives are in place to protect vulnerable villagers and those who are self-isolating. Huge thanks go to all those involved in the shopping and deliveries activities, including Steve and his staff at the Co-op in Burwell. **Have a look at Page 4** to see just how easy it is to place an order and have the goods delivered.

And other excellent initiatives are the clapping of our **wonderful National Health Service Staff and Carers**, who literally put their lives on the line to help save the lives of others.

And to keep our kids sane we have a Bear Hunt:



And this Sunday, 5th April, we'll all be dancing on our doorsteps!



And the Dyke's End, under the hugely difficult circumstances of enforced closure, has turned itself into a superb takeaway. For further information on this please have a look at pages 20 and 21.



And this issue was going to celebrate the life of our Jubilee Tree and indeed we do have an article and pictures.

And the Fair isn't going to happen this year! ☹

Stay well everyone.

David Parr
davidmparr@btinternet.com or 07887 563720

Village Update

Playground



Doesn't time fly – our 'new' playground is now two years old! My children have certainly made good use of it over that time and there are always other children there when we go so it is obviously popular with other families too.

It has passed its annual inspection with only a few minor repairs required. If you do ever see anything amiss, then please do report it to the clerk: clerk@reachparishcouncil.org so that we can make sure it gets looked at.

Swings on the green

The swings on the green fared less well in their annual inspection. Nothing critical has been flagged but we're keen to repair rather than have to replace and so we'll be putting in some funding applications so that we can spruce them up – replace the parts of worn matting, remove the rust and repaint the bars, replace the baby seat which is showing signs of wear. The swings are a lovely part of the village green (we sometimes have to stop and swing on the way to the playground!) and we want to keep them going for years to come.

Horse chestnut tree

Thank you to all those involved in the removal of the wonderful horse chestnut tree on the green. The tree surgeons were very efficient and there were crowds watching their work for much of the day. Hopefully everyone was able to make use of the wood and wood chips that came down – thank you to Nick for coordinating. The wood turning group have taken some wood to be seasoned and turned into bowls and other items, so if you didn't manage to get a branch or ring on the day, then there will be another opportunity to have a piece of the tree in your home. Hopefully now the replacement tree can grow well for future generations!

Litter pick

A village litter pick was organized for the 21st of March as part of the Great British Spring Clean event run by Keep Britain tidy. Unfortunately, this cannot now go ahead – but we will look at rescheduling in the future.



Cancellation of Reach Fair

We are sad to announce that the decision has been taken to cancel Reach Fair this year. We thank Claire Halpin and her Team for their hard work and look forward to Reach Fair 2021!

Vacancies on the Parish Council

I am delighted to say that these are now filled - and we welcome, in chronological order and age before beauty:

Nick Acklam



and **Cristine Fletcher**



To see the full list of current councillors and their contact details please visit the website at: http://www.reach-village.co.uk/parish_council.html

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

Chair – Reach Parish Council
a.degiorgiomiller@reachparishcouncil.org

Shopping for Isolating Villagers

Working with the fabulous Co-op in Burwell, we have set up a system to serve our vulnerable in the village. For those over 70 or self-isolating due to underlying health conditions, we are able to take email orders which will be picked by the Co-op staff for us and collected and delivered by our volunteers. Deliveries will be made to the village on Wednesdays and Sundays to coincide with when the Co-op has most stock delivered.

Placing an order
Orders please to be sent by email to a.degiorgiomiller@gmail.com on a Monday for the Wednesday delivery and Friday for the Sunday delivery. For those unable to email, please call Pam King on 07484 852889 or David Parr on 07887 563720 and they will be able to take down your order and email it on. I will need your address and contact number. When writing your shopping list, please be mindful that your normal brands might not be available. If you prefer a particular brand then feel free to list it, but it will be substituted if not available. If brand isn't important then generic requests, eg. 1x White, sliced loaf, will work.

You will receive an email confirming your order and letting you know the name of the volunteer who will be delivering for you, and the number of the ID card I have issued them.

Payment
In the morning on the delivery day, a volunteer will knock at your door and then step 2m back. They will show you a Reach Help Network identification card like this:



Please could we ask that you wash your debit card (and hands) in soapy water before putting it outside for the volunteer to pick up once you have closed the door. This debit card will be taken to the Co-op to pay for your shopping contactlessly. Please wash it again when it is returned as the volunteer will not have been able to. The current limit for contactless payments is £30, so your shopping will be split into £30 bundles. The government is due to increase the limit to £50 to help this.

Delivery
Your shopping and card will be left on your doorstep later on your delivery day. Your receipt will be in the shopping bag. The volunteer will leave your shopping on your doorstep, knock on your door and will then stand back 2m to let you collect it. We need to see that you have taken your card back safely so please come when you hear the knock!

Data protection
Only the volunteers will have your name, address and contact number details. The Co-op have asked for each delivery to be numbered so that they do not get any of that information.

Alex di Giorgio-Miller

The Jubilee Tree



The Jubilee Horse Chestnut was felled on 19 February. Fair Green now feels very different - more open and less divided. Whilst a few villagers have said that they prefer it this way, for many the tree's loss after 85 years was a cause of huge sadness. A prominent backdrop to life in the village is no more.

The photographs capture the felling well, but there are a few bits of additional information that I thought might interest readers.

A couple of the major branches of the tree were dead. The tree surgeon observe d that one large limb (pointing towards the Burwell Road) had been at imminent risk of falling and he was surprised that it hadn't come down in recent high winds. There was fungal infestation, indicated by 'spalting' (see below photo), throughout much of the remainder of the tree, including the core of the trunk.



The history of the tree and the village's interaction with it over the years surfaced at various points. The tree surgeons encountered vertical pieces of wrought iron embedded in the stump as it was ground out. These were almost certainly remnants of the guard that had protected the tree in its early years but were subsequently removed as the tree outgrew it. Or, just possibly, for scrap metal during World War 2.

Members of the Ely Guild of Wood Turners who were harvesting timber to turn into commemorative items, lost a couple of chainsaw blades to large nails deep in the trunk. This is not an unusual occurrence apparently, for trees on village greens. The height at which the larger of two nails had been hammered into the trunk suggests that it may originally have been a rung to assist climbing into the tree.

The village will derive some benefit from the Jubilee Tree's demise. Despite the challenges, the wood turners salvaged over half a ton of timber potentially suitable for bowls and the like. Right now, this is sufficient to produce the 50 or so items in which villagers have expressed an interest in purchasing.

Horse chestnut wood is prone to splitting during seasoning, a process that takes up to two years, so it is possible the number of items that can be turned from the timber will decline sharply. However, the early signs, especially the lower than expected moisture content of the wood, are promising. The spalting should ensure that some turned items have really attractive patterning.

Most of the timber will be left to season as planks sawn on site (see photo) but some will be turned into bowls 'in-the-green' and then left to season. Non-structural splits in such bowls can be filled with resin which, when polished, form attractive features.



The Guild has promised to keep the village posted on progress. I am happy to add to the list of villagers who have expressed an interest in buying turned wood. However, as it is unclear how many products can be extracted from the timber, we will be meeting the demand according to date on which interest was registered. I hope to persuade Guild to come to the village with a range of items, including in-the-green bowls from our tree, later in the year, so that we can firm up orders.

A large number of villagers took felled timber as firewood (good luck!), a few took sawdust and chippings for chicken coops or as soil conditioner. Two local schools took large stumps for their outdoor play areas and two habitat piles have been established in the 24Acres woodland.



Nick Acklam

Neighbourhood Plan

The Residents' Survey



144 individuals, well over half of the over-16 population of Reach, completed our survey. Thank you for investing the time and thought in doing so. This was a very good response.

Exercises of this kind are usually considered a success if a 30 per cent return rate is achieved (one local NP survey managed just 12 per cent recently).

We now have a high level of insight to village thoughts on the evolution of Reach especially as a number of respondents said that they were completing the survey on behalf of their household. The returns are, of course, only part of the evidence on which we will build the Plan but is a strong start. There is a mountain of information within the returns still to mine. We will issue a comprehensive summary once we have completed the processing. Beyond that, we will also share our policy proposals, in response to what you have said, at a drop-in session in the Village Hall later in the year.

We have not forgotten that we also need the views of under-16 residents. We will let you know our plans for gathering these once there is more stability in public health advice about mitigating the impact of Coronavirus.

For now, here are a few headlines from processing the initial parts of the survey:

- 96% respondents agreed with the Vision statement
- 97% of respondents said Reach was a good place to live
- 86% of respondents have no plans to leave Reach.

What villagers like about living in Reach

In descending order, the things that villagers value are:

- footpaths/greenways/green space around the village, easy access to the countryside especially our woods and orchard, Wicken Fen, Reach Lode and the Devil's Dyke
- good amenities (for a small village), notably the pub and the village hall
- easy access to Cambridge and other larger settlements and the facilities they offer
- limited light and air pollution, quiet and spacious
- rich history with Reach Fair emphasising this

What concerns villagers

79% of respondents agreed with the three concerns most frequently raised by attendees at the NP launch events last year. To recap, these were insufficient affordable housing for villagers, future development that is unsustainable and will damage the things that make Reach a good place to live and insufficient amenities.

21% disagreed. They and, indeed, a number of those who agreed with the concerns:

- felt Reach already had good amenities especially for its size and questioned whether the village could support an expansion of existing amenities.
- questioned whether it was necessary or possible to create affordable housing in Reach given its location, facilities, limited public transport and property market pressures.

Other issues causing concern to villagers were:

- poor and expensive public transport
- speeding and oversize vehicles in the village
- on-street parking
- unsustainable development, over-development within the development envelope and coalescence with Burwell
- lack of safe cycle and pedestrian routes to nearby settlements
- potential loss of the pub and other amenities
- insufficient development, NIMBYism

Some of these concerns are beyond the scope the Plan addresses but they are nonetheless well worth capturing. We may well be able to use them elsewhere to improve life in the village.

Hopes for the future

108 respondents (less than half of all those who completed the survey) gave a view of how they wanted Reach to be in 20 years' time. 70 expressly wanted it to remain as it is or largely unchanged. This was by some way the strongest sentiment. The next strongest aspirations - for a greener, more sustainable settlement and for a vibrant, thriving and diverse community were expressed by just 16 respondents each.

Housing

66% of respondents wanted one to ten houses built in Reach to 2036. Taking account of those who wanted no houses built, three quarters of respondents were opposed to the building of more than ten houses during this period.

52% of respondents wanted to see housing growth within a carefully expanded development and 38% wanted development within the existing envelope.

Design Code

We have recently received a draft design code for Reach from AECOM, the consultants appointed to the task. A design code articulates principles to ensure that new development and refurbishment of existing buildings in Reach reflect local identity, reinforce the sense of pride we have in our village and work well for villagers' needs now and into the future. We think the draft is pretty good, capturing the flavour of our village well and offering sensible practical principles. That said, the group has offered quite a lot of amendments and additions to improve and tune the code to our needs. We will share the code with you when it is in a more polished form.

Landscape Appraisal

The Group is due to receive a draft of Alison Farmer's landscape appraisal for our neighbourhood in mid March. The appraisal will underpin many aspects of the Plan. We will share it with you in due course.

The Hythe

The NP survey returns confirm the strength of village opinion on this issue:

- 80% of respondents thought it very important to minimise the effect of development on the Hythe. A further 12 per cent thought it quite important.
- 79% of respondents agreed that the Hythe is of major cultural and recreational significance to the village. 11 percent disagreed. The remainder didn't answer or weren't sure.
- 90% of respondents wanted the above ground tanks and pipes in the sewage works removed. Only 3 per cent were happy for them to stay. The remainder didn't answer or weren't sure.

On 10 February Anglian Water (AW) finally responded to our proposals to enhance the Hythe, put to it in September 2019. Unfortunately AW has offered no more than a reiteration of its stance from 2017 when it rejected a Parish Council requests for improvements on the site. We think the wish for change in the village is strong enough to ask AW to think again but now have to work out how best to do this.

Nick Acklam
Chair Reach Neighbourhood Plan Project Group
n.acklam@reachparishcouncil.org 743749





Events Team

Sadly, Reach Fair events have had to be cancelled or amended – including Reach Fair. Looking forward we are planning . . . .

VE Day

Friday 8th May 2020 (Bank Holiday)
The full event we had planned is now inappropriate and it is difficult to see what could be done to commemorate this famous day – we will keep you posted.

Reach Sports Day

Sunday 5th July
The usual fun of watching the children expel their energies and sharing in a barbecue afterwards.

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 13th September
We are hoping to build on the success of last year's event, spread the word to family and friends, this is the day to bag a bargain in Reach.

Village Advent Calendar

December 2020
An idea put forward where window displays are revealed across the advent period. Watch this space for more information and get in touch if you would like to take part. We will be needing a number of volunteers.

Christmas 2020 Dates

Christmas lights switch-on	Sun 6th Dec
Seniors Christmas lunch	Wed 16th Dec
Christingle service	Sun 20th Dec
Carols around the tree	Thurs 24th Dec

We're always keen to hear ideas from villagers – the Senior's Lunch, which has become such a success, came from a suggestion from Ann Jennings for example.

Our **Village Tea Towels**, in three different colours, have been selling really well. We do have some left (we purchased enough to last through this year). Pricing is £4.00 each, £7.50 for 2 or £10.00 for 3. If you like to buy some, please let David Parr know on 07887 563720 or davidmparr@btinternet.com

Debbie Quilter

Bottisham Village College Adult Learning

New Courses for the Spring include:

Tango Salon Dancing – Beginners (starts 5 February)
Vegetarian Indian Cookery (starts 27 February)
Creating Glass Jewellery (starts 5 March)
Quick and Easy Italian Cookery (starts 30 April)

Saturday Workshops on 29th February include:
Cook with Your Kids
Digital Desktop Photography (Still Life)
Glass Bracelets, Rings and Brooches
Stained Glass Colourful Suncatchers
Vegetarian Indian Delights (Cookery)

Saturday Workshops on 28th March include:
Dressmaking Workshop
Quick and Easy Indian Cookery
Reactive Glass Jewellery
Spring Flowers in Acrylics
Springtime Flower Arranging
Yoga Workshop

Would you like to suggest a course?
We are always looking for new ideas, so if you would like us to provide a course which is not offered, or you have skills you would like to teach to adults, please let us know.

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning
Tel: 01223 811372 Email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org
Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBo

Anglesey Abbey



Please be aware that all National Trust Properties are closed due to the Coronavirus. This article does however let you know what you might expect to enjoy when they open again.

Thank you all so much for your support. Every cup of tea drunk, plant purchased, hour of time gifted, donation made, membership started or renewed and entry ticket bought help us to look after Anglesey Abbey and other special places like it forever.

To help ensure that more of you, your friends and families, can experience some well-deserved rest and relaxation at Anglesey Abbey, we're pleased to announce we'll be freezing our entry prices for non-members for 2020 and introducing three off-peak months: January, June and November. We'll also be continuing our community partnerships and access schemes that enable families and individuals who may not usually be able to visit us to do so for free, through partnering with new and existing support organisations.

Snowdrop Season

Snowdrops herald the first signs of spring and they're beginning to pop up around the estate. Anglesey Abbey has one of the finest specialist collections in the country, including 20 varieties that have been discovered on the estate.

Go behind the scenes and discover our private collection on our exclusive Specialist Collection Tours. Make the most of these exclusive weekday tours where you'll see our renowned snowdrop collection, with over 300 varieties. These exclusive tours are led by a member of our garden team, sharing their specialist knowledge. Pre-booking is essential to secure your place, for dates, further information and to book, head to our website.

Winter Garden

Amongst the hustle and bustle of daily life, there are multiple pockets of peace to be found in places all around us. This winter, come and experience the sensory Winter Garden, designed to commemorate the centenary of Lord Fairhaven's birth in its 21st year, by having a go at our mindfulness trail. Pick up a Mindful Meander from Visitor Reception next time you visit, in it we've highlighted the top spots to take in your surroundings and use your senses to experience the tranquil and sensory qualities of the Winter Garden.

Also available to pick up at the start of the route is our new Winter Plant Guide, highlighting some of our top plants, both original and some of the newly planted ones, in the garden as well as some of our favourite snowdrops and the stories behind them. (Suggested donation 50p).

Discover the House

From 13th century priory to 20th century home, uncover A History of Anglesey Abbey in 10 Objects. Discover how Anglesey Abbey transformed from a monastic priory to a gentleman's home through ten unique objects. Each object has been carefully selected to tell a story of Anglesey Abbey, from a portrait of Henry VIII to a musical, 18th century clock.

Chloe McMath
Senior Visitor Experience Officer

Burwell Museum Coach Trips



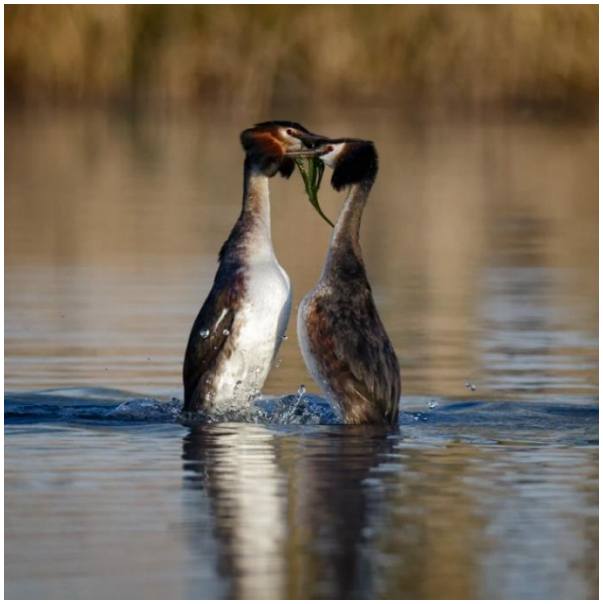
Due to Coronavirus these trips cannot be guaranteed please phone Barbara on the numbers below to get confirmation or otherwise.

Thurs 21st May	Lowestoft	£23
Sun 14th June	Rochester Dickins	£23
Tues 14th July	Wroxham Boat Trip	£30
Fri 7th August	Hunstanton	£18
Sun 20th Sept	Sheringham 40's Day	£21
Thurs 15th Oct	Norwich	£18

Our **Brick Lane Christmas Show and Dinner** will take place on Friday 27th November and cost £74.50.

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

Wicken Fen



Great crested grebes by Richard Nicoll

Please be aware that all National Trust Properties are closed due to the Coronavirus. This article does however let you know what you would normally expect to enjoy when they open again.

The National Trust has recently published its Noticing Nature report in partnership with the University of Derby, which shows that there is a powerful link between how people relate to nature and their happiness. Spring is a great time to get outside and connect with nature, whether it's listening to birdsong, watching clouds or seeing wildflowers. Here at Wicken Fen we'll be seeing returning migrants such as warblers and cuckoos over the next few weeks, the first konik foals will soon be born, and shoots of emerald green foliage will be emerging across the reserve.

After your walk on the reserve, do pop into the new café building if you haven't seen the recent improvements. The Docky Hut Café is a great space to relax and enjoy a tasty treat, with a larger seating area and counter; lighter, brighter environment; and a fully equipped kitchen now offering a wider range of refreshments.

It doesn't seem long since we were talking about half term, but the Easter break is already on the horizon. We'll have our Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt over the Easter weekend (10-13 April), which will be available from 10:15am to 4:30pm – no need to book, just drop in with your family to try the new trail and win a chocolate prize! We also have nature themed bookable activities throughout the rest of the holidays: Springtime Crafts (Monday 6 April), Pond Dipping (Wednesday 8 April), and Minibeast Hunt (Wednesday 15 April) as well as other informal drop-in family activities. Don't forget that we also have boat trips and cycle hire every day too.

Adults can enjoy a new Willow Swallow Workshop with local basket maker Nadine Anderson on Saturday 18 April. There are also two of our popular Dawn Chorus Walks arranged for Saturday 2 May. We recommend booking in advance for all our events as they are often fully booked well in advance - see our website for more information about Wicken Fen and what's on:

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve

Julia Hammond

A Purple Pilgrimage in the Lake District



As we left the car park and headed towards the dark crags in the distance, I asked what we were looking for. "Purple saxifrage" Lee replied. "It's a creeping plant that likes to grow on calcareous, north-facing rock faces". I was in the Lake District visiting the ELP-funded project in the Lakes and Dales.

Led by a partnership between the RSPB, United Utilities, the Lowther Estate and Natural England, this project is working with the people that live and work here to map out a collective route towards a landscape-scale, nature-led future in which the economy, ecology and people's cultural identity are all connected.



Mardale Common above Haweswater Reservoir

We'd parked at Mardale Head at the far end of the Haweswater Reservoir. This spot alone tells you much about the economic and social history of the area as well as the current challenges the region faces. The Haweswater Reservoir is one of several in the Lake District and when it was built in the 1930's, it flooded the village of Mardale Green.

Today it provides drinking water to over two million people. The surrounding hills are the catchment for the reservoir which means that their management affects the quality of the water – and therefore the amount of treatment required before water can be delivered to people's homes.

The upland fells are grazed by sheep, a practice which over the centuries has taken a major toll. The historical removal of trees and scrub followed up by high levels of grazing and the drainage of bogs has resulted in a landscape which functions well below its ecological potential. The cover of trees and dwarf shrubs is so low and the peatlands so degraded, that erosion, landslides and peat hags are visible throughout the area. This causes suspended sediment and discolouration of the water. A sustainable solution to issues like this needs farmers, water companies, the region's tourism industry and NGOs concerned about the area's wildlife and ecosystem function, to work together.

I'd joined two of the people leading the project for the day – Lee Schofield the RSPB's Site Manager at Haweswater and Bill Kenmir, Warden at Haweswater and also the project manager for the Cumbria ELP project. As we headed up the valley they pointed out to me some of the past tree planting and fencing that had been carried out in an effort to restore the area's ecology. Birch and Juniper were protected behind wire cages but we still found a determined sheep pushing at one of the tree guards. "Apart from coarse grasses there is little for the sheep to eat here, especially during the winter months and so they're always on the look-out for something different and more nutritious" Bill explained.



Lee and Bill at Blea Water

We soon reached Blea Water, where the steep slopes leading to the summit of High Street provided a dramatic backdrop. The scene brought back to me my O-level geography syllabus – here was a classic glacial corrie, where 10,000 years ago the source of a glacier scoured the rock. Now, the dark, oligotrophic waters of the tarn rippled in response to a gentle breeze. Below the surface, unseen to us, were a fish species of the salmon family called the Schelly (*Coregonus stigmaticus*). Classified by IUCN as Endangered, the Schelly is endemic to just four lakes in the Lake District – Haweswater and its tributaries being one of them.



Blea Water

As we stood on the lake's shore Lee explained that some 50 years ago the eminent ecologist and conservationist Derek Ratcliffe had recorded Purple Saxifrage (*Saxifraga oppositifolia*) on these crags, but it hasn't been seen since. Lee now makes an annual pilgrimage at this time of year to see if it can be relocated, hopeful that it still clings on, on cliff edges inaccessible to sheep and deer. It is one of the first spring flowers to appear, so any plants should stand out. But even so, spotting it is never going to be easy on these rocks and getting up close and personal to peer into nooks and crannies is required. So, Lee headed off in one direction, Bill and I in the other, in search of a lost flower.



Hunting for purple saxifrage

We joined up for lunch an hour or so later. It had been another fruitless year of searching, but there is hope that conservation work on these hills will, in time, lead to the reappearance of species like purple saxifrage. Since 2017, in a partnership involving the RSPB, United Utilities, the Alpine Garden Society and Natural England, fencing has been keeping out sheep and deer as part of the 'Mardale Mountain Meadow' project.

As we made our descent Bill pointed to Riggindale Crag to the north of Blea Water. "England's last resident golden eagles once nested there" he told me "but in 2004 the female disappeared and the male was left on its own. It hung on until 2015 but then it too disappeared. Now there aren't any golden eagles resident in England". Maybe restoration efforts will one day help bring back this beautiful and charismatic bird to the Lake District.

David Thomas

Rosanna's Ramblings

Uncertainty Prevails



As this piece was written in early March and things have been moving very fast, Rosanna has asked readers for their understanding if unfolding events make it feel an imperfect fit.

My last ramblings were all about the certainty of uncertainty and at the time I thought that I was using things being rather thrown up in the air for me, personally, as a way of trying to apply some philosophical wisdom to my life.

Fast forward a couple of months and as I write this (on 7 March 2020), the whole world is in the ever-amplifying throes of Coronavirus uncertainty. The pace of change with it all is so rapid that there is simply no way of knowing how things will be when the April issue of this magazine drops through our letterboxes. I suspect that the term "built-in obsolescence" might seem rather appropriate.

Were people right to be panic-buying toilet paper? Were the laid-back among the population right to be feeling sanguine about "just another winter virus". We probably won't know what to make of it all until, maybe, this time next year when the perspective of hindsight will make a sensible assessment of the whole situation much more probable.

What I do, so far, know is that in my work as an acupuncturist, I already wash my hands at least three times an hour – and after just a short week of increasing the duration of each hand wash to the recommended "at least 20 seconds" my skin is becoming red and sore. I've for the time being stopped hugging patients, if hugging is appropriate and welcome to them – so we notionally hug the air while standing a few feet apart. And the clinics in which I work have requested that people keep away if they are experiencing viral symptoms in order to protect the elderly and immune-compromised patients who might be coming for treatment.

But I heard yesterday on the radio that businesses were being encouraged to let their staff work from home as much as possible. In this super-connected world, this seems an eminently sensible suggestion. But I chuckled to myself pondering on the impossibility of my doing my work 'remotely' – long-distance darts being a rather inaccurate sport, let alone a viable form of therapeutic intervention! I will just have to hope that I and the bulk of my patients, stay well enough to allow me to keep doing the work I love – and if that isn't possible, it will be belt-tightening and an even greater focus on eating locally.

Though with the supplies of last summer's broad and French beans running quite low and the last of our potatoes sprouting extravagantly in their dark storage box, I suspect that the still-in-the-ground leeks might not last very long. And we've eaten the last of our apples – tiny, wrinkled, wizened, bendy-fleshed but delicious.

Regular readers of my Ramblings may recall that our freezer does, however, hold a quite remarkable stock of blackberries (because we did, after all and against my better judgment, harvest even more of them last year), and we still have some of the plums we swapped for beetroot with our neighbours. So all of that, combined with Charles's Be Prepared for Apocalypse tendencies ensuring that our store cupboards are groaning, means that if we had to 'self-isolate' we could probably even manage to avoid having to do online supermarket shopping – for a while anyway.

There are many worse places than Reach in which to sit out a self-imposed quarantine. A friend of ours posted on Facebook five days ago that he had contacted Coronavirus on a trip to Rome and the photograph showed the view from his window – a dull and depressing London landscape of ageing blocks of flats, with the exciting middle-distance highlight of some gas works. If we had to isolate ourselves, our excitement would come from twitching our non-existent net curtains to see which dogs with which owners had walked along Great Lane and at what time; whether David King was taking his afternoon constitutional at exactly the same time as yesterday; and whether the Yodel delivery man was just going to leave that parcel out in the rain rather than seeing if a kind neighbour would take it in? And that's just the thrill of the Great Lane side. Our windows at the back would allow for tantalizing glimpses of stunning sunsets across the river but filtered through a curtain of trees which would rapidly be leafing up.



There would be the inevitably courting and mating wood pigeons to narrow our eyes at menacingly. And the terrible anxiety of watching the grass grow too long but not being able to cut it (well, anxiety for one of us – and non-committal lack of interest for the other one).

But most of all, if such isolation comes to be necessary for anyone here in Reach, we all know – don't we – that good neighbourliness and kindness would mean that we helped each other out? Dogs would be walked, food would be bought and brought and maybe even the grass would be cut. Perhaps not to the desired degree of stripiness but cut all the same. Some things need to be kept in order during chaotic times, don't you think?

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Snakehall Farm

Prospects Trust
AT SNAKEHALL FARM

What's in the Shops?

Hello March!! Spring is just around the corner, the clocks are going forward, promising longer days and lighter evenings. The Snakehall Chickens are laying their eggs again, ideal for a full English at the weekend and if you are lucky you may get a double yolker.



For more of what we have to offer on the farm for some Spring cuisine take a look at our seasonal delights or pop into our eco-friendly shop in Ely; Unwrapped, to see what they have to offer and don't forget to follow them to keep updated on their daily specials and new products.

Allotment SOS by Trustee Andy Feather

I made a recent site visit to the Ely allotment run by our friends , - Thera East Anglia with whom we are project partnership working , with both organisations sharing similar aspirations for the people they support, along with being beneficiary's of Innovate and Cultivate funding from Cambridge County Council, this to help people with learning disabilities into meaningful paid employment.

I spent some time with Terri Dumont who is overseeing the allotment project and we discussed a number of opportunities which initially she will be discussing with her Managing Director Lorna Weston who is a great fan of the work we are doing here at Prospect Trust.



Terri explained how grateful she was to our Mark, Stuart and David (above), "three knights in shining armour" who rebuilt and reinforced the on-site hut which had literally been "flat packed" by storm Chiara and whilst there they also rotovated the entire allotment. These guys were "amazing" said Terri, "we are so grateful for their support, I don't know what we would have done without them".

Best Foot forward....



On Friday the 22nd May 2020, our Co-workers will be putting on their walking boots and taking part in a sponsored walk along the scenic Devils Dyke. They will be raising money to help fund a "Changing Places" campaign in Ely. Those Co-Workers who cannot access the walk will still be able to take part by joining the trailer rides and offering refreshments. We will then be opening our gates to friends and family of the farm and inviting you to join us for a picnic. We will keep you posted with updates over the coming months on our website, through our newsletter and on our Facebook page, so if you are not already a friend of Tilly Tractor, then add her now. If you could spare a penny or two, to support us then please help us put our best foot forward.

Out and about with the Garden Team



We do a lot of work here on the farm, but we also have a wonderful off-site team who go out into the community offering garden maintenance and landscape services. I had a chat with Kevin, one of our Co-workers who works on our Garden Team, to find out what he likes best about working off site.

What do you love most about working on the Garden Team? Getting to mow the grass is my favourite.

Which Support Worker do you work with and for how long have you worked with them? Anna. I have worked with her for a very long time.

What's your favourite season to work in? Summer because there is more grass mowing to be done!

Is there a new a skill you would like to try or an existing skill you'd like to practice? I would like to have more practice on hedge cutting. It's all about taking your time.

Liz Pitt

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



I found myself with a spare second or two a few weeks ago, so I made myself a nice cup of tea, broke out the fig rolls (you can dunk them until your heart's content, just don't get them confused with dog treats) and sat down with all the pictures that I've ever taken and went through them with a critical eye.

Do you know what I found? I've taken some truly bad photos. No really. I've taken some shocking photos. And knowing that is a good thing.

Taking a bad photo is true for all of us and as photographers of any standard, you should embrace that reality because it helps us live with ourselves better and keeps our feet on the ground knowing there are areas for improvement which give us an opportunity to learn. As an example, my wildlife photography is simply shocking. I can come back from Wicken Fen with memory cards full of blurred images which are meant to be stunning shots of birds in motion. I have painfully found it is better to show and be criticised for the "sake of improvement" than to show your photos thinking that it's perfect when it's not.

Attending a local photographic club is a good way of doing this. How painfully have I been critiqued for improvement? - well let's just say I was encouraged to put the camera down and find a new hobby.

I'm still here, taking better photos. I hope they're better – I like them….

Look and learn from looking and not just at your own work. Go and have a look at other people's, be it online or by visiting a gallery or exhibition. I'm not saying go out and copy someone's image you like, please don't do that, Instagram is bad enough as it is, I'm saying go and look at all sorts of peoples work and work out what you like and don't like about it, then apply that to your own work. You will find, very quickly, the level of quality and craftmanship of your photographs will improve.

Remember, you are bound to take images which act as steppingstones or practice shots which will give you experience and knowledge to apply to your photography in the future and prepare you for your moment of artistic breakthrough. That breakthrough will come, it may take time, but it will come. Your photography, like a good Polaroid, will take time to develop. What's a Polaroid? Ask your parents...

A great place to gain some inspiration, as always, is the Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club as they have some wonderful speakers and presentations. I can truly say you won't want to miss these.

On the 31st of March there is "The Big Print Show" by Ron and Maggie Tear. Why is it called "The Big Print Show", well they are both presenting A1 and A2 printed images on a range of topics covering Monochrome, Landscape, Wildlife, Cityscapes and People. This is not to be missed.

Also, this month there are two club competitions if you fancy coming along and seeing a range of work from lots of other likeminded local photographers.

As always, if you'd like to know more about the club you can visit either the club's website at bottburpc.org or come along and see us all in person at the Chapel in Lode. We meet every Tuesday at 7:30pm. Come and meet the members, have a chat about photography and see what we're all about.

To help obtain a more objective view of your abilities as a photographer and the quality of images you can produce, here are some steps which help me…

Beware of getting comfortable. When you find yourself feeling comfortable with your images – challenge yourself and learn something new. I find that this is the only way to grow, don't get comfortable for too long.

Learn to let go of your old work. It's hard but try to forget about your old work. Stop going back to it and instead look at it as something to build on and move forward.

Ask for feedback and critique. It's hard and can be extremely painful, but don't be afraid to ask or find constructive, genuine and honest feedback from other photographers you appreciate. It's a hard truth, but the critique that gets to you might be the most important because you know they're right. If you post your work to social media, please don't rely on "likes" as tool for your image's quality.

Feeling bad about your old work. It's really important to understand that if you are feeling bad about your old work it means that you are improving as a photographer. If today you are feeling a little embarrassed of your old images you once thought were amazing – don't worry, it's a good sign.

Remember, being a photographer is much more than snapping the photo. You cannot take your camera and hope for the best, hope that something will just turn up and happen right in front of you. This path leads to a drawer full of bad photographic images and trust me, I have lots of full drawers…. Think about the image you want, what is the story you want to tell with the image, think about your vision, your idea. Then go out and capture it.

You have the idea, the vision of your image, now you are in control of your subject and surroundings to obtain the shot you have pictured.

As always, practice, use your camera, use your vision and above all else, have fun. Until next time – thanks for reading.

Elliot Needham
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

Neighbourhood Watch

Just a couple of years ago, all of Reach village was covered by Neighbourhood Watch. This is no longer the case and it is important that we do the best we can for Reach.

Neighbourhood Watch is more relevant today than it has been for many years. Police numbers have dropped significantly and so have staff numbers in other authorities that provided services to the community. It is probably for this reason that the number of neighbourhood watch coordinators in East Cambs has more than doubled in the past 10 years. It is also worth noting that many insurance companies give a discount on home insurance for those within neighbourhood watch. Why would they do this unless they recognised that burglaries are less likely to occur. **We are therefore looking for volunteers to become coordinators and be the neighbourhood watch people "on the ground".**

So what does a Co-ordinator do?

- Decides the area to be covered, typically 20-50 houses and encourages residents to join the scheme (its free)
- Identifies vulnerable residents who are scheme members
- Distributes window stickers to scheme members and suggests prominent locations for suitable Neighbourhood Watch signage
- Receives information from local police and other sources and passes it on to scheme members
- Reports suspicious incidents to the police or other relevant authorities
- Generally, fosters a community spirit within the Scheme and encourages them to keep their homes secure and look out for each other

Co-ordinators must be on email.

For further information please contact Kevin – details below.

Kevin Evans

Secretary, East Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch
01353 614892 or kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com

Out and About Spring 2020



In these challenging times I give thanks for a rurally-based life. The benefits are two-fold, the existence of a small caring community within Reach and immediate access to an expansive unspoilt countryside abundant in wildlife.

I attempt a balance, the unease of witnessing the horrifying impact of a virus-hit world tempered with the arrival of Spring and the emergence of new and colourful life.



I consider the loveliness of this season: lambs skitter in fields, ewes gently bleat concern, hares commence their mad March boxing displays, daffodils weave and primroses cheer, hedgerows bloom with creamy blackthorn, small wild violets dot the verges, bees emit their gentle drone and birdsong abounds - notably that of the early risers, thrush, blackbird, robin and wren.



I inadvertently followed a cock pheasant down Great Lane recently although he detoured into driveways and front gardens along his route. Such unhurried perambulation offered an opportunity to admire his exotic plumage - a rich bronze/chestnut body neatly separated from his green head and red face by a vivid white collar, or 'ring-neck'.

These large long-tailed gamebirds, once natives of Asia, were introduced to the UK and successfully adapted to survive the variable conditions here. They forage on the ground and occasionally in trees (where they also roost) for a diet which typically includes seeds, berries, insects, worms, grass and fruit.



Red Kite

1 Feb at 10.20am I observed a red kite flying over the village, the deeply forked tail unmistakable, these large birds of prey remain only occasional visitors here.

Jo and Andrew Trump heard the unique trumpeting call of a crane one morning, followed by a sighting on the field opposite their house at Little Fen Drove.

David Thomas drew my attention to the early flowering of the beautiful wild cherry tree in his garden and noted, on his walk near Reach ponds, a healthy quantity of flowering pussy willows. The golden male catkins which adorn these trees are eagerly sought after by early bees out of hibernation. Grey squirrels are also partial to feasts on catkins and sit for hours in the upper branches.

He spotted a sparrowhawk on the village/fen margin and on 29 February a group of 5 little egrets in Pocket Park. He remarked 'I remember when they were a rarity that ornithologists got excited about. Seeing them take off, hanging in the air black legs and yellow feet trailing, I could have been on an African floodplain'. On 1 March he spotted a male bullfinch on the Dyke close to Reach.

Ron rang to say that on 10 March he heard a frog croaking for a mate at their house pond. The following day he was delighted to see frogs had spawned in his field pond near Reach Wood. He hopes the eggs make it through to maturity without being devoured, as before, possibly by badgers.

Nick Acklam's nature notes:

20 January: ten hares very active in loose groupings on the far end of Tubney Fen - the mating season has begun.

27 January: our Mute Swan pair and juvenile round on and evict a cormorant that has landed in the water at the tip of the Hythe.

28 January: the remains of a large Tench, perhaps once weighing a kilo, lie on Reach Lode bank. The size of the fish and the way it has been eaten suggest the work on an otter.

A small flock of Wigeon occupy the cattle pond on Tubney Fen. A pair of Buzzard fly from Tubney towards the village.

1 February: The National Trust has been putting water from Reach Lode onto Tubney Fen for several weeks now. The cattle pond and adjoining ditches have been restored after last summer's drought and now the water is being directed onto a lower lying area of the fen to create a shallow pond about 15cm deep and 140m x 50m in extent, surrounded by an area of marshy peat soil. Wildlife has been quick to respond and, this morning, twenty or so Canada and Greylag geese and a range of corvids are present. It will be fascinating to see how this pond evolves as the year progresses.

2 February: Two closely aligned flights of Whooper Swans numbering 30 birds and travelling north near Upware. A grand sight.

4 February: The Roe Deer herd on fields to the left of Straight Drove has expanded from four to eight. The additions appear to come from Hurdle Hall where Roe Deer numbers have fallen by a similar number. Today (and on 11 February too) a lapwing flock circles Tubney Fen, seemingly pulling up roosting birds from the fen and surrounding fields. About 200 birds are involved and it is a little like a murmuration in reverse. Lapwing numbers are up in our local area this winter and I suspect this may be due to displacement from areas of flooding to the north.

13 February onwards: Four Little Egrets flying over Straight Drove, the first I have seen for some time. Thereafter a four or five Egrets are a regular presence in the Pocket Park, probably drawn there by the small ponds that developed there in the particularly wet weather. A flock of about 20 Redwing fly west into a biting wind.

16 February: Three Skylarks are singing territorially over Tubney this morning.

17 February: Two sightings of a male Marsh Harrier on Tubney fen and then, two hours later, on the land between Factory Drove and Burwell Lode. With absolutely no justification, I am inclined to believe they are the same bird. A Short-eared Owl also appears at the same time over the arable fields beside Burwell Lode.

21 February: Another large Tench dead in the reed fringe of Reach Lode. This one weighs in at around 1.5 kg and is barely eaten. Again I suspect the work of an otter.

23 February: A dead stoat on the green lane to the 24 Acres. (photo attached). No obvious injuries but, fascinatingly, it is ermine white apart from head top and nape of neck.

6 March: our cob Mute Swan aggressively pursues the last juvenile from the 2019 brood up and down the Catchwater, intent it seems on driving it away before this year's breeding season.

Joss Goodchild
jossbmg@icloud.com

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue

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www.cambsfire.gov.uk
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Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service is encouraging residents to register their appliances for a safer home in 2020. All you have to do is:
visit registermyappliance.org.uk and register large appliances bought in the last 12 years.

Registering your appliances can instantly improve safety in the home. It ensures that householders can be contacted swiftly if a safety repair is ever needed or if an item is recalled by the manufacturer, helping to prevent the risk of fire. With many households relying on appliances every day to handle essential chores, chill food and cook for their families, this quick task can give you peace of mind.

Book a Safe and Well visit

Did you know Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service offer free home safety visits to those who are most vulnerable in our community? Our visits cover fire safety in the home, falls prevention, staying well and warm and crime reduction.

Call 0800 917 9994
or visit **www.cambsfire.gov.uk/safeandwell** to find out more and book a visit or make a referral.

Get the call - become an on-call firefighter

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking to recruit more on-call firefighters to help serve local communities across the county. CFRS is looking for men and women from all backgrounds to become on-call firefighters and provide emergency cover from either their home or their workplace.

On-call firefighters are a vital part of our Service and community. They respond to a wide range of incidents, from fighting fires, attending road traffic collisions, animal rescues to supporting other emergency services. In addition to responding to emergency incidents, our on-call firefighters support their communities by providing information and advice on a range of community safety topics.

They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours). It's a hugely rewarding role, and we hope to encourage members of the community from all backgrounds to get in touch and find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter.

Visit www.cambsfire.gov.uk/oncall for more information.

Burwell Museum



Sadly, we have had to cancel or postpone a number of our events due to coronavirus, please check out our website for latest information:
http://burwellmuseum.org.uk/events

We hope that the museum will be open every Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from Easter-October, 11.00-5.00. Last entry at 4.00. Prices are £5 for adults, £2 for children, £10 for a family (up to 2 adults and 4 children).

Season tickets and event plans

2020 is a very exciting year for us because we're celebrating the 200th anniversary of Stevens' Mill; watch out for more information on our website. If you're planning on coming to lots of events, why not buy a season ticket for £15 individual, £20 joint or £25 family? Season tickets give free entry to all of our Tea and Talks, charged events and children's holiday activities as well as entry to the museum on Thursdays and Sundays throughout the season. Our events programme for this year is:

Fri 8 May: VE Day 75 (postponed)
Thu 28 May: Half term activities
Sun 28 June: Classic Car day
Thu 23, 30 July, 6, 13, 20 and 27 August: Holiday activities
Sun 26 July: Summer Fundraising Fete
Sun 20 September: Heritage Open Days Folk celebration
Thu 29 October: Half term activities

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

Tales from a Reach Garden



March has to be one of the busiest months in the garden and this year has been busier than usual because of a combination of factors. We've had one of the wettest, and mildest winters ever. It's also been very windy. In addition, Richard and I were unwell from the end of January through February – only really feeling fully recovered by March.

This has provided a lot of time for weeds to gain a foothold in certain parts of the garden. Plus, we've finally replaced the dead and dying leylandii hedge at the front of the garden with hornbeam, which has meant we're a little behind in the vegetable garden. However, while the mild damp weather may have encouraged weeds to flourish, it's also allowed our winter vegetables to thrive.



Weeds growing in last year's potato bed

Some of you will remember that we didn't have a leek crop last year because the leeks had been shredded by the allium leaf miner fly. We did not want to lose our leeks again in this way, so when the baby leeks were planted out in late summer last year, their bed was covered with a fine mesh fabric, allowing water and air in and keeping the pesky egg-laying flies out. It worked. We had a reasonable crop of leeks over winter and will be pulling the remainder up soon before the flower spikes take over. The only issue with the leeks this year is fungal rust on the leaves, due to the cool wet weather.



Leeks (and fine mesh) in mid-March

Normally every autumn or late winter, before the winter frosts and rains turn the leaves into a smelly mush, we cut back the perpetual spinach and chard to use those leaves in the kitchen or blanching and freezing them for later consumption.



Regrowth on last year's planting of spinach

I've found in the past that the plants grow back in the early spring in time for another crop of succulent leaves before the flower spikes appear and that's happened this year too. I'll be sowing another crop of spinach and chard for leafy greens soon, so having some fresh leaves to eat this early in the year is very welcome. It also bridges the gap before this year's crop is ready for picking. The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed the chicken wire in the background of the picture of spinach. There's a good reason for that – we have to put chicken wire around the spinach bed because otherwise the local deer and rabbits would nibble the leaves down to stumps. I wish they'd eat the weeds instead…



Muntjac deer enjoying the sunshine in our garden in January

Danuta Gibson

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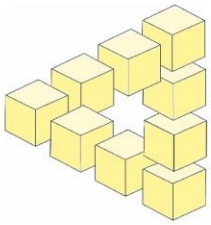

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Food Focus

Food Focus – Corona Special!



I had planned to provide 3 delicious almond based cake recipes for this edition, what with it being the 60th Anniversary edition and all. However, it's unlikely that many of us will be celebrating our current circumstances let alone able to lay our hands on the relevant ingredients. Instead this month store cupboard recipes provide some far less frivolous foodie ideas.

Chilli

Taken directly from Guardian website but thought it sounded good! Let me know if you try it.



***Jack Monroe** is a British food writer, journalist and activist known for campaigning on poverty issues, particularly hunger relief, as well as publishing several cookbooks focusing on "austerity recipes" and meals which can be made on a tight budget.*

The writer and campaigner Jack Monroe is, of course, the undisputed queen of cooking with canned goods, and not out of affectation. Her resourcefulness is exemplary, as demonstrated in this bootstrap chilli (to serve four), adapted from a Gordon Ramsay beef dish.

Drain and rinse two cans of beans (Monroe uses red kidney and baked beans – you could try any others or cook your own from scratch. The website Serious Eats says you can cook 130g of dry beans in place of a standard 400g tin). Cover with water and boil for 10 minutes, then simmer until soft. In a pan, fry some chopped onion in oil with cumin and paprika (hot sauce and dried or fresh chilli would work, too). Add a tin of chopped tomatoes, a stock cube and a splash of red wine. Add the drained beans and some dark chocolate and stir to combine. Serve with rice, or cold in a burrito, and any add-ons you have lying around: more hot sauce or salsa, jalapenos, sour cream or Greek yoghurt, fresh green leaves, grated cheddar …

Cauliflower cheese soup

This recipe is my own miserly invention and it stems from hating to waste anything. We often have cauliflower cheese as it's liked by all in this house and if any lasts from a Sunday lunchtime it can easily supplement plain pasta meals later in the week.

Obviously, one has to boil the cauli first in cauliflower cheese and I couldn't bear pouring the cauliflower water down the drain (particularly when it's a Snakehall one). So I started with a normal soup base – fry an onion, added chicken stock, add a large potato for thickening purposes, bring to the boil. When the potatoes are nearly cooked add as many outer leaves/stalk (chopped) from the cauliflower that are still intact. If there is any left over, cauliflower cheese or even just sauce, add this too. Then add the cauli water and cheddar or any other cheese that is readily available. Whizz. I did this the other day and it was a bit too thin and tasteless because there wasn't any left-over cauliflower cheese, so I fried a leek and added that - it worked a treat and really thickened it up.

If you aren't ready to make the soup immediately I have been known to keep the water in the fridge for a few days before making the soup.

Sweet potato and butternut squash dahl

Not exactly store cupboard, but butternut squashes do keep quite well and I'm sure it wouldn't make too much difference if you didn't have the sweet potato. This is a recipe from Spring Green, my stepsister's company, which delivers beautiful healthy food to doorsteps in London. So get cooking – no chance of finding it up here! Serves 6 as a main, 8 as side dish.

Ingredients

400g red lentils
750ml litre vegetable stock
1 tsp turmeric
1/2 tsp chilli powder
15g freshly grated ginger
3 tsp tomato paste
1 tin coconut milk
1kg sweet potatoes + butternut squash, cubed
1 tin tomatoes
2 tsp salt
Pepper
10 ml red wine vinegar
1 red onion
1 garlic
50ml lime juice

Method

Fry onion with a little bit of salt, fry for a 4/5 mins, then garlic for a minute or two, then add turmeric and chilli powder and fry for a minute, then add the sweet potato, lentils, ginger, stock, coconut milk, tomato paste, red wine vinegar tomatoes. Stir often or it will burn at the bottom. After about 15 mins it will start to become rich and creamy, add more water if too thick, keep cooking for a further 10 minutes or until everything is soft. Season to taste with salt pepper and lime juice. Serve with some fresh vegetables, a sprinkle of black sesame seeds, a dollop of coconut yoghurt + drizzle of good olive oil.

Nigel Slaters quick squash stew

Serves 4 with rice (if you can get it!)



Ingredients

pumpkin, butternut or winter squash 1 kg
vegetable oil 3 tbsp
onions 2
tomato purée 2 tsp
chopped tomatoes a 400g can
dried oregano a generous tsp
parsley a few sprigs
steamed brown rice to serve

Method

Peel the squash, halve it and scoop out and set aside the seeds. You should have about 800g flesh. Cut into large dice, about 1-2cm square.
Warm the oil in a wide, deep pan, add the pieces of squash (you may have to cook it in two batches so as not to crowd the pan) and leave them to fry till golden brown on their edges. Move them round the pan as they cook, adding more oil if necessary, then remove them from the pan with a draining spoon. (If you wish, wash a handful of the discarded pumpkin seeds, dry them and toast in a non-stick pan till golden brown. Set aside. You can scatter them over the stew later.)

Peel and slice the onions, then add them to the empty pan over a low to moderate heat. Stirring occasionally, leave them for 10 minutes or until pale amber in colour and tender enough to crush between your thumb and finger.

Stir in the tomato purée, scraping away at the tasty, sticky residue in the pan with a wooden spoon. Fry briefly, then add the tomatoes, oregano and a little salt and ground black pepper. Fill the empty tomato can with water and pour into the pan, stirring thoroughly, and bring to the boil.

Return the squash to the pan and leave to simmer, with the occasional gentle stir, for 25 minutes or until everything is soft when pressed gently with a fork. Chop the parsley and stir in. Check the seasoning and serve with the brown rice.

Ps no foody Markets & Events happening near you over the next two months!

Catherine Gibson

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Saturday
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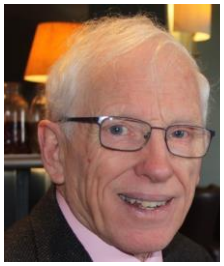

Hello again, I'm pleased to say this is my 10th article for the Magazine on its 60th anniversary. Congratulations to all involved with the magazine for a great read, I always look forward to the new edition coming through the letterbox.

I thought it would be topical to talk about working from home.

Those of you working for large organisations will be supported by your IT department but some of us in smaller businesses don't have that luxury.

One problem is that moving a desktop machine, screen, keyboard and tower, then connecting to the internet is an upheaval, especially if you are going to go back to the office occasionally, but all your information is on the office computer. This can sometimes be got round by sending and retrieving files from the Cloud, eg OneDrive (aka Sharepoint), Dropbox or Gdrive but if you have a Mac or tablet at home you can't always run your work programs if they need Windows, or maybe you forgot one vital piece of information. The answer is to have remote access to your work computer.

There are several programmes for operating computers remotely, some of you may have experienced one of these if you have 'phoned for support with your computer. The one I use mostly is Chrome Remote Desktop which is free. With this you can access the computer in your office from another Computer, Tablet or Phone, in fact anything running Chrome. You can download files from one to the other, print etc. To be able to connect freely both copies of Chrome need to be signed in to Chrome as you, then you have access with a PIN. For connecting to a stranger's computer, the person at the other end quotes you a number, this prompts the supported person to confirm every 20 minutes so that there is no possibility of you 'spying' on them.

Apart from using Remote Desktop for support, I find it quite useful to be able to operate and monitor several computers from just one screen and keyboard. For example, one of my clients changed his accounts format, so he kept an old machine under the desk with last year's accounts on so he could refer to it if necessary. One small tip, there is an arrowhead halfway down the right side of the screen, clicking on this reveals a pop-out menu of commands. Great when you know it's there, but frustrating if you don't.

Another possibility is to use Skype, also free, useful if you want a group chat or to do a Powerpoint presentation without gathering everyone together in one room. I have seen some comments that a video conference is better than voice, there are fewer instances of people talking over each other etc. and documents can be shared.

Documents can be shared and edited in Word, Excel etc. which enables you to work collaboratively from home. The Help pages are quite explicit on this topic. If you all have Office 365 for Business then look at 'Teams', it is specifically designed for just this scenario even to working better over slow Broadband connections and Mobile. Read about it including a £1 offer for 6 months at: https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/p/?linkid=2121602.

I wish you all good health in the next few weeks and I hope to be writing another article for the next issue. If any of you want me to cover a particular issue just contact me or David with your request.

David McMillan
01638 741259

Spotted Flycatchers



Have you got this increasingly rare bird breeding in your garden? Let us know!

These are attractive migrant birds, about the size of a Robin, which are summer visitors to village gardens and churchyards. Although they breed with us, they spend up to nine months of the year travelling as much as 16,000 miles a year between here and their wintering grounds in Southern Africa, Angola and Namibia. This is an increasingly dangerous journey for them, and sadly they are in deep decline.

A few hundred pairs breed in Cambridgeshire; most villages still have a pair or two. We want to find and monitor nesting pairs. **Do you have flycatchers in your garden, or have you had in recent years?**

And there's lots more to read about our project and Spotted Flycatchers in general at bit.ly/SpotFly

Please email: spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk with any sightings.

Letter from the Vicarage



It's difficult to know what to write, as things around us seem to be changing so rapidly and every time I start to write, things have changed again. I am desperately sad that the Archbishops said that all public worship is to be stopped, for a season, in light of the escalation of the spread of COVID-19 virus.

This doesn't mean we have shut up shop, but our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings has been put on hold. We're hoping that both our church buildings, St Mary's in Burwell and St Etheldreda's in Reach, will be able to remain open during the daytime for private prayer, but we would ask that you observe the current NHS hygiene recommendations to limit the spread of the virus. Sadly, we have also had to take the decision to temporarily close CentrePeace, the bookshop run by us on the Causeway, in Burwell.

We will be continuing to worship, to care, to serve, but it will be in different ways. On Facebook, we are posting regular updates and prayers and we are exploring ways of providing ways of engaging with worship online. We continue to pray for our world, our country, our community, our friends and families.

We will celebrate Easter differently, most likely that will be apart, rather than together, but the good news of Easter is that out of the darkest of days, when everything seems hopeless, and all is lost, new hope can come. That is what we remember, year by year in the Church's calendar: the terrible events of Good Friday and Jesus' death, the desolation of Easter Saturday, and the glorious, wonderful joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning.

Please get in touch if you would like to talk, to pray, to find out about how we're learning to be Church in a new way. Please continue to remember to support the Foodbank, if you can and if you find yourself in need of the support of the Foodbank, I do have emergency vouchers, or you can contact Ely Foodbank on 01353 468626.

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Vicar of Burwell with Reach
01638 741262
vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Church Building Update



By the time you read this, the repair work on the ruined arch will, hopefully, be about to start! The faculty (Church permission) was duly received before Christmas and after a tendering process, Cambridge Stonecraft were appointed as the contractors to carry out the work.

The Diocesan Advisers and the architect have specified the details very carefully and work is scheduled to start in April, when the risk of frost is past. We expect the work to last a few months, but, apart from the presence of contractors' vehicles, it shouldn't make much impact on the village. The church will still be open as usual, although it won't be possible for people to walk round the back of the church where the contractors are working.

Further good news was the improvement of the financial position, particularly with the extension of the scheme whereby churches can recover VAT on building works for at least another year. In the light of this, the PCC took the decision to press on with the development of the church immediately, with a view to completing as much as possible by the Spring of 2021. Detailed specifications are currently in preparation and the next stage will be to apply for a faculty and then invite tenders from builders. Hopefully, this will all go smoothly so that the work can start later in the summer after work on the arch is finished.

Postscript: at the time of sending to print, we are not sure about how any of this work will be affected by the coronavirus restrictions.

Pat Chalmers



Know Your District Councillors



Clearly, John and I will no longer be holding any face-to-face meetings, nor will we be able to visit people. But we are always happy to be contacted by phone or email:
john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk 01223 812120
charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk 07976 607512
Contact us about anything – we may not always have the answer or be able to help you ourselves, but we will do our best to find someone who does know and can help.

We will hold our surgeries 'virtually'. So, on Wednesday 22 April between 6.30 and 7.30pm John and Charlotte will hold a telephone surgery – call John on 01223 812120 or Charlotte on 07976 607512. We will then have a virtual meet your Councillor from 7.30, using Zoom. If you would like to join us for a general chat, please email john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk so he can send you the joining details. Our following virtual surgery and virtual meet your councillor will be on Tuesday 19 May, with the same arrangements.

Charlotte has decided to venture into the world of Social media and now has a Facebook Page – you can visit the page at - fb.me/charlottecanelibdem and send messages to her at m.me/charlottecanelibdem. She is posting latest information from the District Council and local matters, plus some more social stuff which you may find of interest. Please have a look and let her know what you would like more of and what you want less of. Please be patient with her if she stumbles along the way as this is a learning curve for her.

The Council Offices are closed to the public and most staff will be working from home. If you need District Council Services call - 01353 665555. This is also the number to use if you need the housing services team, who can help with housing problems – just ask for the housing team. The District Council has cancelled all meetings, they will be issuing details soon of how decisions will be taken over the next few months. Charlotte will post that and other District Council updates, on her Facebook Page.

Charlotte gets her milk delivered by Plumbs Dairy, who tell her that they are happy to take on more customers. As well as milk, they deliver bread, eggs, bacon, juice and other products. While their stocks last, that means you can get your basic supplies delivered.

Their website is - http://www.plumbs-dairy.co.uk/ and their phone number and email are - 01223 893033 info@plumbs-dairy.co.uk. Milk & More also deliver in the area but they are not currently accepting new customers. There may be other deliverers in the area as well.

The Operations sub-committee decided to stop supporting Citizens Advice Rural Cambridgeshire with an annual subsidy of £47,000, but instead augmenting the ECDC advice service. There were many members of the public who stated their preference for an advisory service independent of the Council and for one that would have more breadth and depth. We supported 'calling in' the decision, so that it will be reviewed by Full Council. We supported the motion to Full Council asking for this decision to be put on hold for 6 months to allow for proper discussion. The CARC told us that without the Council's funding they would have to close, leaving people in and around Ely without this vital independent advice. Unfortunately, the administration refused to reconsider and so the Council will stop funding the CAB in Ely. We have asked for this decision to be reconsidered in the light of the current situation.

The subsidy to Citizens Advice West Suffolk based in Newmarket, which is probably of more use to residents in our ward, will continue. The Citizens Advice in Cambridge is also available. Other sources of advice in the area are ECDC, telephone 01353 665555, who have an out of hours service for emergencies. Charlotte and John are also happy to help.

You will have received your Council Tax bills and have noticed that East Cambs' share has been frozen for a further year. On the face of it, this is good news – none of us like paying tax. But the books are being balanced for now by drawing millions of pounds out of reserves. The forward budgets show that by 2022/23 there will be a shortfall of £3.3m. John and Charlotte have been pressing the administration to explain their plans for balancing the budget and were encouraged to see that the auditor shared our concerns. He recommended "We suggest that the Council could be more transparent in its planning around the areas it has identified to help bridge funding gaps and we recommend that the Council considers updating its Medium Term Financial Strategy and its underlying assumptions more frequently than the current annual cycle." With the auditor's support, we now have a commitment from the administration to discuss the plans for balancing the budget at the Finance and Assets Committee in September.

You should have received a questionnaire about buses, walking and cycling from East Cambs. Please use this to share your views about what you want in our local area. You can post it back to the Council, or you can complete it online:
https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/roads-transport/bus-services-and-cycling-and-walking-routes-consultation.
I know many of you have already shared your views with the Neighbourhood Plan team, but it would be good to use this survey too, as it will assist East Cambs to understand our needs and with making the case for funding.

Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

Covid-19 Advice

Read the government advice at:
https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

Even if you are not ill, please remain at home unless you absolutely need to go out. We all have a responsibility to stop the spread of this virus, so unless you are 100% certain that your journey is essential, please stay at home.

If you must go out, please wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as soon as you return home.

Clearly, you should go to work if you are providing essential services – NHS, social care, school staff, food supply chain, power supply etc.

If you are not providing an essential service, you should work from home. If you really can't work from home, then talk remotely to your employer – remember they can reclaim 80% of your salary if you can't work.

I realise this is much harder for the self-employed, but please follow the same rules. It is clear that the government will have to put some financial support in place for self-employed people.

As far as possible, get your shopping delivered and maintain your social distance. If you have to go out to buy food or medicine plan ahead and go shopping no more than once a week.

If you need help, phone one of the people offering help in your village or phone me on 07976 607512.

Do not socialise other than remotely.

Do keep exercising – we can go outside once a day as long as we are only with people from our household. Avoid narrow paths, so that if you meet someone you can pass each other with a 2m gap.

Do support your neighbours – let them know, remotely, when you plan to shop or are ordering a delivery to see if they want anything.

Do use phones and on-line systems to keep in touch. It's important that we keep communicating.

Please let's do all we can to keep our communities safe and well.

Charlotte Cane

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Chair	07771 348013
Charlotte Cane	Vice Chair	741064
Nick Acklam	Councillor	743749
Cristine Fletcher	Councillor	07763 529866
Rebecca Fordham	Councillor	743331
David McMillan	Councillor	741259
Andrew Trump	Councillor	07980 955490

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.



Courtesy of Rosanna Moseley-Gore

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th February 2020

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence – non were received.

Forum for members of the public.
Several members of the public attended regarding the planning application. Residents objected to the planning application and felt that the amendments were cosmetic and did not address any concerns.

Members of the public also attended to speak about the metal detecting issue and give the PC more information on the process and precautions taken. It was stated that the Green is a challenging area and must be completed in several stages. Deeper holes are required as items can be surprisingly deep even after one hot summer. Deeper, wider holes also cause less damage to the grass. Questions had been asked as to why items could not be left in the ground once found. This would mask results from further searches.
They would like to continue with 3 more 2 hour sessions.

1. Declaration of Interests
Councillor Cane declared an interest re the minutes, in case there is any discussion of the Local Electricity Bill.

2. New Councillor
Nick Acklam had applied for the vacant councillor position and was welcomed to the PC.

The second vacancy will be available for co-option after the 11th February, if an election is not called.

3. Metal detecting on the Green
The Chair apologised for the PC not obtaining enough information to make an informed decision at the beginning of this process.
At the last meeting it was agreed that the metal detecting should stop. Following discussion about the archaeology of the Green and considering what had been said during the forum for members of the public. The PC voted, 5 for and 1 against, continuing the search. Therefore, the metal detecting will continue for 3 more sessions

4. Planning Applications - 19/01439/FUL Amendments - Construction of one and half storey detached dwelling with new access. Land East of Orchard Cottage 11 Chapel Lane, Reach.
Reach Parish Council continues to object to the above planning application and feels that the amendments are cosmetic and do not address the previous concerns.

The PC acknowledges that during the 1970's planning permission had been granted on this site. The PC believes that this is no longer relevant as there have been many changes in this area. The number of houses and the number of cars has significantly increase. Listed building protection has also changed. There is also greater knowledge now of the archaeological importance of the area.

- Highways issues – Parking is always a problem in the area and the junction with Great Lane is dangerous. These issues have not been addressed in the amended plan.
- Capacity of physical infrastructure – Reach Parish Council must continue to highlight the present, regular, sewage problem which will be increased with additional housing. Photographic evidence has been supplied by local residences. Reach does not have the sewage capacity.
- Archaeology – The plot is at the centre of a very significant archaeological area, which will be reflected in the Neighbourhood plan being prepared by Reach. The archaeological site could be of national importance and should be considered as such within this application. Again, this is a very import issue and has not been addressed in the amendment.

The Parish Council would like this application to be called before the planning committee should they be minded to accept this application.

5. County Councillor Report
None received.

6. District Councillor Report
The bus review group has produced a questionnaire to go to ECDC residents in early March to be returned by 19 April. This covers walking and cycling as well as buses. Charlotte and John are organising meetings in three locations in the ward in late March and early April. ECDC has arranged drop locations for completed questionnaires. Further details will be given in the Parish Magazines.
The Operations sub-committee has decided to stop supporting Citizens Advice Rural Cambridgeshire with an annual subsidy of £47,000, but instead augmenting the ECDC advice service. There were many members of the public who stated their preference for an advisory service independent of the Council, and for one that would have more breadth and depth. We have 'called in' the decision, so that it will be reviewed by Full Council. The subsidy to Citizens Advice West Suffolk based in Newmarket, which is probably of more use to residents in our ward, will continue. The Citizens Advice in Cambridge is also available.
Other sources of advice in the area are ECDC, telephone 01353 665555, who have an out of hours service for emergencies. Charlotte and John are also happy to help, and our contact details are published in the village magazines and websites and East Cambs website.

Discussion took place regarding the questionnaire and encouraging young people to become involved. ***Clerk*** to add to the March meeting agenda.

7. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

8.1 Reach Grant Fund
Nothing to report.

8.2 Finance
Nothing to report.

8.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor de Giorgio-Miller has been working with The Prospects Trust regarding their bus shelter sign. Pre application planning advise has been submitted to establish what will be acceptable. Councillor Cane has asked the planning department for a site visit to be arranged.

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller will investigate the dredging of the Lode and take this up with EV and Lucy Frazer.

Councillor Acklam will investigate the ownership of the trees in the village.

8.4 Play Spaces
Bus shelter
David Pallant of MultiTrade has done a great job repairing the bus shelter on the green. He reports that he still has some repairs to the back to do and that he is happy to donate the cost of the materials. Thank you David!

Playground repair
A connector is missing on the cargo net part of the large climbing frame. The Clerk has authorised purchase of a replacement part.

Annual inspection
The annual inspection has been booked for the playground and swings (£100, as last year).

8.6 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

8.7 24Acres Committee
Councillor Acklam will be meeting the NT at the 24Acres site to discuss what should be done with the unused areas. There has also been initial discussions within the group on the idea of making hay in the orchard.

8.1 Neighbourhood Plan
Residents' Survey
Distribution of surveys (around 290 in the end) is virtually complete. The Group managed to speak to most households in the village during delivery to explain the survey's purpose and to reiterate the importance of returning completed forms. Engagement has been positive in almost every case. There are also communications on the village website and in 'Within Reach'. The cut-off date for returns is 14 February. Posters will be put up to remind people of the date.

Consultancy Tasks
No formal responses yet from Alison Farmer Associates or AECOM but we are in contact with both. We are confident that the Group will have plenty of policy proposals and, hopefully, a draft Plan to offer up to the village for comment over the Reach Fair weekend.
Anglian Water
Complete silence, still, from Anglian Water (AW) to proposals put to it in September 2019 to enhance the Hythe. A further email was sent to AW in mid-January seeking a response and reminding it of the strength of opinion in the village in favour of improving the site. We will look at next steps if the Residents' Survey returns reaffirm that view.

The Chair reminded the NP group that all spending must be approved by the PC and should be detailed on the monthly report.

9. Reach Fair update
The terms of reference were discussed and will be amended. A separate Reach Fair bank account will be used for this year only. All payments must be authorised at a PC meeting & statements must be submitted each month.
It was agreed to buy tea urns and a BBQ, to pay for the website hosting and to place the carparking with CCC.
The risk assessment was approved and ***Clerk*** to confirm insurance cover.
The large logs at the entrance to the playing field will be moved ***Councillor Trump*** to arrange.

10. Friends of Reach wood
Steve Boreham would like the PC to reconsider being involved with the WT and Reach wood. He would then be prepared to again lead the FORW group. ***Councillor Acklam*** to liaise with Steve and contact the WT to arrange a meeting with the PC. It was also noted that the current management plan has expired. The PC would like the new management plan to include a no commercial events statement. ***Clerk*** to add to March agenda.

16. Information Items
Clerk had received a complaint about fallen branches etc in the cemetery, which is making access for disabled people difficult. ***Clerk*** to arrange for the area to be cleared.
British spring clean – ***Councillor de Giorgio-Miller*** to investigate the village getting involved.
Parish Council conference – No one is able to attend.
Reach Riders Group would like to hold a tug of war competition on the Green. The PC would request that any footings made are replaced and state that the PC accept no liability for any injury that may occur.

17. Payments

Eon – power on the green	£31.33
Kompan – playground parts	£46.80
Burwell Print – NP surveys	£339.50

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 4th March 2020

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence – none were received.

Forum for members of the public.
There were none.

1. Declaration of Interests
Councillor Cane declared an interest in the supplementary planning document item due to her employment.

2. New Councillor
Cristine Fletcher had applied for the vacant councillor position and was welcomed to the PC.

3. Planning Applications – There were none.

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller and Councillor Cane continue to work with the Prospects Trust with regard to the bus shelter signs and planning permission. A pre-application advice request determined that any signage on the bus shelter would require planning permission due to its location, but it would be unlikely that planning permission would be granted if the proposed sign were higher than 30cm. The planning department has been asked if it is acceptable to paint a picture on the side of the bus shelter without planning permission. A response is awaited.

4. County Councillor Report
No report received.

The PC would like to thank Councillor Schumann for his efforts and support regarding the successful LHI application. ***Clerk*** to write to Councillor Schumann.

5. District Councillor Report
The administration at East Cambs cancelled their grant to Citizens Advice Rural Cambridgeshire (CARC), without warning and without discussion with Councillors prior to the recommendation to Committee. CARC provides a range of independent advice to East Cambs residents, but they explained that without this grant from East Cambs they would have to close. East Cambs will be expanding their services to cover the housing advice which CARC currently delivers. The housing advice team at East Cambs are excellent, but they are not independent, and their advice is limited to housing and connected matters. We therefore supported the call-in to review the decision and argued for a 6 month delay for full discussions with CARC and involving all Councillors.

The Budget for 2020/21 was agreed with a freeze in Council tax. The budget will be balanced for 2020/21 and 2021/22 by drawing down £5.9 million from reserves. But by 2022/23 there will be a shortfall of £3.3 million. The council's auditor expressed some concern about this, recommending – "We suggest that the Council could be more transparent in its planning around the areas it has identified to help bridge funding gaps and we recommend that the Council considers updating its Medium Term Financial Strategy and its underlying assumptions more frequently than the current annual cycle." We supported proposals to set up a Strategic Planning Committee, to make sure the Council was planning for the future of the area in terms of housing, employment, transport, environmental sustainability etc. We also supported a proposal to employ a member of staff to liaise with Parish Councils to help develop and implement initiatives to address the climate emergency. These 2 proposals would have required a 1% increase in Council tax. These proposals were not accepted.
The Bus, Walking and Cycling Questionnaire will be delivered to everyone from 9 March. We are holding meetings to discuss these issues with local residents:
Monday 23 March 7.30 – Poppy Room, Sports & Social Club, Bottisham
Monday 30 March 7.30 – Memorial Hall, Brinkley
Thursday 2 April 7.30 – Small Hall, Swaffham Prior
The Mayor is consulting on his CAM Metro Plans – no consultation is planned in East Cambs and there are no detailed plans for East Cambs or to address congestion at the Quy roundabout or the A14/A142 junction at Newmarket. One of our colleagues is pressing the mayor to arrange some consultation in East Cambs.
Charlotte seconded a motion calling for our Planning decisions to take full account of the Climate Emergency, eg by making sure the houses are built to high sustainability standards and car traffic is not increased. Unfortunately, this motion was voted down by the administration.
The Council is consulting on two Supplementary Planning Documents on the Natural Environment and Self-Build. These are important documents, so please let the District Council know your views.
Our next Councillors' Surgery is Tuesday 31st March at 6.30pm in the Fassage Hall, Lode, followed by 'meet your Councillors' at 7.45pm in The Shed, Lode.

6. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

7.1 Reach Grant Fund
An application had been received. Details require up-dating and the application will be discussed at the April meeting.

7.2 Finance
Nothing to report.
Questions were asked regarding the IT licenses, Precept and tree and hedge reserves. ***Clerk*** to report back to the Council.

7.3 Parish Council Members
Swaffham Prior School had contacted the PC regarding a project they are involved with which requires space to plant trees. Reach doesn't have any areas which require planting at the moment, however, ***Councillor Acklam*** is having a meeting with the National Trust at the 24Acres and will discuss this with them. ***Clerk*** to inform the school.
Councillor Acklam and Steve Boreham are undertaking a survey of trees for which the PC is responsible, these will be recorded and taged.

7.4 Play Spaces

Annual inspection

The annual inspection has been carried out for the playground and swings. There were a few things which were flagged, but all rated low risk. One of the missing fixings had already been replaced before receiving the report. ***Councillor de Giorgio-Miller*** will investigate the other items in the main playground now that the report has been received.

The swings are in need of some repair in the future. This will be monitored, and the PC will look to apply for funding to cover the work. The surface requires cleaning. ***Councillor de Giorgio-Miller*** will arrange for this to be done.

7.5 Rights of Way

Nothing to report.

7.6 24Acres Committee

Nothing to report.

7.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Residents' Survey

The survey deadline has now passed although returns continue to trickle in. We currently have 144 completed forms, representing about 54 per cent of all over-16 residents. There is strong anecdotal evidence during the collection process that we have received returns from a higher per-centage of households in the village (i.e. collectors were told on at least five occasions that one individual had completed the form for the whole household). It is clear that many respondents have spent a lot of time providing thoughtful and detailed responses. Overall, we have a solid evidence base on which to proceed. We are now inputting the returns into a database provided by Ian Poole.

Some early and very partial, manually extracted, headlines:

- 94% of respondents fully support the project group's vision. 98% of respondents think Reach is a good place to live. 75% of respondents want to see fewer than 10 houses built in the village over the next two decades.
- 58 per cent of respondents wanted individual house development only, 19 per cent wanted several small groups and 8 per cent a single group. 15 per cent had no preference or didn't know or didn't answer (some correlation with those who want no housing allocation at all).
- 52 per cent of respondents wanted to see housing within a carefully expanded development, 1 per cent wanted housing in a markedly larger envelope (a survey box they had created themselves) and 38 per cent wanted development within the existing envelope. 8 per cent gave no response (again some correlation with those wanting no more housing).

We now need to focus on getting the views of under-16 residents.

Consultants

No draft landscape appraisal yet from Alison Farmer Associates but we understand from Alison that work is progressing well. AECOM have promised us a draft design code by the end of February.

Anglian Water

On 10 February Anglian Water (AW) finally responded to our proposals to enhance the Hythe, put to it in September 2019. Unfortunately, AW has offered no more than a reiteration of its stance from 2017 and has given no sense of effort being applied to meet community concerns or indeed its own strategy on community engagement. The NP survey returns confirm the strength of village opinion on this issue:

- 77 per cent of respondents thought it very important to minimise the effect of development on the Hythe. A further 12 per cent thought it quite important.
- 79 per cent of respondents agreed that the Hythe is of major cultural and recreational significance to the village. 11 percent disagreed. The remainder didn't answer or weren't sure.
- 88 per cent of villagers wanted the above ground tanks and pipes in the sewage works removed. Only 3 per cent were happy for them to stay. The remainder didn't answer or weren't sure.

I think this gives us enough to ask AW to think again but we need to work out exactly how we progress.

Summary

We are confident that the Group will have plenty of policy proposals and, hopefully, a draft Plan to offer up to the village for comment over the Reach Fair weekend.

The draft design code has now been received and the draft landscape is expected next week, and these will be discussed at the next NP meeting.

8. CIL funding,

CIL funding is for large projects from £50,000 - £2,000,000, related to growth within the district. Reach would need to contribute 5% of the project costs. Although any project of this size is likely to be too much for Reach it is an opportunity to highlight requirements in or around the village. Therefore, a discussion took place regarding a cycle path between Reach and Burwell, as this road will become busier with the Weirs Drove development. ***Councillors Cane & Acklam*** to investigate costs and gain advice. Further discussion will take place at the April meeting.

9. Lode bank damage
A complaint had been received regarding damage by 4x4 vehicles along the Lode bank past the fishing pit. Councillor Acklam reported that the NT, with advice from the EV agency, intend to install barriers on the junction by the fishing pit. The NT will also be working on the Willow trees and will be encouraging the FPAS bailiff to be more active in the area.

10. Litter picking
A litter picking event will take place around the village on Saturday 21st March. Most of the equipment will be borrowed from Burwell and the Events Team. A couple of items will be required and be paid for from the Grant fund. The Clerk will require a list of volunteers for the insurance cover.

11. Refurbishment of the circular seat on the Green
Manchetts have generously agreed to sponsor the refurbishment. Councillor Acklam is coordinating this and is awaiting quotes for the work, which will be passed to Manchetts. A plaque is proposed to commemorate and give the history of the present and past tree. The installation will be carried out by volunteers and again the Clerk will require names for the insurance.

12. Reach Fair update
The Fair committee had provided the PC with a detailed update on the progress of the Fair organisation and any items that require actions.

Costs listed and budget updated

Bins	£292
St Johns £280 + £56 VAT =	£336
Loos	£650
Kate Garner	£350
Lindy Hoppers	£175
Los Hobos	£210
Donations to performers 3 X £80 =	£240
Jezo £2108.50 = 421.70	£2530.20
Scouts assist with BBQ	£300
Sea Cadets, Air Cadets	£550
Signage, Posters, Programme	£650
General expenses	£640
Kerb cutting – Craig	c.£50
Straw bales	£270

PC gave permission to pay costs as they fall due.

Road closure
Copy of public liability insurance cover for the minimum sum of £5 million
Clerk to forward copy of insurance to Martin Ellwood and cc CH
Licence to use car park field
Require copy of public liability insurance cover for the minimum sum of £5 million and cheque for the sum of £1000.
Clerk to forward a cheque and a copy of insurance to Kip Helps and cc CH
CH will drop round to Susan Bailey x2 copies of the signed agreement
Insurances and certificates for Fair, Food stalls and Stalls
CH to collect copies of insurances and certificates
For information / Update
Draft Layouts (Top Field and Fair Green); Entertainers programme; Poster – all sent to PC
Six people attended February meeting and three sent apologies
It was agreed to raise car parking fee to £6
Logistics of car park discussed. SE to arrange meeting with Mervyn Lambert
Electricity on Fair Green discussed, and CH has followed this up with David Parr
Logistics of rota discussed
Logistics of Drop Offs discussed. Entertainers to use Swaffham Prior Road with Drop Off Passes – so as to avoid disruption to one-way car park traffic
30 stalls have booked, and 16 places remains

13. Reach wood
The PC were pleased that the Friends Of Reach Wood has re-established, and Steve Boreham has had a lot of discussions with the WT following the work that has taken place.
The PC agreed to monitor the situation and allow the FORW to re-establish good communications prior becoming involved.

14. Bus Questionnaire and the environment impact – to be discussed at the April meeting, and advertised on Facebook.

15. Supplementary Planning Documents
The SPDs, if adopted, will add to ECDC approach to both issues, the natural environment and the Custom and Self-build housing. The draft SPDs are available for public inspection on the ECDC website at: http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/supplementary-planning-documents

The PC would encourage people to respond in agreement as well as negatively if they want to see change. The natural environment document discusses the Devils Dyke and protection around it. Both documents connect to the Reach emerging NP. The PC endorse both documents, ***Clerk*** to send comment.

16. Information Items
Nothing to report.

17. Payments

Eon – power on the green	£9.60
TH Tree Surgery Ltd	£1,150.00
CCC – Reach Fair car park	£1,000.00
Fenland leisure – Playground inspection	£100.00

Diary Dates

Please note some of these dates are earlier than normal

April	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 1	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Wednesday 8	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Friday 17	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 23	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 30	Recycling Day (Green)		

May	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 6	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Wednesday 6	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 14	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 21	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Friday 29	Recycling Day (Green)		

Diary Dates

Please note some of these dates are earlier than normal

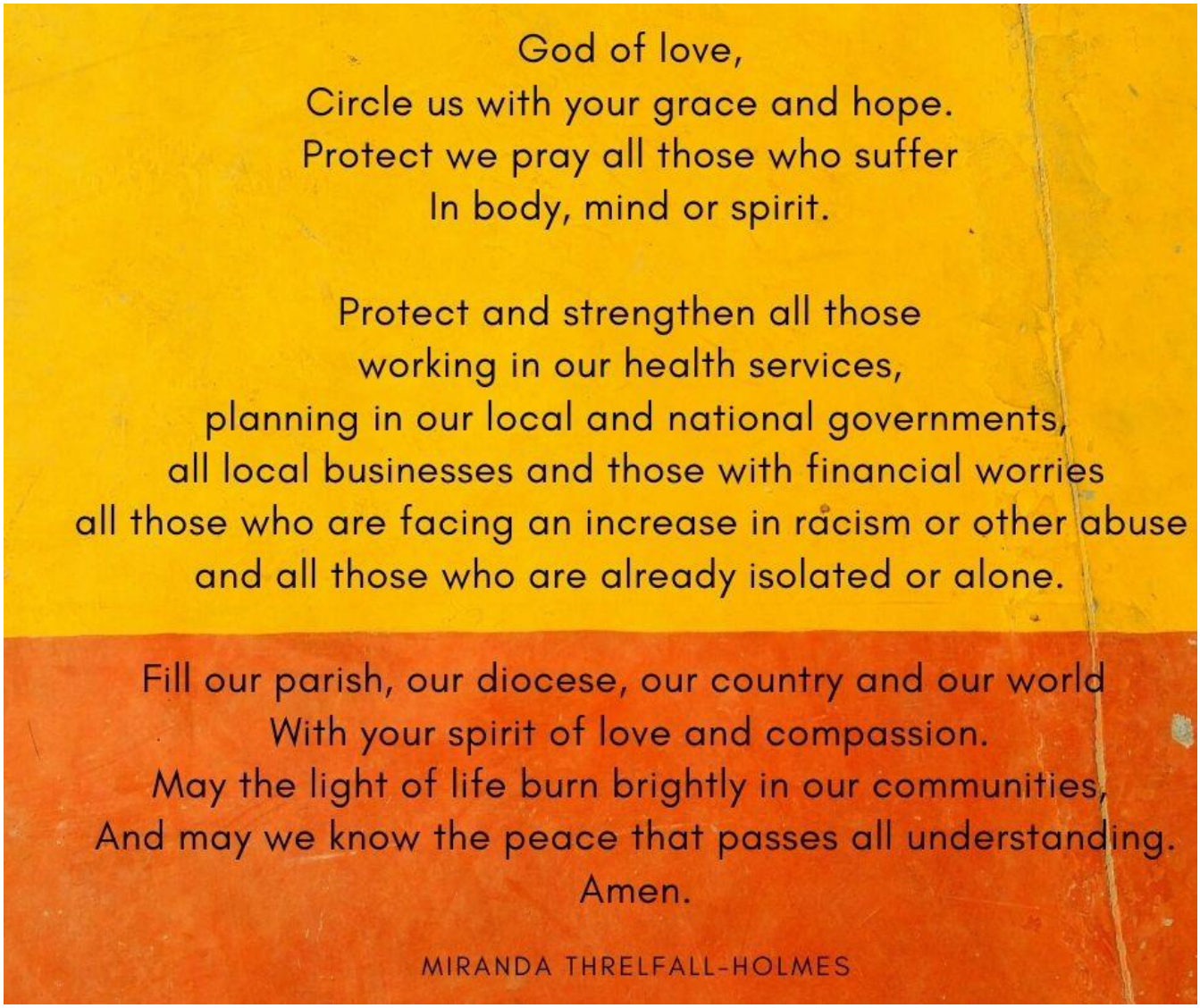


Church Services in Burwell and in Reach

As of 17th March 2020, all Church of England services have been suspended until further notice.

Should that restriction be lifted in the next few weeks, we will put updates on the Church noticeboard, on our website and on Facebook.

If you are a person who prays, this is a prayer you might use, written by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Vicar of St Bride's, Liverpool.



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)*

The ‘Ship’ inn and church both looking sorry for themselves.

The church enrobed in scaffold and missing its clock face shortly after the lightning strike in 1958.

The local Cambridge press reported on 4th September 1958.

‘Lightning struck the century-old parish church at Reach. The roof was stripped of tiles and there are three gaping holes letting daylight through. Inside the church, masonry and roof timber litter the floor, many of the seats are broken and the stained glass windows blown out. The chapel clock was struck and stopped at 7.34am, the pendulum was blown away and stuck in one of the rafters’

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















