Within Reach



October/November 2020


NEEDHOLY














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From the Editor



And another two months have passed since our last issue and whilst we don't appear to be defeating the virus just yet there has been plenty going on to keep us all amused and hopefully happy with the main event being the Scarecrow Festival which was such a success. Big congratulations and thanks to all of you who got involved in this – and now we have **Advert Windows** to come – see the Events Team report on page 4.

Many of you may not be aware but Alex de Giorgio-Miller has stepped down as a Parish Councillor. She always said that she would just do 3 years during a period in her children's lives when she was able to devote time to the PC and has in fact gone on for a little longer than that. She has been a real success as a councillor and lately as the Chair and will be very much missed by fellow councillors and in her Parish Council capacity, by villagers. The good news is that she will still be involved in village projects and will be keeping a close eye on the playground – and will continue to provide us with a "Village Update" in each issue of the magazine.

This, of course, now means that there are 2 vacancies on the Parish Council and those need to be filled. Its not an onerous job and can be very rewarding – if you are interested in being co-opted on, please contact Susan Bailey (see page 28).

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

The usual Macmillan Coffee Morning couldn't take place in any sensible fashion this year, sadly, so instead we had a Reach Village Coffee Morning page and that has turned out to be very successful with £480 raised, thanks go to everyone who donated, it's a wonderful charity.

And finally, in this issue, its been lovely to see individual contributions from villagers. In title alphabetical order, **Marcus Waithe** tells us some hugely interesting archaeological finding as Snib End (page 17), **Philip Lewis** describes the amazing surgery he has undertaken recently (page 6) and **Nick Webb** tells us all about the process of writing his latest children's book, The Making of Sprinkle's Mysterious Collar.

David Parr

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About the Magazine

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

Copies of *Within Reach* magazine and its predecessor *Out of Reach* can be found on the village website www.reach-village.co.uk. The next copy date is 20th November 2020. This magazine (which is fully funded from advertising) is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

The Team

Editor	David Parr
Distribution	Freda Lloyd, Claire Halpin-McDonald and Grahame Radford
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24Acres	David Thomas
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Cookery	Catherine Gibson
Cricket	Ross Clark
Events Team	Debbie Quilter
Gardening	Danuta Gibson
IT Advice	David McMillan
Metal Detecting	Luke Mercer
Neighbourhood Watch	Kevin Evans
Parish Council	Alex de Giorgio-Miller
Reach Riders Group	Sue Cameron
Rosanna's Ramblings	Rosanna Moseley Gore
Snakehall Farm	Liz Pitt
Then and Now	Chris Patterson
Wicken Fen	Julia Hammond
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild

Village Update



With the return of the lovely weather the playground is being enjoyed again which is great to see. As with everything, please be aware of the continued need to socially distance and adhere to the signs in the playground. The equipment is not being cleaned by the Parish Council so please be extra vigilant with hand washing and sanitising, particularly if you are picnicking as well as playing. And enjoy the freedom and the fresh air!

We were made aware of some damage to one of the football nets in the playing fields and this has now been repaired, thanks to a lovely chap from Burwell who offered to repair it for us. He has also cleared up the tennis courts for free – we are hugely grateful – thank you!

The Parish Council have been recently looking at the management of our green spaces – we are so lucky as a village to have so many available to us and we were especially grateful during lockdown to be able to vary our daily walks to cover so many beautiful places. The Parish Council are looking at how the management of these green spaces could encourage more wildlife and have an ecological benefit. The verges around the village are controlled by Cambridgeshire County Council, but many of the other areas come under the Parish Council.

The Hythe has recently undergone some clear up work, including the cutting back of the large willow tree which was overhanging the lode. This work was carried out by the Anglian Water Groundwork team and we hope to work with them to develop a management plan for this area, taking into account the requirements for the banks to be accessible for mooring. If any villagers have any comments on how greater ecological benefits could be achieved in any of the village spaces, then the Parish Council would be interested in your views so that it can weigh up the responsibilities to all stakeholders and look at developing an overall management plan. Please contact the clerk@reachparishcouncil.org if you wish to comment.

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
and note that we have a vacancy, so if you would like to be considered for co-option please get in touch with Susan Bailey (clerk@reachparishcouncil.org).

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

a.degiorgiomiller@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Plan



The NP Project Group is currently working on:

(1) Producing a draft Plan to put to the village for village review later in the year. Hopefully this will be at an open day in the Village Hall but we are looking at other ways of consulting villagers should this not be possible.

(2) Securing central Government funding to take the project to completion. The project has so far drawn very little from Parish funds and we believe that Government funding will cover remaining expenditure.

(3) Identifying an ecological consultant to pull together the environmental evidence that the Group has gathered, to undertake a small amount of field work to fill in the gaps and to produce an environmental assessment that dovetails with our other evidence packages, especially the landscape appraisal. Appointment of a consultant is dependent on securing Government funding. Should we go ahead, there will be an opportunity for villagers to meet with the consultant when they begin work.

(4) Assessing the implications of the Government's recently published white paper 'Planning for the Future' and an associated consultation document on changes to planning policy and regulation. Whilst both mention the importance of local input, including Neighbourhood Plans, to revisions of the planning system they lack an explanation of how this will happen. Furthermore, the white paper proposes to remove powers, including those relating to the allocation of housing, from Neighbourhood Plans. Nonetheless, on the basis of expert advice, we believe that we should push forward because:

- the proposed changes may not make it into law, especially in their current form and a completed Plan would give Reach a strong voice, capturing what makes our village a special place to live and how we want it to evolve in the future, in any development challenge even if the Plan is no longer legally binding.

- we have done a lot of the hard work already and Government funding is still available.

If we secure funding and the village is content with our draft Plan then we will proceed to formal consultation and examination processes. All being well we hope to put the Plan to you for endorsement (or otherwise) in a referendum in the late summer or autumn of 2021.

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

Shopping for Isolating Villagers



The demand for help from network has reduced significantly over recent times, but everything remains in place to resurrect it, should it be necessary. So if anything is needed then please, as before, give Pam King (07484 852889), David Parr (07887 563720) or me (number below) a call and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Alex de Giorgio-Miller
a.degiorgiomiller@gmail.com
741051

Reach Riders



Our membership is at its highest level yet and lessons have continued with Sarah Anderson with a good take up by our members. The arena is being well used and maintained

Uncertainty around the COVID situation has continued to curtail any fund raising and social activities, however plans are afoot for a social ride around Christmas/New Year, restrictions allowing of course.

Any new membership enquiries should be directed to:

Sue Cameron
ewenandsue@btinternet.com
07879 627859

Events Team

How do you judge a Scarecrow competition?

Do you choose the scariest? The one with the most straw? The one that is stuffed the best? This was the dilemma that faced Jo and Jo as they considered all our wonderful entries. In the end there were joint winners. The Farming Family for the fantastic effort put into their entry. They also loved the pompoms and papier-maché of Grand-Dad Eggs, modelled on our very own village residents. The judges loved the attention to detail and all the props. They chose Silky as the runner up, having lots of potential to scare the birds. A big thank you to all those involved.



Following on from the success of the Scarecrow festival we are going to create Advent Windows in the village during the lead up to Christmas. This is an idea where each night of advent a window in the village is reveal decorated in a Christmas theme. You may have seen something similar if you drove through Exning last year. If you Google 'Advent Windows' you can find the wide range of ideas and ways that people have decorated their windows elsewhere. There is no need to be religious or arty and there is no 'theme', the aim is for each window to be a surprise as it is revealed.

We already have 10 sign-ups for this event so do email us at reacheventsteam@btinternet.com or message us over Facebook if you want to be included. Please be aware that in agreeing to participate you are also agreeing to have your address identified on the website and on a map so people can look for your window.

Sadly, we do not believe that the Pensioners Lunch can go ahead, nor can we have gatherings for our Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on or carols around the tree.

BUT WE WILL BE HAVING A TREE!

Debbie Quilter



Rosanna's Ramblings

Which end of the telescope?



By the time this rambling appears in print, Charles and I will (fingers crossed) have been away for a couple of weeks and have returned to Reach. It feels very strange, planning a trip up to our beloved Iona and to the Isle of Skye.

Surreal, in fact. Because, since the lockdown neither of us has been further than Cambridge or Ely (apart from one trip in early July I made to meet my daughter at a nature reserve in North London one drizzly Saturday morning – worth it as I hadn't seen her since January; and an impromptu drive to have lunch with friends in Suffolk). Now that degree of rootedness is unusual for both of us and while welcome for all the reasons I wrote about last time – really getting to feel a sense of anchoredness in, of belonging to, a patch – the experience has started to wear pretty thin.

We've had rather a frenzy of garden lunches in the last few weeks and that's been a joy (especially when the weather has surprised us by being much friendlier than the forecast suggested would be the case). We brought over a second garden table from my Ely house so that we could imagine we were owners of a small café garden, with our guests in the shade of one umbrella while we sat under another one. We even bought a gazebo to allow for social contact in damp fresh air. We avoided setting that up on a particularly windy day – just as well, as it would probably have been whisked up into the air to be found days later crumpled and broken somewhere on the fen. Probably on the day I saw my first (mini) fen blow whipping up the black peaty dust on the road to Upware.

Actually, while on that subject, I stopped for a chat with a lady who happens to read my column (to my surprise) and who was walking her black lab. I commented on the terrific wind and dust and she told me it was fine as long as you could still see your hand in front of your face. So I knew I was only seeing an entry-level blow, nothing to write home about.

So, while it's been wonderful extending our reach, as it were, by seeing pairs of friends and chewing the fat (or rather, the mounds of home-grown produce) with them there has been something important missing. We've both been conscious of it, but for months and months we didn't speak it out loud. What was missing was our treasured plans to go a-wandering.

Not, in our case, to hot beaches in the Mediterranean. No, what calls us is our annual commitment to ourselves and to each other, to recalibrate ourselves by having a few days of retreat on the tiny, unremarkable and yet at times utterly beautiful Isle of Iona. We always planned to go there this September, but once we were in lockdown, we'd frankly given up hope that this could be remotely possible. So, from our still point in Reach, we dreamed, and yearned and grieved and hoped … for "as soon as possible next year".

And then, joy of joys, both of us independently started checking on the web and discovered that the island was cautiously opening up! And before we knew it, we'd managed to book for a few nights, followed miraculously by the offer of a week in a friend's house on Skye. How fortunate, what a gift, what a blessing. And all the more so for being so unexpected.

I can tell Charles is getting excited, because he has bought a new fishing rod, and deliveries of brightly coloured flies have arrived in the post (the fishing kind, not the buzzy kind – thankfully, we have enough of those in the house already). I'm getting cautiously excited because I plan to read and knit (there's half a sleeve left to do on the jumper I've been knitting for my daughter since the weather was last cool enough to make knitting a pleasure). And walk. And sleep. And sit and stare at the sea. And take stock of quite where we are, within ourselves, in the middle of this extraordinary and extraordinarily stressful, time.

And I find myself wondering what little Reach will look like from on top of a blowy hill 500 miles to the north west? My inner gaze has, for so many months, been heading up that way and the Hebridean light. The wonderful colours of implausibly green grass and white sand and slate grey clouds and blue sky and numerous rainbows and striated rocks of pink and green and black and white – those colours, those sights, have often felt more vivid to me than the fenland skies from the drove and the magnificent sunsets that we have had in recent months. Perhaps the feeling of impossibly distant hopes of seeing them in person created that intensity in my mind. I don't know. But when we're up there, we'll have the chance to take stock and recalibrate in reverse. The chance to view these last six months, the Reach months, the lockdown months, from a different perspective.

The pandemic has made both of us rethink our attitude to long distance travel. We don't feel like flying again, if we can possibly help it. And we think that it's quite likely our 'several times a year, short trips' will morph into a 'once a year, long trip' which would make more sense if we were going to tackle heading, say, to Scandinavia by train and ferry. We are fortunate to be self-employed (well, fortunate in that we can be flexible and manage our own time – there are, especially now, many downsides) and we've both discovered it's possible to do some of our work on Zoom.

So maybe our regular peregrinations will be more restricted to very local with occasional foreign outbursts. But it still feels a long way away, as we have no desire to get the train to London yet, let alone do a big European journey. But it's hard, isn't it and a bit premature, to resign oneself to a life where we never again do things that have been valued and treasured, for decades. My sister lives in France and I really, really do want to believe that we will see each other again before too long.

We have standing invitations to visit friends in Norway, Sweden and Germany. And, inveterate Europeans as we are, we do love to head that way, as well as heading up north within these islands. Who knows what's ahead? But for the time being, it will be back to Cambridgeshire, back to Reach and back to Great Lane. There might even be some late runner beans left for us to eat. Charles would say "That would be grand" – but then, he's from Lancashire, so he would, wouldn't he?

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again, the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant.

I would ask that you reply as soon as possible.

The majority of our applicants come from our pensioners, in particular those who have to manage a state pension.

If, however, you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me or to any trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all times not only at Christmas.

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



Heart Disease!

Not an apparently attractive topic; however David asked me if I would set down my experiences so I have decided to do so.



About 3 years ago I began to be aware of increasing shortness of breath and difficulties in playing tennis. The excellent Burwell practice then referred me to a consultant Dr Len Shapiro who soon identified a faulty aortic valve, the one which controls the flow of blood from the heart to the rest of the body. Dr Shapiro said however, that it was not sufficiently serious to warrant any intervention which had to be made at the right time.

On a visit to him on 17 March this year however, he told me that things had now reached that stage and he referred me to a Dr Will Davies at Papworth. There was some delay because of the virus and I suppose that during that period I had occasions when I was pretty anxious. But it was wonderful to have my fiancée, Moira, available by FaceTime and friends - all of you - around not just to talk to about what was happening (although I did a good deal of that!), but also to feel the love and support which people in this lovely village provide. And in a way I don't quite understand, walking the Wood really made one feel a part of Nature which provided its own solace.

But then I was called for in for a CT scan and later, an angiogram, both at Papworth. As others will know who may have had this extraordinary procedure, doctors give a local anaesthetic to the wrist and then feed in a tube up the arm. You are sedated but fully awake. "Beautiful arteries," he said, "Now I'm just going to run it into the heart and aortic valve but just in case I need to go in through the leg, I'll run it down there too."

He had in mind a TAVI procedure in which (somehow!) they feed the replacement valve in through the arteries, push the old valve off the top and sit the new one on top apparently keeping it in place with the calcification. “You come in one day”, said Dr Davies, “it takes about 90 minutes and we send you home within a day or so”. I felt a great sense of relief - a big mistake as it turned out because an echocardiogram showed that there was also calcification of the mitral valve which meant that the procedure could not be used.

So, on to a different surgeon, Fouad John Taghavi, a young consultant for open heart surgery who explained that he would slit me down the sternum, take out the old valve and replace it with a cow valve. He told me that I’d be there for 7-10 days. He was frank about possible dangers but oozed confidence.

So, on 25 July, he carried out the op in about 2.5 hours, sent me to Critical Care (one patient per nurse) for a night then back to the ‘ward’ - a misnomer in that Papworth has individual rooms throughout. Then back home on the Thursday - just 6 days in!

Reflecting on it all now I have to say that it was a rich experience - worries and anxieties about not coming through, massive relief when one wakes up and finds it done, huge admiration for Mr Taghavi and for all the other staff. The care they take is bloody amazing! What a privilege to have a world-class hospital on the doorstep. And a final thought, somehow the closer one is to death (not very close in my case) the closer one is to life. Bloody wonderful!

Philip Lewis

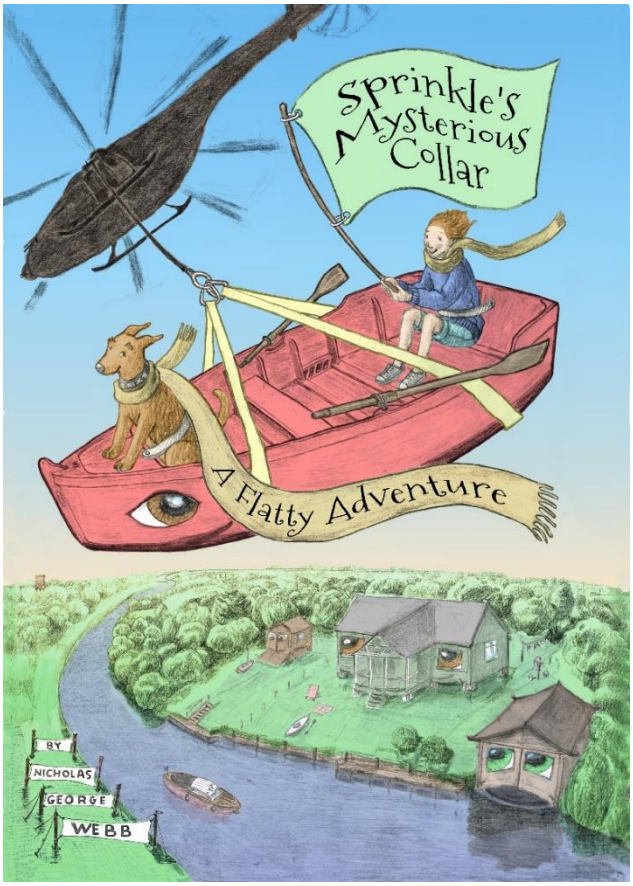
Burwell Museum Coach Trips



We’re very sorry, but all the trips for this year are cancelled. We really hope we can repeat the list in 2021 but dates may be changed. Hopefully everybody is keeping safe.

Barbara Turner

The Making of Sprinkle’s Mysterious Collar – by Nick Webb



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This children’s picture book is about the adventures of an animated rowing boat, Flatty, and his friends Lucy and her puppy. Think James Bond meets Wind in the Willows. It is published this month by Inter-Galactic Composting™ - Reach’s very own world-famous publishing house. Hoorah for us!



The photo shows, on the right, the author as a young man, doing some of the research essential for a solid understanding of rowing boats on the Thames at Laleham, where this story is based.

A short while later, as a teenager, Nick painted the boat red, with big eyes like Flatty and blue waves topped with white foam going down the sides. It had rather fierce black and white teeth which were replaced with a smile in the story, on account it might frighten the adults.

On the stern, affixed with large letters, was its name "The Boat", because that is what everybody called it. But Aunty Dolly, a little way down the river, had a green boat called Flatty and her bungalow, also green, was called Okey's Bokey, or just The Bokey, after Okey Balfour, Aunty Dolly's fiancée who used to own it. (Well actually its real name was The Willows). So, the story is a bit of a mash-up of two boats and two bungalows. This is important stuff. It created no end of continuity problems for Nick (now incredibly old) when illustrating the book, to the extent that he usually only visits Laleham on dark nights, due to local outrage over the matter.

The first Flatty story "Flatty and the Plughole" was written about 50 years ago because all water goes down the plughole, so obviously there must be one on the Thames somewhere. But this and many any other Flatty stories were never published on account of technical difficulties, such as indolence, slush piles and other uncomfortable afflictions.

Finally, in a burst of energy, about fifteen years ago Nick resolved to self-publish, which in those days was called vanity publishing and gave up computer games. The plan was to finish in time for the 2012 UK Olympics. And here it is! October 2020! - slightly late, but not seriously so.

As a novice drawer Nick could not bear to draw on a clean sheet of new paper. He preferred using the back of old single-sided printouts of failed story drafts. There was lots of pencil and lots of rubbing out. Then he scanned them in and learnt how to use PaintShopPro, PhtosShop being too expensive. After cleaning up the smudges, he laboriously drew around every element and saved it as a selection, created a layer for it, and coloured it in using a flood-fill tool. Don't do this at home. It took forever, well, nearly - as one might realise on reflection. Then his other half, later to become co-illustrator, said she could still see the writing coming though from the back of the originals. Aaaagh!!

As a technical author Nick has written and illustrated many technical manuals for Delta-T in Burwell, so could do boats, bungalows and bridges and riverbanks, but the hard part was faces. He spent months and months trying to draw Lucy but, let's face it, Nick cannot do faces. He does not even know what colour your eyes are! I mean…really! Finally, Hannah Webb kindly agreed to redraw all the characters (and did so in a couple of days, ouch!). It made such a difference and bought the whole story alive.

Hannah has helped Nick appreciate how to lay out text and pictures in more interesting ways, encouraged the use of double page illustrations , improved his use and understanding of perspective and how distance affects the saturation of colours and more besides, and always, always, gave encouragement. This was personal tuition of the best sort from one of UK's leading children's book illustration lecturers. By the end just about all the pictures were reworked, and much the better for it.

Too late, Nick learnt about bleeds and so had to redo nearly all the bleedin' artworks and pay someone to lay it out using InDesign. But the results were naff (this is a technical printing term), so, not being able to afford InDesign he acquired a 90-day Covid-lockdown freebie version of Affinity Publisher and did the job himself. He learnt about colour gamuts and why images coloured in using RGB are different in CMYK. A local printer kindly printed a sample page proof but the cost of printing in the UK was too high.

Nick found a printer in China and paid in dollars via a bank transfer to a Hong Kong bank. The contact there was called Aries, so he put her name on the money transfer order, along with the print firm's name and waited for the transfer to go through. After two weeks the money still had not arrived. The Newmarket bank manager, when asked, said the money had not been sent because "UK officials" wanted to know what the money was for? who or what was Aries?, and was it going to Iran? It turns out that Aries is the name of a ship possibly involved in circumventing Iranian embargos, and that a Bank in Hong Kong was involved. Then a week later the money was held up in the USA, with similar questions. The transfer which should have taken 3 days took a full month. It makes you proud of our security services, keeping us safe in our beds at night from subversive foreign rowing-boat picture book stories! You can't pull a fast one on the likes of them. Oh goodness me no!!

But to be serious for once, it is disappointing – don't they know Flatty actually worked for MI5, and helped save the Olympics from a terrorist attack?

In September, the books are now printed and are on their way here, by sea. No, please don't ask! In the meantime, Nick has found a book distribution and warehouse company, YPS, specifically for independent publishers and apparently even Waterstones recognises it as legit. So now it is all about marketing. A website was created. Blurbs were written, an ad placed in a YPS mailshot to 5,000 bookshops in the UK and in a village magazine, Shepperton Matters, that serves several Thameside villages. It's desperate times for bookshops, so if browse turns to buy, please give them your support. Nick hopes Toppings bookshop in Ely will take it on. If not, then www.inter-galactic-composting.com has a link to an online shop.

Nick has a two cunning marketing plans. First, free-issue the book to a number of primary schools including some along the Thames valley. One primary school teacher said she was really looking forward to reading it to her pupils in class. Build up a young readership - what more could an author want? The second plan is to free-issue it to libraries and earn public library lending rights fees.

But don't tell anyone at MI5, they might just ban it.

In the meantime, I need to make room for a pallet-load of books on my side of the kitchen table.

Nick Webb

Join the BMI Can Do It Movement

Do you want to live a healthier, happier life? An exciting healthy living movement has launched in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, helping you eat well, sleep well and move more.

Driven by the local NHS, BMI Can Do It has been developed specifically for local residents like you to support your journey towards a healthier lifestyle. The movement is supported by an investment of up to £1m by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and includes exciting healthy living challenges as well as a suite of resources to help you take practical steps towards a healthier life.

Dr Jessica Randall-Carrick, a local GP and lead for Obesity and Diabetes at the CCG, explains:

"If you have a higher than recommended BMI then you are at a higher risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes, cancer, or having a stroke or heart attack. We also know that you are at greater risk of serious health consequences if you contract COVID-19, which is why we want to help encourage people to join our movement to eat well, sleep well and move more.

"We know it's not always easy, but by taking those first steps towards a healthier lifestyle you will have a positive impact on your health. That's why we are asking everyone to say BMI Can Do It and get involved today!" You can join the movement by visiting www.bmicandoit.co.uk or by following us on social media @BMICanDoIt on Instagram and Twitter, Find us on Facebook by searching for BMI Can Do It or the hashtag #BMICanDoIt.

Out and About Autumn 2020



In her September poem Dorothy Lawrenson wrote "Summer is leaving, exchanging its gold for brass and copper", a lyrical observation on the turn of the season. The entry into summer is also marked by the arrival of swallows and summer's end by the departure of swifts.

It remains mild but the days are noticeably shortening, as the light ebbs leaves start the process of leaching chlorophyll back into the tree and changing to a fantastic range of colours.

On fine days, the last of summer insects can still be spotted including grasshoppers, crickets, hawker dragonflies and butterflies such as the comma, red admiral and speckled wood. Most of the painted ladies have gone and I suspect many will have commenced their autumn migration back to Europe.

During these quiet months of fine warm weather, we've practically lived in our small back garden. Emboldened, robins, dunnocks, house sparrows, blackbirds, collared doves and woodpigeons peck only inches away. Great, coal, long tailed and blue tits, wrens, house sparrows and thrushes move around the feeders and apple tree. Birdsong fills the air. A hedgehog visits nightly and the woodmouse still inhabits the hollowed-out tree stump. We have an old teak chair, the surface shows distinct stripes, this the result of wasps licking (see below) the wood, clearly audible if you lean forward and listen.





Wasp numbers spike in August. The importance of this hardworking insect is overlooked for they play an important part in the pollination of flowers and crops by transferring pollen between plants in their search for nectar. Unlike bees, who are fussy about which flowers they visit, wasps are 'generalists'. Worker wasps spend the summer hunting smaller insects (aphids, spiders, woodlice, caterpillars) which effectively reduces pest numbers (particularly on crops) without fully eliminating them, maintaining the biodiversity that keeps the ecosystem robust and resilient.

The papery wasp nest is constructed from minute scrapings of wood chewed into a pulp and stuck together with saliva to form a honeycomb-type structure. Wasps know that hexagons make more efficient use of building materials than circles/squares. Their sting is painful (only females sting) but scientists are currently investigating the potential of wasp venom for cancer therapy.

(On a separate note I was astounded to read recently that a bee needs to visit a flower 22,700 times to make 1 jar of honey).

September is the start of meteorological autumn when more species are lost than gained. Due to colder weather the wildflowers that remain in bloom do so in very small numbers and purple is now the dominant colour. The dying brown flowerheads of thistles and common teasel (also known as donkey teasel) attract flocks of chinking goldfinches which alight and search for seeds.

Bountiful hedgerows of succulent autumn fruit and colourful berries provide vital food for birds. The human hunter-gatherer is spoilt for blackberries this year and rosehips are plentiful (fruit of the rose plant), they provide 20 times more vitamin C than oranges.

A single oak tree can support 500 species, including birds, bats and insects, more than any other native tree. The brightly coloured Jay, the shy bird of the crow family, buries acorns during the autumn for retrieval later in the winter when food is in short supply.

Amazingly, a jay can fit up to nine acorns in its elastic gullet at any one time although on average they transport two or three, with one in the bill. This behaviour starts in September and carries on until all available acorns have been eaten or hidden, a single jay can store as many as 5000 acorns in a season. Research shows that Jays can remember the location of a thousand buried acorns, hidden in natural holes, tree bark crevices and under leaf litter. Of course, not all acorns will be recovered, which helps the oak tree as acorns can then germinate.



The jay is identified by a white rump as it flies off and dazzling turquoise and black wing feathers. These blue feathers were sought after as a lure for fly fishing.

Bats devour huge quantities of insects - midges, craneflies, moths, beetles & flying ants. September is one of the best months to look for bats, as the nights lengthen the mating season begins. Pipistrelles, the smallest and most common of our native bats can be seen fluttering nightly in Great Lane. Numbers are affected by loss of habitat or insects as a food source, tawny owls also predate. Bats need water, we can help them by providing this in our gardens.

September is the month when many mammals prepare for the rigours of autumn and winter. Grey squirrels gather nuts, the walnut trees in Reach are soon stripped and their produce buried. The last froglets and toadlets of the year make their way out of ponds in early September and begin to feed for the winter ahead. Young hedgehogs start to step out on their own in September, looking for new territories.

Local wildlife sightings:

27.7. David Thomas: 4 cranes flying over Tubney Fen towards Wicken.



29.7 David Thomas: 2 cranes, stubble field by Reach Lode bridge.

28.7 Friend's son, Joe, took this photo of an otter from his tractor cab near Reach.

5.8 Jo & Andrew Trump: murmuration of starlings above their house near Tubney Fen.

Dr Charles Moseley kindly forwarded this observation to me on 6.8: 'A rare pleasure this morning: on the path by the field of your donkeys, two bumble bees (Bombus lapidarius, I think) mating. I have never been lucky enough to see this before and as the male is much smaller and differently coloured if you saw them separately you would think them different species. It seemed quite an energetic procedure. Then, still attached, they took off on what I would like to think was a mating flight to somewhere over the rainbow...'

18.8. I counted 53 swallows on the telephone wires outside our window on Great Lane. They fluttered feathers in the lashing rain following a storm.

19.8. A small and excitable flock of long tailed tits in our apple tree this morning.

27.8. Charlie Laing emailed: For the second time in recent months Thomasina has seen a Sparrow Hawk feasting outside Black Eyed Susan, the first time she saw the kill ...But on Tuesday 25th I had long enough to get some photos which i thought you might like'. (He was right, his fine close-up photos detail a rare sight).





28.08 A young goldfinch decided to take a shortcut through David Parr's conservatory window. Bit concussed but gradually came round and flew off.



14.9. A common lizard crossed our path on Blackberry Drove and a great spotted woodpecker drummed on the telegraph pole in Lesley and Gareth's field near Reach Wood.

Nick Acklam's nature notes:

26 July: a caterpillar of an Emperor moth trundles across the allotment. Cartoonish and rather tropical, as long and almost as fat as my forefinger, bright green with yellow spiracles and black hairs.

31 July: a Hobby is mobbed over Great Lane by a flight of swifts and driven away. I am unsure if it had attempted to attack to the group but, if so, it had been unsuccessful.

1 August: a male Marsh Harrier hunting over the field to the right of Swaffham Road.

2 August: a Marsh Harrier hunting over the fields between the 24 Acres and Newnham Drove.

12 August: I startle a young hare lying up in my allotment on Barston Drove. This is the first I have seen here.

16 August: numerous Common Blue and Gatekeeper butterflies on the margins of the footpaths off Straight Drove.

23 August: a dozen or so young Swallows wheel around the newly pruned weeping willow at the tip of the Hythe.

31 August: a Hobby hawking dragonflies over the Ouse relief channel at Downham Market. On the drive home, a Red Kite feeds off roadkill on the Prickwillow Road. It was very slow to take flight, so we got an excellent close-quarter view.

5 September: a Comma butterfly by our kitchen door. A male Sparrowhawk sits for some time on the ridge of the Village Hall.

7 September: a small rust coloured frog in our back garden, surprisingly on the hottest and driest of our borders.

8 September: a Marsh Harrier is mobbed by crows over the pocket park. Marsh harriers have had a very successful breeding season at Wicken Fen so it is possible that the higher frequency of recent sightings around the village is the result of the parent birds moving further afield in a search of prey to feed the young. Green Woodpeckers also seem to be around in significantly higher numbers this year.

14 August: three Cormorants fishing in Reach Lode by the Hythe. Four Roe deer, confident and relaxed, in the stubble of a field adjacent to Tubney Fen.

Joss Goodchild

NHS

Test and Trace

This is a public health message from NHS Test and Trace

As part of the government's coordinated response to Coronavirus, NHS Test and Trace has developed the new NHS COVID-19 app.

It is now available for download to all residents of England and Wales. We strongly recommend that everyone over the age of 16 downloads and uses it.

Download the 'NHS COVID-19' app from the App Store or Google Play. There is more information at https://covid19.nhs.uk

The app will help you to understand and manage your personal risk and reduce the spread of Coronavirus. The more people who use it, the more effective it will be.

The app requires operating system 13.5 or above if you have an Apple iPhone. It requires Android 6.0 or above if you have an Android phone. If your smartphone is not compatible, you can still access full support from the NHS Test and Trace service.

NHS Test and Trace

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



Hello, my photographic friends, it's been a while and as we all start to emerge from our separate lock downs, I have a challenge for you. But first a little house keeping - the Bottisham and Burwell Photographic returns!

With current times still being up in the air, the club has moved online and is holding online video meetings in conjunction with Ely Camera Club which you can take part in from the comfort of your own home. This is going to be an extremely exciting season and I for one cannot wait.

For more information on the new seasons programme and how to become a member, please visit the clubs web site at bottburpc.org or type in Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club into your favourite internet search engine.

Now, back to the challenge I have for you…..

Imagine you have the option of buying, using, or traveling with one single lens. Just one lens. What would that lens be…….?

For some of us, that's going to be easy.

For smartphone users, like myself, or point and shoot cameras, no thought is needed. We don't have a choice.

For those of us who use a DSLR and multiple lenses, we have the luxury of reaching into our camera bags and changing our lenses at a whim. We're not normally forced to have to choose.

Now that's both a good thing and not so much of a good thing. Good, as we have options to choose from. Not so good as we photographers tend to slip into our comfort zones with the ability to change the camera lens and not work the scene or subject.

What am I on about?

Well if your new to photography, lenses are no laughing matter. They can cost a fortune and choices of what lens to buy require thought and careful consideration. For new photographers entering this craft, a single lens approach teaches skills and hones your eye. It did for me and still does.

Having only one lens encourages thinking about new and different ways of photographing your subjects. But what do I mean when I say “new and different“? I get socks for my birthday and they’re new, but different, hardly.

While it’s the same when we have multiple lenses within our grasp, having only one lens forces us to think more, to be better artists, communicators and better with our equipment.

As a photographer you are already are seeing the world differently, colours, lines, and small details. Big moments stand out for us like fireworks in the night sky. Having a single lens is all about seeing what you can create with your eye versus finding something to shoot and then choosing a lens you feel is right.

What type of lens is right for you, well that depends on what photographs you like taking - I’ve put together a short recap of some of the more common lens types. Recap sounds better than “list”.

Wide Angle lenses 10 to 20mm, these take a broad field of view. A good solid lens for landscape photography.

Standard lenses of 35 to 85mm serve as solid portrait, street and landscape lenses. For an example, a 30 to 35mm lens is roughly the same field of view as the human eye.

Telephoto lenses of 70-200mm work well for portraits, tighter landscapes for focusing on distant objects and larger wildlife.

Super telephoto lenses or 300mm and higher are optimal for detailed wildlife from a distance and bird photography.

I guess what I’m saying here is not to throw out your lenses but give yourself the challenge and creative freedom of one lens, daunting though that may appear.

So go on, give it a try for a month or even just a week the results may just surprise you, and if forced to use just the one lens – what would it be……

Is there a best lens? Absolutely! It’s the one on your camera right now.

Mine is a 35 to 105mm ☺

Until next time, thanks for reading and happy snappy snapping.

Elliot Needham
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club.

Jubilee Tree Wood Products

I have arranged for the Ely Guild of Wood Turners to begin handing over items turned from the Jubilee Tree timber to villagers who have placed orders. This will be in Reach Village Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 21 November.

I will circulate details nearer the time when we can be more confident of coronavirus restrictions then in place and will know exactly how many items have been produced by the Guild.



The Guild’s progress has been good. The timber has seasoned well and losses in turning have been acceptable. However, I can’t yet give an absolute assurance that all orders can be met on this date. We will be allocating items according to the date on which villagers expressed an interest.

As things stand, I will communicate to villagers individually suggesting a short time slot when they can attend the Village Hall, inspect the item allocated to them and if they are content, buy it (by cash and hopefully card).

Any items that are not purchased will then become available for sale to anybody in the village in the late afternoon.

There may well be other smaller items, not part of the allocation process, that can be bought then too. I imagine that we will have to take measures to avoid a Black Friday or New Year Sales scrum!

I understand plenty of unturned timber remains. So any disappointment on the day is likely to be due to delay in obtaining a memento rather than not securing one at all.

Nick Acklam

Anglesey Abbey



With the rich tones of oranges and reds beginning to appear in the gardens, autumn is well and truly on its way at Anglesey Abbey. Whilst the house remains closed, the gardens are still providing much needed fresh air to all who visit, with a focus on the circular route in the coming months which takes in many of the tree-lined avenues. Coming up in the next few weeks for families we've got our Autumn Bucket List activity and we'll be going mad for minibeasts this October Half Term, sharing details of the creepy crawlies who call Anglesey Abbey Home. Keep an eye on our website for further details in the weeks ahead.



We've loved welcoming back some of the regular faces we've come to recognise and hearing their joy in response to being able to explore the gardens after such an unprecedented year. We've introduced advance booking at many places to keep everyone safe and maintain social distancing. To avoid disappointment please book in advance, especially at busier times such as weekends and bank holidays. However, where space is available on weekdays, pre-booking may not always be necessary so you can pop in for a more spontaneous visit. We hope to see you soon."

Kayley Wilcockson
Visitor Experience Officer
Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill

National Trust
Anglesey Abbey, Quy Road, Lode,
Cambridgeshire, CB25 9EJ
nationaltrust.org.uk

Wicken Fen



Image of the windpump on Sedge Fen by Rob Coleman

The Boardwalk and Woodland Walk on the Sedge Fen are now open for pre-booked visitors. There is a one-way route with regular entry slots across the day. We've introduced advanced booking to keep everyone safe and maintain social distancing. We recommend booking in advance, particularly at busier times such as weekends and bank holidays but where space is available on weekdays, booking may not be necessary, so keep an eye on our website and social media feeds for the latest information. Tickets are released every Friday for the following week and booking details can be found here: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve.

There's no need to pre-book to use the car park and walk in the wider reserve. Our café is open from 10am to 4pm and you don't need a pre-booked ticket to be able to pick up take away drinks, snacks and ice creams and take a seat at one of the picnic benches near the boat house. We also have a limited number of seats inside the café.

We've brought back the popular Wicken Fen Stick Adventure Trail for families to enjoy. Bring your own stick from home or choose one when you arrive and take on our new stick challenges! This trail is on the Boardwalk on Sedge fen, so don't forget to book your slot online. If you'd rather just park and walk on Adventurers' Fen, you can try our new geocache puzzles, available on Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 2pm. Go to cycle hire to pick up a GPS device (£2) and follow the route. At half term we'll be offering a new family trail 'Batty About Spiders' - more details to follow on our website.

Our Cycle Hire has reopened for pre-booked slots on Saturdays and Sundays. We've just taken delivery of new ebikes too, so if you'd like to more information or to book any of our bikes, please send us an email at wickenfen@nationaltrust.org.uk. We've also got details about cycling at Wicken Fen on our website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/features/cycling-adventure

We hope to see you at Wicken Fen soon.

Julia Hammond

Burwell Museum



We knew that 2020 was going to be a memorable year at Burwell Museum and Windmill, but we weren't expecting it to be quite like this! Plans for celebrating the 200th anniversary of our tower windmill had to be shelved in May, but we were very lucky to have perfect weather on Sunday 20th September so that we could celebrate in a safely socially distanced way with folk music, beer from Burwell brewery and lots of lovely support from our friends in the village and further afield.

We were particularly pleased to have members of the Carter family, descendants of the man who built and first owned the windmill, with us on the day.

Particular thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, both those who were able to be there on the day and those who are supporting us with maintenance work or from home, and to:

- Burwell brewery for creating a special (and very tasty) beer for us so that we could raise funds



- Pat Kilbey and everyone involved in the Burwell Folk Collective both for amazing music on the day and for creating and recording two special songs for the windmill anniversary

- Year 1 at Burwell Village College for the lovely birthday cards



- Everyone who came to visit on the day, complied cheerfully with all of the safety rules and made it such a great day!



We're not sure what will happen with the museum going forward – we hope to continue opening on Sundays from 11 until 3 until the end of October, which is always the end of our open season. Then it's fingers crossed for next Easter…

Keep an eye on our website and social media, as well as your favourite local magazine, for more information when we have it.

We wish all of our volunteers, visitors and supporters well and hope to welcome you back very soon!

Alison Giles

Website: www.burwellmuseum.org.uk

Tel: 01638 605544

Email: museum@burwellmuseum.org.uk

Burwell Museum, Mill Close, Burwell CB25 0HL

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Getting Ready for Winter

As the colder months draw in, we begin using our fires, burners and chimneys once again to warm our homes. Chimney Fires continue to be a common occurrence in home fires in the winter months.

To ensure you keep your home safe from fire, follow our top tips below:

- Whatever fire you have or fuel you burn it is vitally important to have your chimney swept to avoid a build-up of ash and soot
- Avoid burning resinous woods (that quickly build up soot)
- Only burn fuels suitable for your burner (eg. never burn anything other than wood in a woodburner)
- Do not overload the grate/appliance
- Do not bank fires too high and remember to let them burn out well before you go to bed
- Check the hearth, floor and furnishings near the fire for hot sparks/embers
- Do not place objects on or over the mantelpiece which cause you to stand too close to the fire in order to reach them
- Use a fire/spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure it has the kite mark or conforms to British/ European standards
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly the roof space. Make sure it is sound and sparks/fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.

Most importantly, always fit a smoke alarm and test your alarm weekly and ensure a Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm is installed in the room where the burner is.

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

Test Your Smoke Alarms!

Did you know that you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month?

Or that you should have smoke alarms on every floor of your home?

Or that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service do free home visits to make sure your home is fire safe?

Visit this website for helpful tips:
https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk

It only takes one accident to start a fire and fire kills - let's prevent it.

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.

For more information visit:
www.cambsfire.gov.uk/oncall



Ancient Ground

We in Reach live on ancient ground. A Roman villa was excavated on land adjoining the road from Swaffham Prior in the 1890s. Shards of pottery (Roman and Iron Age), oyster shells and skeletons have been found there. And, of course, our village lies at the end of an Anglo-Saxon defensive rampart, whose last portion it once straddled. On Chapel Lane where my own house stands, sixteenth-century dwellings were served by port basins connected to the Hythe. Even the walls of our housing stock witness extinct life: consider this fossil discovered in the clunch at Snib End.



So perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised when I found something 'interesting' on digging up my kitchen floor in early September. I'd been removing a 1960s concrete slab in order to install a 'limecrete' system: breathable materials combined with underfloor heating. In order to achieve the required insulation value, you need to go down low, albeit at a good margin from the rubble footings. Under the last layer of white clay, I found charred evidence of fire-making, pieces of nineteenth-century salt glazed earthenware, a whetstone, and an oyster shell.



I also uncovered the imprint of post holes deep in the chalk. It was exciting to find these remnants of an earlier, agricultural, life under my home. What I found next came as more of a shock, though it turned out to be the beginning of a stimulating and educative journey. At the base of one exterior wall, I discovered a solid structure (approx. one metre wide) resembling a shallow brick arch. I dug a little further into the soil on its underside, and noticed what seemed another shard of pottery, buried with its concave side facing up.

In colour and shape it resembled a dried gourd. Only on picking up this object did I understand its identity, as if cast all of a sudden in the gravedigger scene from *Hamlet*. It was a piece of skull – not by any means a complete specimen, as only the domed cranium remained – but sufficiently human in appearance for me to pick up the phone. Apart from calling the Police, I contacted Cambridge County Council's Historical Environment Team and was fortunate that both agencies attended on the same day. The Police forensics team confirmed that the fragment could be was 'historic' and as such would be a matter for the archaeologists.

The really interesting part of this tale unfolded as the Council's Senior Archaeologist, Kasia Gdaniec, began trowelling. Her official report (NGR 556645 266267) tells the rest of the story: the buried 'arch', she notes, was 'likely to have been an earlier well that had been filled and capped upon disuse and when the remodelling of the house occurred.' Adjacent to this structure, was 'a large burned block of sandstone or sandy limestone masonry', which was 'not local'. She writes that that the skull fragment 'could have been gathered from the derelict medieval Chapel 70m along the road if the building stone was removed from there to form houses along Chapel Lane'. Alternatively, 'The skull may have derived from far older, archaeological activity – for instance connected with the construction of the Anglo-Saxon ditch and rampart'.

Perhaps her most intriguing theory concerns the ancient industry of our village: that remains might have been 'disturbed from Bronze Age burial monuments (barrows) or Iron Age settlements during clunch extraction in West Reach' and that these may have been kept by diggers resident in the village. She adds that barrows were present on Church Hill and Barston Drove and that 'In 1870 a clunch digger reported the discovery of human remains while working in the pits on the south side of Clunch Pitt Lane'. She states, by way of conclusion, that 'while it is possible that a skull was retained as a *memento mori* by the occupant of the house, it is unequivocal that the presence of the skull was not connected with recent foul play or that an *in situ* grave or cemetery had been disturbed'.

Of course, we are all living on the bones of the dead; but it seems that Reach in this respect is uncommonly endowed. It would be interesting to know how widely dispersed such fragments might be among the footings of our houses. My own undated remnant – whether of Bronze Age princess, medieval villager, or seventeenth-century field labourer – is now safely lodged in Cambridge County Council's archaeological archive.

Marcus Waithe, Snib End (2 Chapel Lane)

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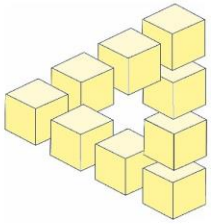

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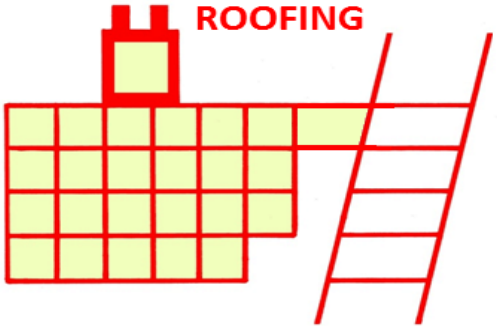

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Tales from a Reach Garden



There is a lot of work to do in the garden in September, the vegetable plot is particularly busy and we've learnt to pace ourselves. Some crops need harvesting, such as the early and second crop of potatoes, garlic, shallots and onions.

The shallots and onions have been lifted and left to dry in the sun before being stored. If the onions become damp, they'll need to dry off or they will rot in storage. Autumn weather can be very damp, so we need to watch the weather carefully, although weather forecasts are not that reliable. The courgette crop is coming to an end, the leaves are heavily mildewed now, so there are fewer courgettes to pick and their fruits smaller too (yes, technically, courgettes are fruits). Beans are still cropping so we harvest the pods when they're ready. If you keep picking them and feed them occasionally, they continue to produce more pods for picking but If the bean pods go to seed, the bean plant stops producing flowers and the crop is finished.

So, most days I'm outside picking beans which can result in some unavoidable Yoga-like body contortions to get at the bean pods and checking under every leaf to ensure they aren't hiding. This often means going over the plants a couple of times to ensure that they aren't camouflaged (pretending to be fat stems) - an extra pair of eyes and hands helps too. Our unheated polytunnel is probably the busiest and most productive plot in the vegetable garden during the growing season. We have a grapevine in there and we grow tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers in there too.

We have been picking the ripest bunches of grapes since the middle of August. The polytunnel has been useful in protecting the vines, keeping them warm and dry and speeding up the ripening process. We've had a lot of grapes and I've been eating a lot of them recently. Some of the bunches are as big as my hand. Richard snacks on the ripest grapes when he's working in the polytunnel.





We tend to leave the peppers to ripen to form large red fruits, although chilli peppers are picked regularly during the season. We've had a glut of cucumbers since late Spring. Our son, who loves cucumbers, fled life in London when he had trouble finding food in March and had been "Working From (our) Home" during the lockdown. He helped to eat through the cucumber glut but has moved back to (a different) city life now and working from his own home.

Alas the regular supply of free fresh fruit and veg (especially cucumbers) wasn't sufficient bribery to offset the abysmal quality of our broadband connection. The cucumbers continue to grow and I've been looking into recipes for cucumber soups, which we have already started to enjoy. Cucumbers have a very high water content so they do not freeze well - or rather, they freeze very well, but turn to mush on defrosting. They do, however, make very tasty soups, which can be frozen to be enjoyed later in the year.



Long "Telegraph Improved" cucumbers

We grow a variety of tomatoes in the polytunnel for different purposes. Some are large fleshy "beef" tomatoes for stuffing or turning into sauces. My daughter also like these in sandwiches, though I prefer the slightly smaller varieties like "Alicante". In salads, I prefer "cherry" tomatoes and we are growing three varieties this year: "Sungold" which is a very tasty orange-skinned variety; "Chocolate cherry" which is a brown-skinned variety, less prolific than "Sungold" (nor as sweet); and "Tomatoberry" which is a red-skinned variety with fleshy, heart-shaped fruits.



Half of one of the long trusses of "Tomatoberry" in July

Tomatoberry is astonishingly prolific – the fruit trusses can be a metre long. We've taken to hanging the long trusses over the adjacent plants, so that they don't touch the ground. It's a relatively new variety with slightly bigger fruits than most cherry tomatoes, but very tasty. It is certainly worth growing. I suspect the polytunnel will continue to keep us busy through October too.

Danuta Gibson

Reach Grant Fund

The Grant Fund which replaced the Amenity Fund exists to fund community activities in Reach.

Application forms should be downloaded from: www.reach-village.co.uk/grant_fund.html, complete and return to the Clerk, Susan Bailey.

Food Focus

Pears Three Ways



We are lucky enough to have two consistently plentiful pear trees in our garden which astound me every year with their bounty. The problem with them is that, while tantalisingly abundant and pendulous from late July, they are inedible until about mid-September.

So, each year I attempt to do them justice in this interim period poaching or baking and turning their raw green crunchy flesh into something digestible and tasty. These three recipes have been used this autumn.

Pear Tarte Tatin

I've used this Jamie Oliver recipe quite a few times over the years and it seems to work quite well, but I double the quantity of spice as I couldn't really taste the ginger and cinnamon using half a teaspoon. Also to prepare ahead of dinner I do the first bit with the pears and roll out the pastry (but don't put it on top) so it's ready to put in the oven when you sit down to the main course.



Ingredients
125 g caster sugar
40 g unsalted butter (cold)
½ teaspoon ground ginger (1 tsp if you like more oomph)
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon (1 tsp as above)
3 large pears
375 g all-butter puff pastry
Double cream, to serve

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas 6.
2. Put a 21cm-diameter frying pan with an ovenproof handle on a hob over a medium heat. Add the sugar and heat to a lovely caramel colour, stirring constantly.
3. Chop the butter into cubes, then add to the pan with the ginger and cinnamon and stir to combine.
4. Peel and core the pears, cut into wedges, then place in the caramel and spoon over the mixture. Turn the heat down and cook for 5 to 10 minutes, or until the pears are just tender and cooked but retain their shape.
5. Remove from the heat and cool slightly, then arrange the pears prettily in the pan.
6. Roll out the pastry to about 5mm thick and cut a disc slightly bigger than your pan (about 24cm).
7. Carefully place the pastry disc on top of the pears and caramel, then carefully tuck it snugly around the outside of the pears and down into the sides of the pan.
8. Bake the pie for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the pastry is golden brown and puffed up.
9. Remove from the oven and leave for 10 minutes. Run a knife around the edge, place a large plate over the top and carefully turn the tart onto the plate. Serve with double cream.

Poached Pears

This is a Rick Stein Recipe from his book Food Heroes; it makes the pears dinner party worthy despite the fact that in our house they would be accompanied by chocolate sauce, while in Rick Steins, Mascarpone Ice Cream would be proffered!



Ingredients

300ml Water
300ml white wine
350g sugar
Pared zest and juice of a lemon
1 vanilla pod
7.5cm of cinnamon stick
2 cloves
6 conference pears

Method

Put all the above ingredients, except the pears, in a large enough pan and heat until the sugar dissolves. Increase the heat and let it simmer for 5 minutes while you peel the pears leaving their stalks in place and cutting their bottoms off so that they can sit upright. Add the pears and simmer until tender when pierced with the tip of a knife. This will depend on the ripeness of the pear – Rick says 6-8 minutes, I say use your judgement! Lift the pears out and reduce the syrup by three quarters. I never reduce this much and use the syrup to poach more pears instead!

I also developed a simpler less sugary syrup this year which worked quite well. I used his recipe without the sugar and with only a splash of vermouth instead of half a bottle of wine, but I put in a couple of tablespoons of honey instead. Not as sophisticated, but good for converting crunchy green pear-shaped stones into an everyday pud.

Pear Eton Mess

This is my idea and I'm proud of it! It was developed as a result of ingredient availability…necessity being the mother of invention and all, however I'm not sure we can ever really class Eton Mess as necessary. The constituent ingredients are pretty much the same as the above recipes, there is a theme here!

Combine the ingredients below for a seasonal Eton Mess.
Meringues broken up
Whipped Cream
Chopped poached pear (poached using either method above)
Stem ginger chopped small

Catherine Gibson



Letter from the Vicarage



It's good to report that the work to conserve Reach arch is now finished! Hopefully, this popular symbol of village history will survive many more years for visitors and residents to enjoy. We are also very much hoping that the finalized plans for the refurbishment of the church itself will be available soon, and we will be able to move forwards with the work on the church.



Church didn't stop with the lockdown and you can pray anywhere at any time but for many, having a special place to gather with others to pray is very important and it is good to be back in our buildings. Details of the Covid-19 measures in place are on notices at the church, and there are more details on our website.

St Etheldreda's is open during the day for 'private prayer', usually on Mondays and Thursdays, but this will vary week to week if there are services. We are gradually reintroducing regular 'in person' services, alongside our online provision.

Although things are different to what we have been used to, we are aiming to make our services as spiritually meaningful and uplifting as possible.

Our main service is at 10am on Sunday in St Mary's, Burwell and we are hoping to have two Sunday morning services a month at 9am in St Etheldreda's Reach, with occasional other services. We are using an online booking system on our website to help us with planning and with collecting details for Test and Trace, or you can phone us.

We're continuing to record video services which go live on our Facebook page several times a week, with a link on our website for those not on Facebook. For those without internet access, we have a phoneline to dial in and listen to recordings of services: call 01638 598958, for a local call charge.

Looking ahead to the next few months, we're looking at ways of marking significant events in the calendar, subject to the ever changing Covid-19 precautions. November 1st is All Saints Day in the church's year (also known as All Hallows - hence October 31st is All Hallows Eve, or Halloween). All Saints is a time when we celebrate saints of old and also remember loved ones who have died. We would usually have a service in church, to which we invite those who have been bereaved. We are not sure yet what form that will take this year, but we will be doing something, so please call us or check our website and Facebook page for more details nearer the time.

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on November 8th and again, it's likely that arrangements will need to be a little different. Our groups for families and children are continuing to meet on Zoom, though we will continue to look at options for meeting in person. On Friday mornings at 9.30am there is Refresh Café on Zoom - a very informal song/story time babies and pre-school children with their parents and carers and a chance to get together and meet other families. On Sunday afternoons we have a Messy Gathering at 5pm most weeks, with activities, story and prayers. Regular updates and more details about how to connect with us are on our website https://stmarysburwell.org.uk/ or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell/.

We're in a time of transition, having been through the massive changes brought about by the lockdown, but we are not yet in a place where things are 'back to normal', and there may be more changes to come. I was encouraged the other day by a suggestion that sometimes focussing on small wins, which are achievable, can encourage us and build hope, when there are so many big things that remain out of our control. Let's be kind to ourselves and to each other, and may God bless you, and those who are dear to you.

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

Please get in touch if you would like to talk, to pray, or need practical help, and if you find yourself in need of the support of the Foodbank, contact Ely Foodbank directly on 01353 468626.

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10.00am Zoom Morning Service
11.00am Zoom Virtual coffee and chat
8.30pm Facebook Night Prayer

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8.30pm Facebook Night Prayer
(Video prayers usually on Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri. Prayers to read on other days)

FRIDAYS
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Cristine Fletcher	Councillor	07763 529866
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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, normally in the Village Hall (with alternative arrangements when Covid-19 restrictions are in place), on the first Wednesday of each month. They start at 7.45pm and all Reach villagers are welcome to be involved.

Know Your District Councillors



Not much activity at the Council and the District the last month.

1. There is quite a bit of resentment from residents, particularly in and around Ely, about the possible closure of the Mepal Outdoor Centre, and to replace it by a crematorium. Many residents have pointed out that, were there a need for an additional crematorium, having it at almost the northern boundary of the district doesn't help those in the south, and that the outdoor centre, if properly managed, would be a real asset to the district.

   Apparently, the administration has been considering closing the Outdoor Centre for over 18 months, which is when consultants had been first engaged in secret.

2. The questionnaire for the Bus, Cycle and Footpath survey has not yet been analysed, and the working group has not met for some time.

3. We are continuing with surgeries, but still cannot hold them face-to-face, and so they will be by telephone to either of us (07976 607512 for Charlotte, and 0794 268 5599 for John. The next one is on Wednesday 28 October at six o'clock, followed by a Zoom meeting (send an email to john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk to obtain the sign in details) at seven o'clock. You can contact us in the meantime by telephone or email (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, John's as above)

Charlotte Cane and John Trapp

Cricket Report



Sunday 2 August
Reach (206-5) beat Fen Ditton (205-8) by 5 wickets

I always say that a proper village cricket ground is one which really does have a cow down at cow corner. Fen Ditton's ground didn't quite have that, but it did have an overpowering smell of roast beef on one side of the field. The lure of a Sunday roast, however, was not enough to distract Reach from a tough afternoon's fielding on a quick outfield. The target, at nearly seven runs an over, seemed a little steep. But 46 from new signing Jonathan Masters, a fifty from Chris Bridgeman and 44 from Will Day (adding to his three wickets) took Reach to within touching distance. We passed over the line with an over to spare.

Sunday 9 August
Milton (210-9) beat Reach (149) by 61 runs

How did we let this one go, having trapped Milton 0-2 thanks to a couple of snorters from Tim Davies? We had them 27-4, too and it looked all over. But, but… Milton's lower order produced what the top guys couldn't and notched up 210 from their 35 overs. A week earlier we had bagged such a total, but not this time. We finally perished on the second to last ball of our last over for 149.

Sunday 16 August
Reach 87 all out Barrow 28-0 match abandoned

The weather put on a better show that Reach's middle order. This time it wasn't roast beef but the whiff of duck which permeated the ground. Setting a new record for four of them in a single innings we were all out for a mere 87. The deluge arrived just in time to save Reach from a hefty defeat.

Sunday 23 August
Stansfield (69-2) beat Reach (68 all out) by 8 wickets

Surely Reach couldn't beat its record of a week earlier and notch up more than four ducks? Oh, but it could. With a bowler spinning it sharply uphill on a strangely spoon-shaped pitch, we notched up the middle order batting collapse to end all middle order batting collapses. Only Will Day managed to get his eye in, scoring 32. In reply, Stansfield got it over quickly in 11 overs. The heavens opened again, but this time just a little too late. Instead, it was a socially-distanced visit to the pub that was rained-off.

Sunday 30 August
Little Shelford (239) beat Reach (129 all out) by 110 runs

Another match that got away. Not saying any more, not least because I wasn't there and a scorebook is just a dead document without memories to bring it alive.

Saturday 5 September
Llanarth (196-8) beat Reach (141 all out) by 55 runs

The team charabanc spluttered off from Reach in the first weekend of September for our first ever overseas tour, to Monmouthshire. What proved fertile territory for Edward II's ambitions, after a brief imprisonment in Monmouth Castle, proved less so for us. But the Reach biobubble did get to play at two beautiful grounds. At Llanarth we put the home side in to bat. The meat of our bowling attack turned out to be Archie Fordham (2-36) and Will Day (4-15), but we were unable to stop Llanarth thumping their way to 196 off 35 overs. A fifty from Michael Mead was not aided by another four ducks from a lightly hungover Reach team. We fell 55 runs short.

Sunday 6 September
Penallt and Redbrook (132-6) beat Reach (131 all out) by 4 wickets.

Penallt and Redbrook has the novelty of spanning two countries, the former village in Monmouthshire and the latter in Gloucestershire. Reach's old-timer and now Monmouth resident Roger Mills returned as captain. On a slow outfield, Tim Davies (35) and Chris Bridgeman (43) had sobered up sufficiently to take us to a halfway decent score of 131. But it was not enough. Will Kingsmill deserves a mention in dispatches for his 3-13, but the moment Penallt sent in their professional rugby-playing number eight to smack the ball to kingdom come we were never going to prevail.

Sunday 13 September
Reach (115-8) beat Space Cadets (113 all out) by 2 wickets

The Space Cadets is one of those teams against whom Reach's tide ebbs and flows – we've won some, we've lost some. We like this kind of fixture. This year it was our turn to win. I say 'our' turn, although I was playing for the opposition, who had turned up a couple of men short. This is the third time in three years I had done the decent thing and – much to the joy of the Reach players – donated myself to the opposition (had there been a transfer fee I am sure it would have been Reach paying a tidy sum to get rid of me). Mind, in three matches and 33 runs Reach's frontline attack has failed to get me out. But that's all a bit self-centred. What really matters is that Reach dismissed the Space Cadets for 113 in 27 overs, the last man (not me!) going down to an excellent catch from Archie Fordham. In reply Reach wobbled a bit, but for once the middle order pulled its weight with 29 from Chris Bridgeman and 21 from Archie. In his first match for a year, captain-for-the-day, Gwilym Davies also contributed with 23 before going a bit potty, slashing at the ball and being caught by the keeper (he could have been stumped as well, if you could be out twice on the same ball). We/they wobbled home with eight wickets down.

Ross Clark

Parish Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday October 7th 2020

Apologies for absence
Forum for members of the public.
1. Declaration of Interests
2. Councillors – Election of Officers and new councillors
3. Planning
4. County Councillor Report
5. District Councillor Report
6. Minutes of previous Meeting
7. Reports: (1) Reach Grant Fund, (2) Finance
(3) Parish Council Members, (4) Play Spaces,
(5) Rights of Way (6) 24Acres Committee
(7) Neighbourhood Plan, (8) Friends of Reach Wood

For Discussion
8. Government Planning White paper
9. Speed cameras – SID results
10. Sunnica Energy Farm
11. Gatherings on Reach Village Green
12. Information Items
13. Payments

It's a Zoom meeting, to be involved:
ID: 874 3063 3335
Passcode: 848538

The Dyke's End

The Dyke's End
FREE HOUSE AND KITCHEN

Our kitchen will be closed over the period October 5th to the 21st for the Chef's holiday.

CURRENT OPENING HOURS

Bar

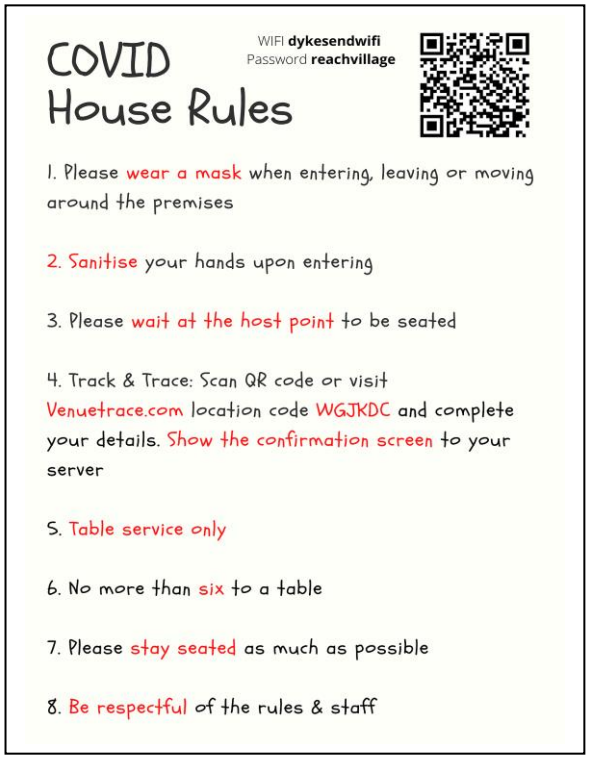
Mon/Tues:	5.00pm to 9.50pm
Wed/Thurs/Fri:	Midday to 2.00pm, 5.00pm to 9.50pm
Saturday:	Midday to 9.50pm
Sunday:	Midday to 9.00pm

Kitchen

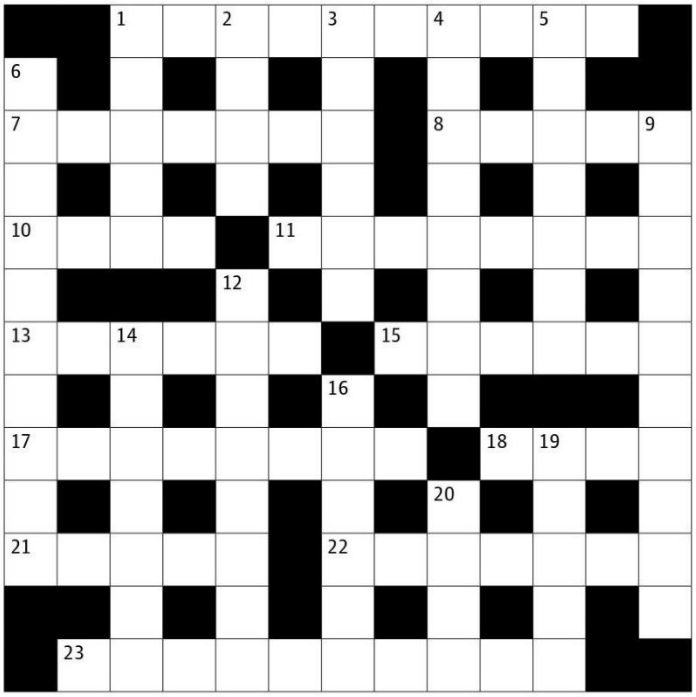
Mon/Tues:	5.30pm to 8.00pm
Wed/Thurs/Fri:	Midday to 2.00pm, 5.30pm to 8.00pm
Saturday:	Midday to 8.00pm
Sunday:	Midday to 4.00pm

Last Orders will be called at 9.15pm and finish at 9.30pm. Customers will have 20 minutes drinking up time and must leave the premises by 9.50pm.

We still offer our very popular **Takeaway Service**, please call or email to place your order.
Email: bookatdykesendreach.co.uk
Tel: 01638 743816



Speedy crossword No. 1,304



Across

1 Shabbily dressed (4-2-4)
7 Distinguished (7)
8 Saying (5)
10 Road/bridge charge (4)
11 Former naval punishment (8)
13 Dried grape (6)
15 Sombre (6)
17 Remedy (8)
18 Woodwind instrument (4)
21 Blacksmith's workplace (5)
22 Tangible (7)
23 Faultless (10)

Down

1 Repetitious exercise (5)
2 Sharpen (4)
3 Horn of a deer (6)
4 Family treasure (8)
5 Remove hair (7)
6 Informal reference to spouse (6,4)
9 Shirker (10)
12 Imagination (5,3)
14 Meanwhile (7)
16 Motionless (6)
19 Marriage partner (5)
20 Hard coating on wound (4)

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on; Wednesday 5th August 2020

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence – Received from Andrew Trump and Susan Bailey.

Forum for members of the public.
Nothing to report.

1. Declaration of Interests
There were none.

2. Minutes of previous meeting
Councillor Cane declared an interest in the solar farm at the last meeting. ***Clerk*** to update minutes. Everything else approved as correct.

3. Planning Applications
Councillor Acklam reported back to the PC about ECDC Planning Committee deliberations on the Solar Farm on Hightown Drove 20/00557/ESF earlier the same day. The Committee unanimously decided to approve the application, despite reiteration to it of Reach PC's view that there was insufficient information in the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) of the application to enable a meaningful assessment of visual intrusion, especially from Reach Lode bank and the Devil's Dyke, and thus a proper evaluation of the application. I made three observations to the PC:
- the comments of a number of Planning Committee members suggested that a revised LVIA revealing greater intrusion than presented by the developer would not have altered the outcome.
- the Committee's work, especially on landscape scale proposals of this kind, is compromised by the absence of site visits under current Covid 19 arrangements.
- Reach PC's concern about the cumulative impact of solar farms in the vicinity of Weirs Drove substation, though not material to this application, was registered by the Committee. This is something that the PC could draw on should further applications for solar farms affecting our neighbourhood be made.

20/00875/FUL - Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey side extension. Replacement of windows and doors and alteration of openings - 32 Great Lane.
Following discussion, the PC concluded that there was no comment to be made on this application.

20/00588/RMA - Reserved matter of appearance for erection of 3 dwellings. - Land opposite 20 Burwell Road, Reach.
Following discussion, the PC concluded that the following comments should be made.
The PC hopes that sufficient room for bins in the access area is being considered and that the bin lorry will not cause a hazard.
The Parish Council is keen to ensure the protection of the TPO Limes' roots in the long term and during construction.
With regard to the landscaping overall the PC would like to see the tree
officers' conditions met to ensure sensitive landscaping.

Finally, the PC is disappointed to see no rainwater capture or solar panels included in the plans – these have been mentioned as good to have in our Design code for our emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
Clerk to write to ECDC and ***Councillor Acklam*** to approve.

4. Payments

Moore & Co – Year end accounts	£390.00
E.on – power on the green	£9.62
CR Contracting – mowing contract	£276.50

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 7.45pm.
The Agendas for this meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

PARISH COUNCIL OF REACH

NOTICE OF VACANCY IN

OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that 2 vacancies exist on REACH PARISH COUNCIL.

REACH PARISH COUNCIL is made up of 7 councillors and details can be found at:

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

The council meets once a month on the first Wednesday, on Zoom at the moment, or in the Village Hall when allowed – the workload is not onerous.

If you would like to discuss or be considered for this position, then please email or call:

Susan Bailey
Clerk to Reach Parish Council
29 Great Lane
Reach CB25 0JF

Email: clerk@reachparishcouncil.org

01638 743794

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on; Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence – Received from Charlotte Cane, Cristine Fletcher and Susan Bailey.

Forum for members of the public.
A new villager will be putting in planning permission for a self-build property on Burwell Road, a 1.5 story Eco home. He wanted to get the views of PC before submission. The PC advised to contact clerk with details and PC would be happy to discuss the plans.

A member of the public also attended in support of the planning application. Stating that there are still people dependent on the broadband mast, as the uptake of fibre was lower than expected. Until it is cost effective to do so, fibre will not be extended down Great Lane and therefore mast was still needed.

1. Declaration of Interests
Councillors Acklam & Trump stated that they are Air Broadband customers, but neither receive broadband via the mast in the planning application.

2. Planning Applications - 20/00338/FUL - Retention of broadband telecoms mast, 7 Fair Green, Reach
The PC noted that some areas of the fens would be unsupported without this mast (including several business users) and recognised the importance of retaining the service for the purposes of social inclusion. With the current COVID situation, access to internet at home was vital, noting that both sixth form colleges in Cambridge were having some virtual days timetabled. It was, however, noted that the mast itself is unsightly and the PC would not like it to remain indefinitely. The PC would support a continuation of the existing temporary planning arrangement whereby it is allowed to remain until other alternatives are available. The PC would like to see all parties working towards an alternative, more permanent solution.

The PC also wanted to look into how they could support the extension of fibre down Great Lane.

At Planning Committee, permission was granted on **application 19/01439/FUL** despite PC objection. However, ECDC did suggest that it would put pressure on Anglian Water to sort out the ongoing sewage problems.

3. County Councillor Report
No report received.

4. District Councillor Report
- Mepal Crematorium – lots of outcry, people would like it used as a multi-use centre.
- Attended Greater Cambs Partnership meeting yesterday to discuss access to Eastern Cambs. Arguing that Park and Ride is wrong side of the Quy roundabout to serve this area. PC suggested linking to recently formed Swaffham Prior B1102 group.
- Analysis is still not done on Bus, Cycle and Walking group
- White Paper on planning – going to look at it in detail and see how it is playing out in Cambs. Local democracy is important.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

6.1 Reach Grant Fund
Nothing to report.

6.2 Finance
Nothing to report.

6.3 Parish Council Members
The PC had received a letter from residents re. condition of By-way by Reach Wood and the frequent use of the byways by motorbikes. After discussion, the PC decided that the condition of the by-way would continue to be monitored. The PC were also keen to monitor the motorbike situation and would ask resident to log activity on the by-ways so that we can build up evidence for future action if necessary. The PC note that there had been discussion previously regarding 4x4s on the lode banks and that the National Trust were planning to put in a barrier to prevent vehicles, although this wouldn't stop motorbikes.

Another letter had been received regarding installing a Speeding sign on Swaffham Road. After discussion, the PC agreed that it was a good idea in principle but not the right time financially unless there is a compelling case vs the other entry roads to the village. ***Clerk*** to look at the data produced by the speed cameras to see if this entry road was worse than the others.

6.4 Play Spaces
Nothing to report.

6.5 Rights of Way
The small pedestrian bridge over the lode from The Hythe, is rotten, this has been reported to CCC. It should not ideally be used by horses. The PC will monitor the situation.

6.6 24Acres Committee
Nothing to report.

6.7 Neighbourhood Plan
The NP Group is now meeting (online) approximately once a month. However our next meeting will be set by the production of an outline draft Plan which itself will be determined by clarification of the implications of a couple of strategic planning issues that have arisen in recent weeks (see below).

Evidence Building
As mentioned in our previous report, we have built a substantial body of evidence to support the Plan. We are currently in discussion with a number of consultancies about the feasibility, critically the affordability, of employing an ecologist to pull together data about the environment of our neighbourhood already gathered by the Group and to ensure that the environmental package dovetails with other evidence, particularly the landscape appraisal. If feasible in principle, we will then apply to central Government for funding. Assuming that is successful we will then revert to the PC with a business case and a recommendation on whom to appoint.

Issues
Two issues have arisen in recent weeks, the implications of which we need to understand better before sharing a draft Plan with the village:
- the Government's white paper 'Planning for the Future' and the associated consultation document on changes to planning policy and regulation. I don't propose to detail the contents of either document or the likely implications here. In brief both initiatives are designed to streamline the planning system in the UK. Both mention the importance of local input including Neighbourhood Plans to revisions of the planning system but lack detail to explain how this will happen. In this area we (and all communities in East Cambridgeshire) are very probably more vulnerable because of the dated nature of our Local Plan and possibly because of proposed revisions to the way in which housing targets are calculated.
- a challenge from a developer to Witchford's NP based on the fact that the plan had based its housing allocation exclusively on land for which planning permission already existed. We are seeking the full background to this ruling which seems to run contrary to our understanding of the Locality Act 2011 viz. that once voted for in referendum (as is the case in Witchford) an NP is legally binding.

Overall, my interim view is that the uncertainty arising from these events strengthens rather than diminishes the case for an NP.

Summary and Outlook
In the next month we hope to have reduced the uncertainty mentioned above, to have clarified our position on the appointment of an ecological consultant, to have submitted a bid for funds for FY20/21 to central Government, to have produced a rough draft of the Plan and to have begun to think about how best to consult and engage the village on next steps in a world that is not fully on top of coronavirus.

Reported at the meeting – The group had received 3 returns from Environmental Consultants showing really significant differences in approach and cost which will need to be looked at. The group will be taking a pause to consider how the White Paper affects the NP, but the intention is still to get to referendum next year.

6.8 Friends of Reach Wood
Signs have now been installed at the entrances to the wood stating pedestrians only.

7. Verges and Green Spaces
A number of residents have approached members of the PC about mowing around the village and sensitivity to ecology when doing so. In addition, the PC received an open letter (also sent to ECDC and CCC) from local Extinction Rebellion groups regarding the rewilding and ecological management of verges and green spaces. A resident had also reported that the verges on the Burwell road had become a hazard as they had been allowed to grow too long.
After discussion, the PC decided that on the subject of verges (which are all managed by CCC), the ***clerk*** would contact CCC to ask if the PC have any sway in verges management, and what their response was going to be to the Extinction Rebellion open letter.

Regarding PC managed green spaces, the PC concluded that, overall, the village boasts a lot of green space, much of which already has management plans with ecology in mind, but that there was the possibility of other smaller areas being turned over to wildlife. It was discussed that it is often difficult to develop this land to grow chalk species as it is often too fertile. Removing the cutting can encourage diversity but there are cost implications. It was noted that even less 'pretty' wild plants can still have ecological benefit. It was thought that the top green, adjacent to the SSSI could possibly be managed differently, although there were possible implications for the Fair. The area behind the tennis court was also discussed. The PC is hoping to work with Anglian Water to develop a plan for the Hythe, although the mowing in this area does need to comply with the GOBA requirements. It was agreed that ***Councillor Acklam*** would meet with the PC mowing contractor and see his suggestions as to what could be altered, and any cost implications. ***Councillor de Giorgio-Miller*** to compose something for the next village magazine asking for input, but also managing expectations.

8. Information Items
The PC is still waiting for Sustrans to come back to explore cycle/pedestrian routes to Burwell – ***Councillor Acklam*** to continue to chase.

Hythe - Anglian water's Ground work team have done a great job of cutting back the Willow and tidying up the area. We are still waiting to hear back about the production of a new sign to replace that which was vandalised.

One of the Limes on Swaffham road has been cut again (and twice previously) with a flail mower. Ideally this tree should be protected in the future. ***Councillor Trump*** to inquire with surrounding landowners to see if it was cut by them or CCC when doing verge cutting so that PC can ask that it is not cut again.

Chair reported that she had handed in her resignation from the PC. Members of the PC thanked the Chair for her work over the past 3 years.

9. Payments

E. on - Power on the green	£9.02
Cr Contracting – Mowing contract	£403.50
N Acklam – 24Acres expenses	£19.20
S Bailey – Postage	£23.65
Balfour Beatty – streetlight maintenance	£441.60

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7.45pm.
The Agendas for this meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).



20/08/2020 Press Release:

Contact: Tom@openecohomes.org

Open Eco Homes - Autumn Season 14th Sept – 20th Oct 2020

After 10 years of live events, Open Eco Homes is going online, with an **Autumn Season** of 8 one hour Home Tours and 3 Talks, giving access to the best expert advice from across Cambridgeshire online for free. Running between **September 14th and October 20th** visitors will come away feeling inspired to create their own eco dream home and empowered with the information they need to make it happen.

Tours are led by ordinary householders keen to share their excitement and passion for beautiful low energy homes. The homeowners don't promote particular brands or technologies but are keen to help others learn from their experiences, good and bad, so more can choose and implement home energy improvements that suit them. Each home has a detailed 'Case Study' giving details and links to the professionals and suppliers involved, so anyone interested can follow them up.

"*With people spending so much time at home recently, there's new demand to improve them. Visitors to the Open Eco Homes Autumn season will learn how to save energy, make their home more comfortable and reduce their carbon emissions*." Says event organiser Tom Bragg, **"*People are more likely to make improvements themselves if they see it working for real in someone else's beautiful comfortable home. And this is great for the environment*."**

People can sign up for online tours of both new-builds and older homes that have been retrofitted to be more comfortable and energy efficient. Mark Brinkley, author of the Housebuilder's Bible the best-selling building guide, will lead an online tour of his inspiring self-build home. Visitors will see how Mole Architects helped solve the problems of building on a narrow site, and how Mark's team created beautiful, crafted results. This tour is in partnership with RIBA East, the Royal Institute of British Architects.

For those with an interest in renovating their own home an online tour of Bart and Rose's 1940s semi might be in order. They insulated and sealed their home to a very high standard, largely by DIY, along with installing mechanical ventilation with heat recovery to provide fresh air with tiny heat losses. A passive-house quality extension provides them more space, with much lower total energy consumption than before.

Online Talks by experts on Insulation and Heat pumps, give access to expert advice, providing the much needed practical information to help people inspired by the tours, choose what to do. Another talk on the imminent government Green Homes Grant will give the latest advice and guidance on this new grant. From late September the scheme will offer homeowners and landlords grants of up to £5,000, to cover two-thirds of the cost of many home energy improvements.

After providing live home tours and talks for 10 years, more than any other UK community group, Cambridge Carbon Footprint are excited that their Open Eco Homes project will reach new, wider audiences by going online.

Contact: Tom@openecohomes.org

Church Services in Burwell and in Reach

These arrangements are in line with Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time of going to press.
All services and opening times are subject to change.
For up to date information visit our website www.stmarysburwellorg.uk

October 2020	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 4th October 17th after Trinity	10.00am Harvest Service (livestreamed to Zoom)	9.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 7th	11.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 8th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Sunday 11th 18th after Trinity	10.00am Holy Communion (livestreamed to Zoom) 7pm Sunday@7 informal worship (Zoom)	
Monday 12th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Wednesday 14th	10am – 12pm Open for Private Prayer	
Thursday 15th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Sunday 18th 19th after Trinity	10.00am Holy Communion (livestreamed to Zoom)	9.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 21st	11.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 22nd		Open for Private Prayer all day
Sunday 25th 20th after Trinity	10.00am Holy Communion (livestreamed to Zoom)	
Monday 26th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Wednesday 28th	10am – 12pm Open for Private Prayer	
Thursday 29th		Open for Private Prayer all day
November 2020		
Sunday 1st All Saints Day	10.00am Holy Communion (livestreamed to Zoom)	9.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th	11.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 5th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday	Provisional plan: 9.00 am Holy Communion (Other arrangements to be confirmed)	10.50am at War Memorial (To be confirmed nearer time)
Wednesday 11th	10am – 12pm Open for Private Prayer	
Thursday 12th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Sunday 15th 2nd before Advent	10.00am Holy Communion (livestreamed to Zoom)	
Monday 16th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Wednesday 18th	11.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday 19th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Sunday 22nd Next before Advent – Christ the King	10.00am Holy Communion (livestreamed to Zoom)	9.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th	10am – 12pm Open for Private Prayer	
Thursday 26th		Open for Private Prayer all day
Sunday 29th Advent Sunday	10.00am Holy Communion (livestreamed to Zoom)	

Diary Dates

October	Event	Location	Time
Thursday 1	Recycling Day (Green)		
Wednesday 7	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Thursday 8	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 15	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 22	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 29	Recycling Day (Green)		

November	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 4	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Thursday 5	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 12	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 19	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 26	Recycling Day (Green)		



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	07:28	07:36	08:08*	08:49
07:50	08:28	08:36	09:08*	09:49
09.50	10:28	10:36	11:08*	11:49
11:50	12:28	12:36	13:08*	13:49
13:50	14:28	14:36	15:24*	15:49
15:50	16:28	16:36	17:30	17:55
18:15	18:53	19:06		
19:15	19:53	20:06		

Cambridge to Bury - Saturdays (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Cambridge Drummer Street	**Reach**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Bury Bus Station**
06:50	07:28	07:36	08:08*	08.49
07:50	08:28	08:36	09:08*	09:49
09.50	10:28	10:36	11:08*	11:49
11:50	12:28	12:36	13:08*	13:49
13:50	14:28	14:36	15:08*	15:49
15:50	16:28	16:36	17:08	17:55
18:15	18:53	19:01		
19:15	19:53	20:03		

Bury to Cambridge - Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Bury Bus Station	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Reach**	**Cambridge Drummer Street**
		06:19	06:33	07:12
		06:39	06:53	07:32
	08:40	09:06	09:20	09.59
10:05	10:35*	11:06	11:20	11:59
12:05	12:35*	13:06	13:20	13:59
14:05	14:35*	15:06	15:20	14:59
15:05	15:35*	16:06	16:20	15:59
16:05	16:35*	17:06	17:20	16:59
17:05	17:35*	18:06	18:20	17:59

Bury to Cambridge - Saturdays (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Bury Bus Station	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Reach**	**Cambridge Drummer Street**
		06:19	06:33	07:12
		06:49	07:03	07:42
	08:40	09:06	09:20	09:59
10:05	10:40*	11:06	11:20	11:59
12:05	12:40*	13:06	13:20	13:59
14:05	14:40*	15:06	15:20	15:59
15:05	15:40*	16:06	16:20	16:59
16:05	16:40*	17:06	17:20	17:59
17:05	17:40*	18:06	18:20	18:59

* 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)*

A photo taken from near Delver Bridge looking towards The Hythe and The Point. The white concrete footbridge (now replaced) was one of many that have occupied that location.

Pre-dating the construction of the sewage unit in 1968 and with significantly less trees on The Hythe we have a view through towards Burwell Fen.

I believe the wooden footbridge in the foreground provided access to the garden of Delph End Cottage.

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






Ivy Cott
14 Great
FRESH
EGGS