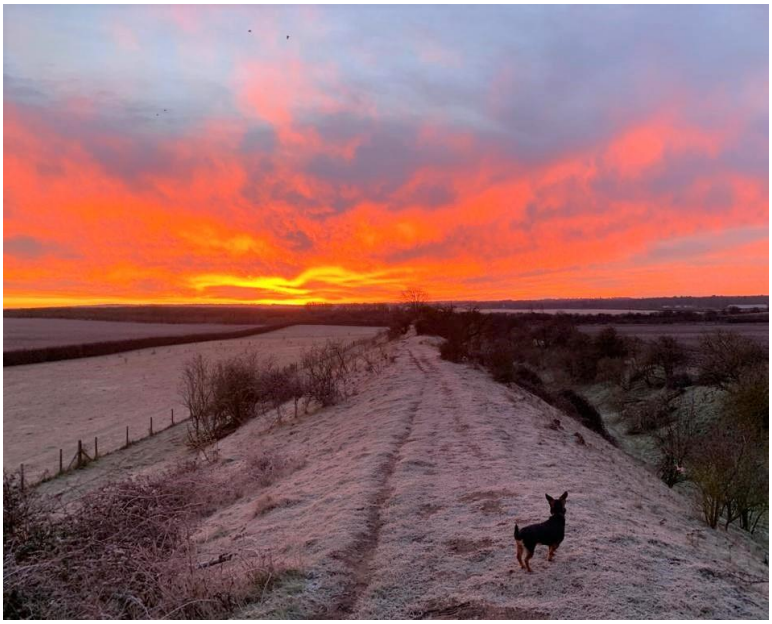

Within Reach
February/March 2021









Ewen Cameron



Derek Coombes

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From the Editor



We continue to go through difficult times but one of the many great things about our village is that we make the best of things as far as we can. Christmas wasn't what it should have been but what could be done happened, with maybe the main thing being our tree.



Big thanks go to Rob Aves and Suz who made it happen – it brightened up our December days.

As did the seniors Christmas parcels, thanks to Claire Acklam for all the work that went into that – and also to everyone involved with the lovely Advent Windows (you can see these on our website).

And (see page 4) Santa came to see us!

Stay strong everyone and if you need help there's plenty of it available – just ask.

David Parr
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Cover Photo courtesy of **Dan Mules**

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 March 2021. This magazine (which is fully funded from advertising) is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

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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

New year – new lockdown!



Hopefully with the roll out of the vaccines this will be the last we will have to endure, but with the cold, wet weather, it may be the trickiest, even for those of us who love puddles!

Some will have received shielding letters and with more people making the decision to avoid supermarkets, delivery slots could be harder to come by. If you are having any trouble, the **Reach Help Network** is available to anyone who needs us. If you do need some shopping, a prescription picking up or something from the post office then do get in touch and we will be happy to help. Email a.degiorgiomiller@gmail.com or call 07771 348013. Please do pass on this information to anyone in Reach who is not on Facebook or email.

Some other news from the district volunteer network…

A thank you!

The Ely Primary Care Networks have asked me to extend thanks to everyone who responded over Christmas to their Request for Volunteers to support vaccinations. Over 300 responses were received in one day and the current need for volunteers is fulfilled. Thank you if you did volunteer!

Support for carers

Caring Together is a charity which supports carers of all ages in our area. It can be very difficult for carers and those they care for to be able to go to appointments for a range of reasons. This could be due to transport, needing someone to look after the person they care for or any other reason. If you are a carer who has challenges attending your appointment to have your coronavirus vaccination, please do contact them as they are here to help. You can call them on 0345 241 0954 or email hello@caringtogether.org.

Fake vaccine scam text

I've been asked to make people aware of a fake Covid-19 vaccine scam text. The bogus message, seen below, states that the recipient is entitled to a vaccine and encourages them to click on the link in blue.

NHS: We have identified that your are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here : uk-application-form.com

These texts are completely fake and if the link is clicked the recipient is taken to a webpage, branded to look like a genuine NHS page, which requests to see 'proof of ownership of address' in the form of their bank account, sort code and a full bank card number.

Do not give any bank or card details to make payment for a vaccine or to prove your residential address. Coronavirus vaccines are administered free of charge. Your surgery or the NHS will not ask for any money or bank details. Beware also telephone calls claiming to be from NHS instructing you to press a key to confirm you'd like to receive the vaccine or asking for bank details as affirmation to receive the vaccine. Both are likely to result in financial fraud - either as a charge on your bill or unauthorised use of your bank account. For genuine COVID-19 related advice including vaccination information, visit www.gov.uk and www.nhs.uk. You can forward suspicious texts to 7726.

Community Home Energy Support Service

Two local charities, PECT and Cambridgeshire ACRE, have teamed up to deliver a new project aimed at improving the health and well-being of households in northern Cambridgeshire who are suffering from, or at risk of, fuel poverty. The project, named the Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service (CHESS), will help local residents with cutting the costs of their energy bills and reducing the carbon footprint of their household. Advisors can assist people with: switching supplier, energy saving tips and advice, signing up to the Priority Services Register, home improvement grants, solutions to damp and condensation and fuel debt relief. For your free and impartial energy advice session, call 0800 8021773, email warmhomes@pect.org.uk or visit: www.pect.org.uk/warmhomes



Still enjoying the puddles!

Keep well

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

Neighbourhood Plan



The NP Group held a public meeting by Zoom on 18 December to allow Will O'Connor of MKA Ecology to outline his initial thoughts on the environmental appraisal of our neighbourhood. A copy of his presentation is now on the NP webpage www.reach-village.co.uk/neighbourhood_plan.html.

Will received useful feedback from an enthusiastic bunch of villagers who attended. This supplemented the responses to Will's questionnaire (see Dec/Jan issue of Within Reach). MKA have now undertaken a couple of days field work in our neighbourhood and hope to report shortly. We will publish MKA's appraisal as soon as we have it.

The work of the Group continues to emphasise the significance of the Hythe to Reach's past and through its recreational and conservation potential, its importance to our future. It will feature in the emerging draft Plan. Members of the Group participated in a meeting with Anglian Water (AW) on 11 December to encourage improvements to the Hythe. A summary of the discussion appears elsewhere in the magazine.

An issue that has belatedly come to notice as likely to have a significant impact on our neighbourhood in coming years relates to renewable energy generation, especially solar farms. There is already plenty of such activity just outside, but visible from, recreational areas of our neighbourhood. A solar farm, of 72 hectares, at Goosehall Farm has already been constructed. A similarly sized development on Hightown Drove received approval last year. Work to construct a battery storage facility on Weir's Drove will begin this year. Consultation on the Sunnica Energy Farm is ongoing. We understand more such applications are to come, utilising access to the National Grid at Weirs Drove and the availability of flat Grade 2 agricultural land. Areas of our neighbourhood meet these criteria.

A strategy that increases renewable energy generation is, of course, a sensible one. Unfortunately, the current national and local planning processes are not set up to assess the cumulative impact of such developments on a landscape. There is no mechanism for assessing visual impact or guidance for developers to mitigate that impact in a flat open landscape such as ours.

The Parish Council has written to Lucy Frazer, our MP, seeking her support in developing strategic oversight and management of solar farm and battery storage developments around the Weir's Drove electricity sub-station. We await her response.

Our draft Plan will reflect the challenge posed by renewable energy developments.

We plan to publish a draft Plan for comment in the near future as we begin a wider consultation of stakeholders such as ECDC and AW. It is proving a little tricky to give a precise timetable for this in a time of coronavirus lockdowns. Our strong preference is to discuss the draft Plan with you face to face. An optimistic view of the country's vaccination programme suggests that we might be able to do this in the spring. If not, we will revert to the less satisfactory route of online publication and delivery to every home in Reach of paper copies of the draft Plan.

We remain optimistic about being able to put a finalised Plan to the village for endorsement (or otherwise) in a referendum later this year.

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

Santa Visited!



It was lovely to see him, he's a very busy man on Christmas Eve. He enjoyed coming to see us, he loves our village as much as we do. He said he'd do his best to come and see us next year!

Rosanna's Ramblings



In the best of times, mid-January to mid-February rarely set the pulse racing with joy or the spirits soaring. Over more than 30 years as an acupuncturist, I have come to expect a surge of bookings from people feeling drained, exhausted and frankly despairing as the winter greyness seeps into their bones and the hopefulness of spring feels like a mean joke.

But let's state the glaringly obvious – we're not remotely in 'the best of times' at the moment, are we? Lockdown No.3. No stunning spring walks blessed with blossom and gambolling lambs - yet. Not even any real sense of delight at the village pulling together as it did early last year (the support, I'm sure, is still there in abundance – but the delight has lost the lustre of unexpectedness).

I see myself as a realist, rather than an optimist or pessimist. I like to look situations as much as I can straight in the eye, finding reassurance in a measured dose of fortitude and a measured dose of philosophical acceptance. I'd rather play things with caution than cast care to the winds. I'm probably more "belt and braces" than "seat of my pants" because in general I like to feel prepared even when reality lobs in loads of unforeseen variables.

So back in the autumn I was telling myself that I hoped that by the spring things would be looking a bit clearer, and by autumn 2021 things would be a lot better. Before the new variant of the virus was known about, a patient surprised me in early December by telling me that she was feeling really positive about the following year, with the vaccine roll-out imminent and she'd booked a New Year's Eve family dinner in a favourite restaurant and had plans for holidays abroad in her diary. I think even my mask couldn't completely hide my surprise (perhaps the quizzically-raised eyebrow gave things away). Blimey, I thought, does she REALLY believe that will happen? She cancelled the dinner, of course – and the cottage in Norfolk and is hunkering down with the rest of us for a period of indeterminate duration, but certain restrictions.

I have decided it's best for me to write 2021 off in my mind as belonging to a continued holding pattern, one to be endured and adjusted to. The sunlit uplands of hopefulness and plans and longed-for reunions has been shunted into 2022, with cautious provisos and one foot still firmly on the muddy ground. I'd rather be delighted by unexpectedly better things, than have my dreams dashed into said mud.



So, how to weather this time is the big question? – a time that has led me to pull the plug on my clinic work, this time with no financial help at all because I'm technically allowed to work, but I just don't feel it's wise. I'm doing a lot of knitting by the fire (mostly for my sister who lost all of her clothes in August in a house fire in France), sometimes listening to audiobooks, sometimes to Bach.

We've been poring over seed catalogues and have been planning exciting new vegetable plantings – some asparagus crowns for my Ely garden (now there's an investment in long-termism, it will be years before they become really productive); sugar snap peas for a change, stubby carrots for the Ely allotment because, sitting as it does on clay over a spring, we've discovered that long-rooted varieties sit with their bottoms in chilly water come the winter and carrots don't like that any more than we would; loads of tomatoes, again, as last year's glut is still providing us with its now frozen bounty.



I've discovered an excellent recipe for rye bread which is proving useful as, for some reason that I can't possibly mention here for fear of … perhaps … offending someone, Sainsbury's seems no longer to be able to get supplies of my favourite brand of German rye bread.

I'm doing half an hour on Charles's cross-trainer every day, first thing in the morning, often in shiveringly cold conditions in the unheated outbuilding (can you see my halo? I polish it regularly). For some reason, possibly slithery mud related, I prefer that to the prospect of an early morning walk at the moment. Anyone who's been out there, on the paths and droves and even in our beloved Reach Wood, will know that off-roading cars and bikes have been doing an extraordinarily good job of rendering them almost impassible on foot.

But if the later afternoon looks clear enough, we've been heading off to the fen in the hope of seeing a starling murmuration. Forgive me if I'm repeating myself from this time last year, or the year before, but I'll endure any amount of slip-sliding and any amount of cheek-numbing waiting around as the sun sets, for the chance of hearing the flurry of small, fast wing beats overhead; for the "Will they? Won't they?" suspense; for the utter joy when they put on a good show before roosting suddenly and quarrelsomely in the reeds edging the mere; even for the "Oh well" sigh when the birds decide on occasion to fly off to Wicken Fen instead at the last minute. It's all quite simply the best way of being in the moment that I know. And since I find living in the past too sad because of the reminders of so many treasured things lost for now (seeing my children) or lost for ever; and living in the future is just too stressful for me because nothing is remotely certain … I'll take a dose of now-ness so conveniently on our Reach doorstep, gratefully, any time.

And in case anyone's been wondering how our teenage moorhens are doing, I have to report that sometimes they don't turn up first thing anymore as they've clearly been out clubbing late across the river in James's garden. And sometimes they've shaken themselves free from their mum's stifling watchfulness (or is it the mum who's shaken herself free and has been online dating ready for rearing another successful brood?) and we have four plump, sleek, red-beaked beauties harvesting whatever our garden can still provide, daring to approach the house ever closer. Until, that is, one of us has to go out the back door and we are greeted by the utterly endearing sight of four moorhen rumps atop long green legs, legging it back down to the dock and the safety of the river. We'll miss them so much when they go off to find their own patches.

Charles tells me the primroses are out on the Hythe.

Rosanna Moseley Gore



Events Team

As I write this we are in week 3 of lockdown 3. What an historic time we are all living through! While the Reach Events Calendar is a little bare and uncertain for 2021, the Events Team are still here and ready to get planning and organising just as soon as we can. We are very thankful that we have been able to enjoy some elements of Christmas together this year, all be it from a distance.

The Tree

Lovely tree (see page 2) selected, organised and decorated by Rob Aves, Suz - and baby Emma. Huge thanks.



Gift Parcels for our Seniors

These were delivered to residents who might have attended our Christmas lunch. We know this event was very much missed and are grateful to Claire Acklam who organised and prepared the parcels as a surprise treat.

Advent Windows

Advent windows brightened the dark December nights in the lead up to Christmas. Many thanks to all who took part. There was such a lovely variety as the month went on - it was a good excuse to wrap up warm and get some exercise looking at them all. Thank you to Grahame who made a collection of photographs of them all which are on the News and Events page of the website.

Santa Visited!

Busy man but he spared us an hour of his precious time (see page 4).

Who knows what events we will be able to do this year but if you are missing them why not go and have a look on the website at the previous magazines and News items. There are lots of lovely reminders of past fun times that will surely come again. I've just been flicking through and noticed this month marks 3 years since the development of our play park. Most recently this lovely area has been used as a break from the home school lessons in our house.

Debbie Quilter

Getting to Know You – Rosie Almond



John and Rosie

Q. What is your full name and where were you born?

My name is Rosie Almond and I was born locally in Newmarket Hospital.

Q. How did you come to live in Reach?

I have always been local to Reach and grew up on Lords Ground Farm until I moved into the village with my mother, Hilary Fielding, when I was a teenager. After living in Burwell for a few years with my partner, we were brought back to the village when we purchased our first and forever home together on Great Lane.

Q. What school did you go to? And did you enjoy it?

I went to Swaffham Prior Primary School and Bottisham Village College. I can't say I particularly enjoyed school; I didn't pay much attention in class, always left coursework to the last minute and never really found a subject I enjoyed. But I do have very fond memories of playing in the village with the other local kids outside of school and quite often getting into a bit of harmless trouble! Reach was a fantastic place to grow up in.

Q. Where do you work and what do you do there?

I work for a Biotechnology firm called F-star Therapeutics Inc. which develops immunotherapies for cancer patients. I work in Human Resources, which is often assumed to be hiring and firing, but I spend most of my time working alongside managers to help get the most out of their teams through effective structures, ways of working and communication. I accidentally fell into HR after getting my first full time job as an HR Administrator, and although my role now can be challenging and fast paced, it's also really rewarding. I love that I'm not restricted to a certain type of organisation either and have worked in a variety of industries like the motor trade, gaming and even a chocolate factory. It feels great to now be contributing to the search for effective cancer treatments and I get to work alongside incredibly talented scientists.

Q. When did you get together and how did you meet?

John and I have been together for ten years and met through mutual friends. John is originally from North Wales and moved to Newmarket after he graduated as an agricultural engineer. It was after a few encounters at various bars in town that we finally plucked up the courage to talk properly to one another and it went from there. It is lovely to have Wales as our second home and whilst Covid has kept us from visiting in the last year, it's a beautiful part of the country we enjoy exploring together.

Q. What pets do you have?

We have three chickens . . .



And a dog called Archie. After I lost my horse in September 2019, I knew we could offer a dog a lovely home and so we adopted Archie in the summer last year.



He was abandoned as a puppy in Bosnia with his siblings and is a Tornjak-Husky cross. His favourite thing to do, other than digging, is to watch the world go by from his mud pile in the garden; you may have seen him sitting like a King on his throne when walking past. He's a sweet natured dog and has already settled right into our family.

Q. What is your hobby?



Loire Valley

We are massive 'foodies' and have always made an effort to take time out to cook together and we love hosting for others too.

We also love travelling and one of my favourite trips recently was camping in the Loire Valley in France – cycling through the vineyards, sampling the local food and wine and then relaxing on the beautiful grounds of a renovated chateau was heaven to me. Anything outdoors and I'm in a very happy place; cycling, kayaking, walking, riding, camping, and even better if the sun is shining.



Whilst it probably hasn't been a hobby by choice, we have spent every spare bit of time renovating our home over the last five years. It may have felt like slow progress, but we've done most of the work ourselves whilst juggling full-time jobs and trying to maintain some kind of social life. Renovating has naturally become a big part of our lives and something we have learned to embrace and enjoy together.



Q. What do you enjoy about living in Reach?

For me, Reach strikes the perfect balance between living in the countryside whilst still being able to venture out to enjoy city life. It has a great community spirit and the silver lining of working from home because of the pandemic and walking the dog, has been getting to know our fellow villagers more.

Q. What is your philosophy in life?

Always keep an open mind, be curious and do the things that make you happy.

Joss Goodchild

Out and About Autumn 2020



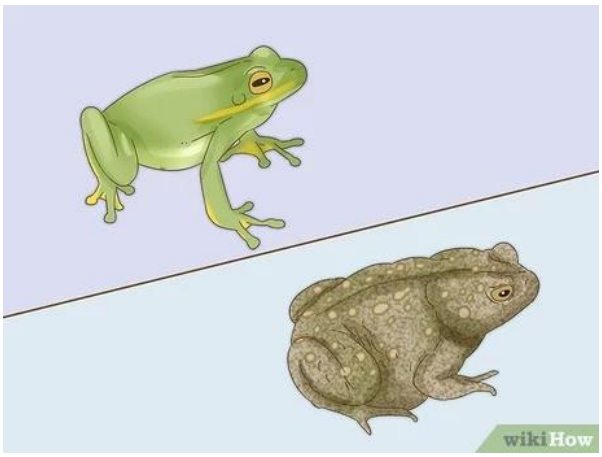
On 1st January, three French (also known as red-legged) partridge scuttled ahead of me on a track near Great Lane. A fitting sight for the festive season, they are so often associated with A Pear Tree! I have spotted the much rarer grey (also known as English) partridge at nearby Lords Ground Farm, these game birds can spend their entire lives within only two fields and lay the largest number of eggs of any bird, ie. up to nineteen.

As temperatures plummeted in January the tracks of countless mammals and birds were revealed on frosted surfaces. The hoof prints of roe deer, so clearly visible in groups on farmland fields around Reach, are dainty and known as slots.



I surprised a fox one dark evening, he changed direction at lightning speed. The small inert tortoiseshell butterfly that spent months under our stair handrail awoke suddenly and fluttered to the window. I hope the hedgehog hibernating in the garden stays fast asleep, its heart beating only once a minute during this stage instead of two hundred times.

During the coldest months common frogs hibernate under leaves, stones and logs inland and amongst the bottom layer of mud in ponds. Common toads emerge in early February and return to the deep waters of breeding ponds. These olive green, warty-skinned amphibians lay double-stranded strings of eggs around aquatic plants. The toad is a welcome early spring visitor for many gardeners for he helpfully devours slugs and snails.



I haven't seen a barn owl on the favoured post near Reach Wood. As rodents become scarcer in winter, males extend their nocturnal hunting forays into daylight hours to catch more food.



These birds face many challenges: barns that used to contain spilt grain are now tightly shut, rat poison is widely used, land more intensively farmed and of course our climate is unpredictable. Barn owls often pair for life, an estimated 75% of them nest in manmade boxes.

Regarding climate change, I read an article recently which featured Clive Leeke, a professional hedgelayer. He remarked that, officially, their season runs from September to the end of March. However, they tend not to start until the leaf is off which is happening later and later these days, it used to be in October but is now the second week in November.

I'm well trained by the birds in our garden, blackbirds call/beg noisily for mealworms, collared doves peck on our bathroom window in the early mornings and dozens of house sparrows crowd the apple tree during the refilling of bird feeders.



Dunnocks, also known as hedge sparrows, are shier and only emerge as I leave. Whilst feeding on the ground dunnocks flick their tails rapidly, earning the nickname "shuffle-wing". Both males and females are streaky brown with grey necks and breasts. Countryfolk used to hang strings of dunnock eggs across their hearth to discourage unpleasant spirits.

Two robins hop towards the birdfood bin just in front of me, chirruping. Their typical lifespan is a mere two years but thankfully robins breed successfully and the UK has a thriving population of over 7 million. They are ancient birds, fossil evidence has been found from 120,000 years ago.



Males fiercely defend their territory all year round and in the breeding season, sing from an hour before dawn to half an hour after sunset. It is alleged their red breasts are the result of this small bird perching on Christ's shoulder, singing a consoling melody, whilst trying to pull thorns from the crown that pierced his brow.

Wildlife sightings:

Dafila Scott emailed the following sightings:

26 Nov. 'for the last week we have been seeing golden plover together with the lapwings out on Burwell Fen. It is so lovely to see them especially when they take flight and look golden against a dark cloud.

There are lots of ducks on the second pool and we also saw a barn owl today. There seems to be a big black-headed gull roost on the second pool, as they were pouring in just before sunset today. Last week we also watched a murmuration of starlings which ended up in a reed bed on Burwell Fen.

16 Dec. Burwell Fen - Just thought I'd tell you that this afternoon we saw probably 150 or more whooper swans flying into the wetland (couldn't count once they had landed because the reeds were in the way and we didn't have time to walk further). We also saw a small starling murmuration and a marsh harrier, as well as several flocks of lapwings and a small flock of golden plovers - altogether a fabulous sight!

I just wanted to tell you that we went for a walk round Burwell Fen yesterday and as we were walking north along the lode bank with the wetland on our right, a group of four swans flew overhead. Initially I thought they were Whoopers as they were calling but then I realised the call was too high pitched for Whoopers so I looked at them with binoculars and sure enough, they were Bewicks! They were heading east to west and looked like they were going somewhere - maybe Slimbridge?! Who knows. Anyway it made my day'!

27 Dec. Barn owl, with noticeably pale plumage, on Burwell Fen.

7 Jan 2021 - we just saw another five Bewick swans flying over Burwell Fen and as we walked round the far side, seventy Whoopers came in and landed on the second pool, lit beautifully by the low sun!

11 Jan. Penny Greenhill emailed 'we walked up to Church Hill a couple of days ago and saw 100 or more fieldfares feeding on the sloes and haws - indeed they had virtually stripped the hedgerows in the couple of weeks since we had walked there. The snowdrops are out!

Our poor chickens are still locked up - a legal requirement due to the avian flu outbreak. The girls are not happy so egg production is down. The kestrel is still roosting in the owl hole which Ron made in the apex of our roof when he converted the barn.

The kestrel must clean his nest out every morning as we have to clear up his pellets from the path. He is pretty elusive though, we wish we saw more of him'.

17 Jan. Hilary emailed 'Pair of ravens flew over Slades Farm and Bulbeck Lode. Identified by their call'.

Nick Acklam's nature notes:

22 and 27 November and 6 December: Large mobile flocks of Redwing and Fieldfare in the high hawthorn hedges of Straight Dove. On the newly ploughed peat soil field to the north of Tubney Fen there are two separate groups of Lapwing, numbering around 60 birds. The sunlight picks out the white of their plumage.

26 November: Robins calling out territories from the top of shrubs along Great Lane/Barston Drove. Five birds in all, four of them regularly spaced about 30 metres apart.

2 December: We disturb four Wigeon from the cattle pond on Tubney

9 December: Bright plumage on a dull day. Three Jays invade our garden for a brief period. Later a Kingfisher flies out of bankside scrub on the catchwater and travels northwards, low over the lode until out of sight.

12 December: A Buzzard drops from its perch on a fence post on the edge of the deep ditch that crosses Tubney Fen. It glides out of site, concealed by the banks of ditch, emerging to perch on a post some 20 metres further along. I have observed this behaviour before but remain unsure whether it confers some advantage to the bird.

16 December: Great Tits are very audible in the willows of the Hythe.

20 December: Black Headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Shovelers present in large numbers on Burwell Mere. In the far distance the welcome site of four adult Whooper Swans and two juveniles.
24 December: Four Cormorant take flight from the Lode. Their numbers seem to be increasing in our neighbourhood.

31 December: Nine Roe deer are scattered across the pastures of Hurdle Hall.

1 January: Two Mistle Thrush occupy our holly tree for half an hour, ejecting our resident Blackbirds and emerging to challenge a Jay which perched nearby.

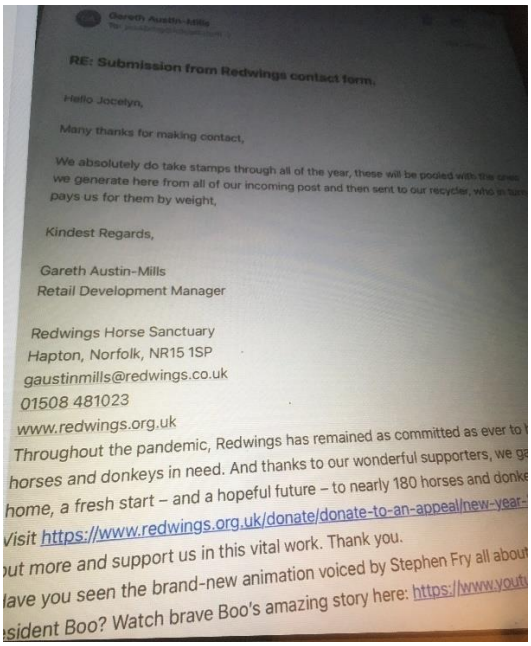
3 and 11 January: At sunrise 40 or so Whooper Swans fly west from Burwell Fen and settle on the arable fields north of Headlake Drove. The sun illuminates the birds' plumage in contrast to the near black soil. What a pleasure to see! In the afternoon a mixed flock of a dozen Long-tailed and Blue Tits visit our feeder.

14 January: Wigeon and a few Redshank rest up in the flooded field (Old Bar) next to Tubney Mere. Very hard to count as they are hidden among upstanding vegetation but perhaps 20 or so ducks.

15 January: Michael Allen has recovered a dead grass snake from the picnic area by the cycle bridge. It is 35 inches from head to tail but quite thin. Michael and I remark on the jewel-like colouring which is sadly beginning to fade.



And finally, an appeal from **Redwings Equine Charity.**


RE: Submission from Redwings contact form.

Hello Jocelyn,

Many thanks for making contact,

We absolutely do take stamps through all of the year, these will be pooled with the ones we generate here from all of our incoming post and then sent to our recycler, who in turn pays us for them by weight,

Kindest Regards,

Gareth Austin-Mills
Retail Development Manager

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01508 481023
www.redwings.org.uk

Throughout the pandemic, Redwings has remained as committed as ever to
horses and donkeys in need. And thanks to our wonderful supporters, we ga
home, a fresh start – and a hopeful future – to nearly 180 horses and donke
Visit https://www.redwings.org.uk/donate/donate-to-an-appeal/new-year-
out more and support us in this vital work. Thank you.
lave you seen the brand-new animation voiced by Stephen Fry all about
sident Boo? Watch brave Boo's amazing story here: https://www.youtu

Could Reach villagers possibly save their used stamps for the Redwings Horse Sanctuary please? The simple task of tearing them off incoming mail will benefit sick and neglected equines. I wish I'd been more aware of the monetary value to a charity before peoples' Christmas cards started to arrive!

I have left a labelled swing bin just inside the entrance to our garage at 6 Great Lane, please drop them in there and I'll forward to Redwings. There is hand sanitiser nearby if required. Thank you very much to those who have already put some in.

Joss Goodchild

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



No. Stop, stop. It's all too much…..

I'm sitting here looking at my landscape images and with some of them it's too much. Way too much, even for me. What am I on about?

Not enough fresh air? Too much of the same four walls... Well yes, but mainly, I am on about too much clutter in my images. What were you thinking?

Okay, so I've spoken at length in the past about creating striking and visually unique images to make your images standout and that's all well and good but it's also really easy to include way too much detail and visual texture. It really can be said that less is more.

This is especially true with landscape photography.

The trick is knowing when too much really is too much. If it's a landscape image for example how do you know if there are too many trees, too much water, too many clouds?

All I do know is that the ability to determine "what is too much" in an image is one of the hardest elements of photography to master. And it's not just physical items in the frame, it also applies to post development items like contrast, colour or saturation. It's something that I know about, but I'm not 100% sure I've mastered it.

Looking around at all sorts of images, not just my own (with most of last year in lockdown and being on the internet, it was either online photographic galleries or Dr Who video's on YouTube and my wife has already put me on a final warning about those…), I think I've worked out a method to help me de-clutter my images and create a more calming and pleasing set of images.

Keep Your Subjects Clean

Whatever you are taking an image of, make sure that whoever then views your picture is in no doubt about what it is you are trying to show in your photograph and the story you wish to tell.

Cut down on Scene Padding

Try and keep you subjects in the frame simple. If it's a landscape of a tree, keep the tree clutter free to allow everyone to concentrate on the tree. Don't fill the frame with other information such as clouds, mountains and a water feature, all of which your image of the tree really does not need. It's a great tree.

Bounce Factor

Does your image visually let the viewers eyes flow around the shot as you desire, or are there items in the shot which makes people's viewing bounce from object to object and get lost in the image??

Edge Patrol

Before you take the photograph, take a few moments to walk your eyes around all the edges of the frame to see if there are any elements that are distracting your viewers' eyes from the centre or the subject of your photo to the edge. Can you re-frame your shot? Can you move the camera or is it possible to crop, clone and edit these distractions afterwards when you are at home back in the warm? With a cup of tea.

All Distractions Count

Try and keep items from creeping into your shots which will detract from your image and the story you're telling. Think about items such as rubbish on the ground, people wandering into shot, and roaming animals.

Now, I've no idea if these will work for our images, yours and mine, but this is 2021 and I don't think we should all rush into the new year and scare it. So this year, I'm taking it nice and simple with my images and seeing if the mantra of "less is more" really does work and so far I think it is. Creatively this year is going to be better. More ambitious. It has to, the cat told me she no longer wants to take part in anymore "lockdown photo shoots".

To creatively hone your photographic skills and talk to like-minded people about all thing's photography, why not join your local camera club. Even during these trying times, the Burwell and Bottisham photographic club are still meeting every Tuesday electronically and if you fancy joining us and why would you not, then please do visit either our club website at https://bottburpc.org or our Facebook page.

Until next time, thank you for reading, stay safe and happy snapping.

Elliot Needham
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club.

Burwell Museum Coach Trips



We look forward to being able to plan our travels for 2021!

Barbara Turner

Anglesey Abbey



Anglesey Abbey is a Jacobean-style house with gardens and a working watermill.

A passion for tradition and impressing guests inspired one man to transform a run-down country house and desolate landscape.

At the age of 30, the future Lord Fairhaven began to create his first home. Wanting to inspire and surprise visitors, he created a spectacular garden with planting for all seasons and a cosy house in which to entertain. Life revolved around horse racing and shooting and guests enjoyed 1930's luxury.

Inside there are fine furnishings, books, paintings, silver and rare clocks give a feeling of opulence.



Our gardens remain open for local people to exercise. Safety of staff, volunteers and visitors from the nearby community remain our priority. You will need to book your visit in advance. Check What's On for the latest information and to book. You may be turned away if you arrive without a booking. Last entry is at 3pm. Car park gates will be locked at 4.15pm. The Shop, Plant Centre, Redwoods Restaurant and Hoe Fen Play Area are currently closed.

Kayley Wilcockson

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

Wicken Fen



Image courtesy of Ajay Tegala

Looking through last year's copy for various local magazines, it is apparent just how quickly articles and information given in confidence became irrelevant and incorrect. None of us can predict with any certainty how long the current state of affairs will last, so all I can offer here is what the situation is today.

The January lockdown announcement meant that we were required to close the walks on Sedge Fen (including the Boardwalk and Woodland Walk). Booking for visiting Wicken Fen is therefore suspended. Our café is also closed at this time, as well as the Visitor Centre and shop. However, all the walking and cycling routes on the wider reserve are still open for local exercise; our car park is open 9am to 4.45pm (last entry 4pm).

Access to our wider reserve areas, on foot or bike from the village, is preferable and ideal for enjoying seeing the wildlife out on Tubney and Burwell Fens. Keep an eye on our website and social media for changes with regard to admission onto Sedge Fen, when the situation eases www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve.

What doesn't pause, however, is our conservation work, including the daily checking of our grazing animals and fulfilling other requirements to manage the reserve for the benefit of both wildlife and people. And there is already new life out on Burwell Fen, with our first highland calf of the year born on 3rd January. The rangers have yet to come up with a naming scheme for the grazing animals this year – 2020 was distinctly Shakespearean for the cattle – so he is still just known as 'Anna-belle's new one' at the moment!

Julia Hammond

Burwell Museum



2020 was a very odd year due to the coronavirus crisis. The museum was shut completely from March 2020, opening again for volunteers in June and to the public, with very limited opening hours, in August.

Many volunteers have had to stay away from the museum to protect their own health or that of their families and we are grateful to them for their continued support from a distance. We are also grateful to those volunteers who have continued to maintain the museum and mill and the trustees who have made some difficult decisions.

We had 867 visitors, a long way down from 3,486 in 2019 and 3,814 in 2018 as would be expected given that we were unable to run for most of the year. No formal evaluation was carried out, but visitors were overwhelmingly positive about the fact that we were open and happy with the limited service we were offering. We would like to thank everyone who supported the museum in 2020, either by actually visiting or from a distance - it's made a real difference and we hope to be able to welcome you safely in 2021!

Over the winter we hope to improve access to the windmill by building a new path (many thanks to the Co-op and to John Lewis for the funding for this) and add a new shed on site to help our site maintenance volunteers. Of course, all of this depends on how restrictions change! We are still planning to reopen on Easter Sunday 4th April, if it's safe to do so, with measures taken in accordance with whatever the rules are at the time.

Alison Giles

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

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue

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PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

Distraction is one of the biggest causes of fires in the home - most of which start in the kitchen.

You lock your door when you leave the house, but do you unplug your chargers?

You turn off your oven when you aren't using it but do you regularly ensure there isn't a fat build up in your oven, hob and grill?

A simple fire safety check list can help you avoid an unnecessary fire in your home - Simple tips, simply STOP the chance of a fire.

- **NEVER overload sockets:** Multi-socket adapters, often used in homes to provide more plug sockets quickly and easily, are particularly popular during the winter period when people are more likely to plug in heating devices, lights and other items. If used incorrectly however, these can be very dangerous and cause an electrical fire through overloading the socket. 'One appliance, one socket' is the safest approach to avoid any danger of fire in your home.
- **Switch off, Turn off:** If it isn't meant to be left on (like fridges, freezers) switch it off and turn it off at the plug when it isn't in use.
- **Charge safely:** Only use electrical charging devices for the purpose they were intended and avoid purchasing counterfeit, cheap charging devices for electrical items and always keep leads away from cookers and hobs.
- **Fat-Free, Fire-Free:** Fat can build up slowly over time through regular use of kitchen devices and as it does it increases the chance of a fire when cooking. Ensure you regularly maintain hobs, grills and ovens and keep then clear from fat build up and safer from fire.
- **Distraction causes fires:** over 50% of fires in the kitchen are caused by distraction - pay attention and avoid cooking if under the influence of alcohol or medication or feeling tired.

For more information log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk, follow us on social media or call 01480 444500. Please do not reply directly to this email. If you wish to get in contact, please email: pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk.

When Reach was the Cycling Hub of East Anglia

My first introduction to Reach was in the late 1960s and early 1970s when, in April and May each year some of the country's top cyclists would head for Burwell and Reach for two major cycle races. Being a member of the organising club, Mildenhall Cycling Club, I would be tasked with marshalling duties including at junctions on Fair Green.

The first race, the 75 mile Tour of the Fens, was based at the cricket club pavilion in Reach Road, Burwell and took in a course to Fordham, Soham and Wicken before turning into the narrow and pot-holed "droves" through Upware before emerging at Swaffham Prior. Having completed this circuit a few times, riders then did laps of the smaller, finishing circuit of Burwell, Reach and Swaffham Prior before the race finished on Reach Road somewhere near where the Amtrac business has since been built.

Being held in April, the weather was notoriously bad, and the race was regarded as a survival of the fittest as the winds blowing across the Fens took its toll on riders' early season fitness. This did not deter many top riders travelling to the area for the race and the participants included many that went on to represent Great Britain in international events including the Olympics.

In the 1970's, a new cycle race arrived in the guise of the Reach Fair Road Race. Records show that the race was held annually from at least 1971 to 1978, again organised by Mildenhall Cycling Club. Sponsored by a local car hire company, Willhire, the race was held on the Sunday of the Fair weekend and would involve competitors completing ten laps of a circuit from Reach to Swaffham Prior to Burwell and back to Reach. The two photos (right) show the sprint for the finish line located on Swaffham Road and competitors passing along Swaffham Road. The warmer weather, shorter race distance and better roads attracted larger fields and many spectators as the riders passed every 10-15 minutes.

Alas, the increase in traffic on the roads meant that it was becoming more difficult to ensure the safety of riders in both races and they did not continue. But the memory lives on amongst the older riders of two markedly different but enjoyable cycle races focused on Reach. For me, my experiences in marshalling the races helped put me on the track to eventually becoming an international cycle race referee.

After all this time I am now pleased to be back in Reach supporting the Parish Council in the preparation of your Neighbourhood Plan. Things have changed a lot in 50 years but it's good to see that the unique character of the village remains.





Ian Poole

Places4People Planning Consultancy

THE CLARKS IN ICELAND!



This is an account of a trip that took place in August 2019, when Covid 19 was still a twinkle in a pangolin's eye and we were still allowed to travel beyond Upware for exercise.

The first clue as to the climate of Iceland was revealed in the small print of the insurance policy for our hire car. There was an exclusion clause for the doors being blown off by the wind. Sure enough, when we reached our guest house on the southern side of the Snaefellnes peninsula on the western coast, the car was rocking on its springs and we opened the doors as shyly as dormice venturing into the sunshine after hibernation. Given that our guest house seemed to be constricted from a dozen or so mobile homes bolted together I was half expecting to wake up halfway through the night bobbing up and down in the North Atlantic.

The wind didn't stop me, however, from clambering up the mountain at the back of the building. On the way up my woolly hat disappeared to kingdom come and I was crawling by the time I reached the top. Yet as I walked along a ridge, away from the sea, the wind seemed to drop a little. Back down at the guest house, however, it was still raging just as strongly. If this what it was like on the leeward side of the peninsula, how much stronger must the northerly wind be blowing on the other side, which is exactly where I wanted to go climbing the next day?



Kirkjufell

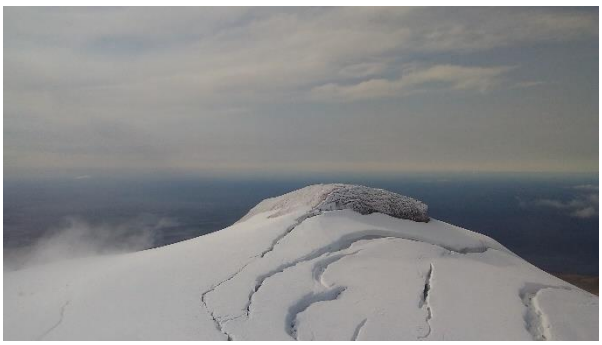
I hadn't known about Kirkjufell until about a week before we travelled. Apparently, it features in something called Game of Thrones, as "Arrowhead Mountain", but of course I'd never seen it. One morning, though, the mountain's striking form popped up on my Windows 10 home page and, to my delight, I realised it was near where we were staying. Using some clever computer-generated imagery, the Game of Thrones people jack up the mountain to make it look as if it is the loftiest peak in a vast mountain range.

In fact, it rises straight from the sea and is dwarfed by the mountains behind it. At 463 metres it is not even that high – a tiddler, but perfectly-formed. It is also a lot easier to climb that it looks. A zig zag path takes you up through a series of terraces. There are three short roped sections – with some rather frayed-looking permanent ropes I wanted to give a very firm yank before trusting my own weight. The last roped section took me straight to the summit ridge. The Slovakian waiter who arrived just as I was coming down was the only other human I was to meet in four days of mountain walking.

Drunk on the view, I hardly noticed that the wind had died away. Yet back at the guest house – still on the leeward side of the mountains, it was raging again. Thanks to the wonder that is the internet I was able to look up this weird phenomenon and found a paper by a meteorologist at the University of Reykjavik, describing Snaefelnes as the perfect location for the phenomenon known as a 'downslope windstorm' – where a mass of cold air from the north rushes down the warmer, southerly slopes, accelerating as it falls. Paradoxically, the wind is at its strongest just where you think you would be most sheltered: right at the bottom of the leeward slope.

Leaving Mrs Clark to dangle her toes in a naturally-heated swimming pool, the next day I took on my first volcano, albeit one which has not erupted for nearly 2000 years. Snaefellsjokull was the peak from which Jules Verne imagined descending to the centre of the Earth – although he never actually visited the mountain.

It isn't steep and it isn't vast, at 1446 metres it is only 100 metres higher than Ben Nevis. But being up near the Arctic Circle it receives more snowfall each winter than tends to melt in the summer, with the result that it has retained an ice cap – a 'jokull' in Icelandic. You really don't want to fall down one of the many crevasses; easy to do when the snow forms weak bridges across them. But in high summer Snaefellsjokull is bare ice, making it rather safer to navigate the crevasse fields, even if it can become a bit of a maze.



View from Snaefelljokull's Summit

After a long plod through the mist a high rock tower appeared in front of me – the remains of the volcanic plug. The magma spewed out of the mountain in its last eruption, in around AD 200, solidified as it cooled.

Being harder than the surrounding rock, it hasn't eroded as fast, leaving a tower a hundred foot or so high. It is easier to climb if you go around the back where there is a slope of very hard snow, of which my crampons and ice axe made light work. With just one awkward move near the top I was sitting at the summit – well-timed as the cloud lifted off and I was able see the whole peninsula laid out beneath me.

A couple of days later, I tackled Hekla, Iceland's most active volcano, which erupted in 1970, 1980/81, 1991, 2000 and ….. well, like Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, they say there will be about 45 minutes' warning before it goes off next time. That's not quite enough time to get down and off it if you are standing at the top, but maybe it gives you a sporting chance. Hekla is 50 metres higher than Snaefellsjokull, but there is no ice cap, just a couple of puny glaciers. That is partly a result of lower rainfall and partly a result of it being covered with hot ash every so often. Even when it has cooled down it is pretty hard-going; it is like trying to climb an enormous pile of coal.

But before that, I had to get there. Most people climb from the north, but I didn't want to chance my little Toyota on the unmade road to that side of the mountain and so embarked on a longer route from the south, which first involved crossing four miles of lava field. That is easier than it sounds as the lava is covered with a thick green carpet of soft lichen. But it still pretty tedious continuously descending into chasms half a dozen feet deep. Eventually, the lava died out and gave way to ash, where it became two steps forward, followed by sliding one step backwards.

I reached a small ridge and thought I might be at the top, only to find myself peering 50 foot down into one of Hekla's craters. I don't know what happens when it starts to erupt, but there was not a lot happening down there; not even a whisp of smoke.



View from Hekla

There wasn't a trace of vegetation on the mile and a half plod through thick mist to the real top. There was nothing to mark the summit either, except a probe sunk into the ground and a wire which I imagined must lead off to some geologist's lab at the University of Reykjavik and to sound an alarm when anything interesting happens.

I carried on northwards to find a different way off the mountain, although turned westwards a little too soon and found way obstructed by a small glacier. I cut some steps with my ice axe and clambered onto it.

The rest was easy enough, yet it is hard to come down Hekla without bringing a bit of the mountain down with you; the ground, with nothing to bind it together, is incredibly unstable. When the mist cleared, I could see miles to the north; unlike Iceland's southern coastal strip there was no sign of human habitation, no sign of vegetation other than lichen; just a moonscape of ash and lava.

Finally, I took on Eyjafjallajokull. You won't know how to pronounce that (it's approximately Ay-ya-fyat-la-yokutt) but you may remember seeing it written down. It is the volcano which erupted quite unexpectedly in 2010 - the first time since the mid 19th century – grounding air traffic over much of Europe. As if that didn't cause enough damage, the worry now is that the neighbouring Myrdalsjokull, which has a much larger ice cap and which has tended to erupt a few years after Eyjafjallajokull, will next go off. If it does, it is likely to cause a soup of ice, rock and ash to go slurping down the mountain, across the southern plateau and into the Atlantic, taking the coastal road and much else with it.



Eyjafjallajokull Crevace

For the first two thirds of the way up, Eyjafjallajokull is like any one of numerous mountains in the Scottish highlands, dark, moody and damp. Then you get to the edge of the jokull. If you are thinking of a glacier being clear and blue like, well, a Fox's glacier mint, the reality is much dirtier. In places, it was covered with piles of ash left over from the 2010 eruption, beneath which the ice had been condensed into the hardest ice I have ever come across. My crampons could just about find a grip; even bashing it with an ice axe hardly made an impression. The crevasses, too, were deeper and more menacing that on the previous climb.

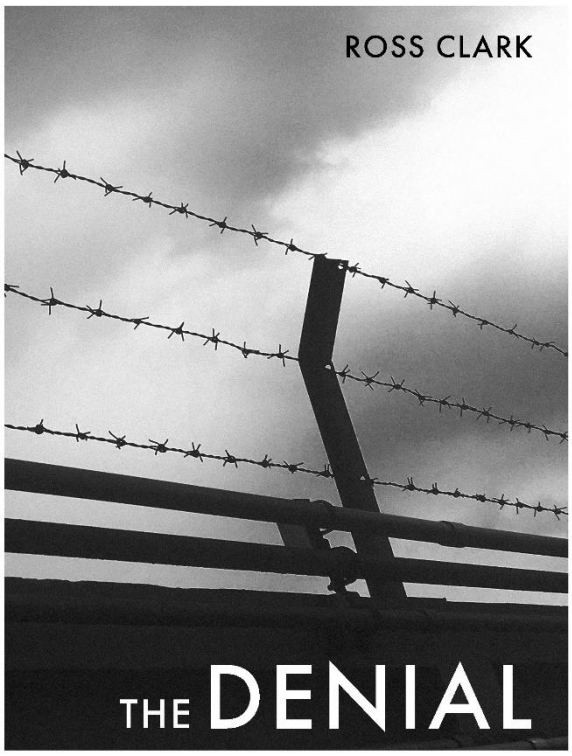
It took me several reversals before I could find my way up to a small rocky outcrop. I had lost time and was thinking of abandoning hope of reaching the summit, but when I made it to the next outcrop I realised I must be at the top; there was nothing in front of me but a vast depression of snow and ice. After 40 minutes shuffling backwards and forwards to keep warm, the mist lifted off to confirm I really was at the top. I had conquered the mountain that defeated Europe's airline industry. Funny to think of thousands of frustrated travellers fiddling on their phones in departure lounges across the continent all because of a fountain of ash spewing out of the now-inert crater below me.

Ross Clark



Krysia

THE DENIAL – BOOK REVIEW



Take a flight of fancy. Imagine, if you will, that you have a personal carbon allowance and that you have to report your actual use to a Committee and must pay heavily if you exceed that allowance. Imagine, too, that there are few flights and motor cars. Imagine, again, that because you have not filled out a questionnaire on your social awareness and commitment you are unable to book into a hotel or make any purchases in the shops because your debit card is blocked. Add into the mix that youth has risen up and demanded a major say in both Government and the courts on the ground that is they who will be most affected by climate change.

It is to this preposterous World that Ross takes us in this entertaining satire. It focuses on a meteorologist who predicts a storm but whose explanation of this leads to the revelation that he had pursued a career in the oil industry for which he is held criminally liable and eventually sent to prison.

But read this book. You may (or may not) conclude that the hitherto unimaginable limitations which we have been prepared to accept now to try to keep Covid at bay make more probable the restrictions which Ross has imagined as the implications of climate change bite more deeply into our consciousness.

Philip Lewis

Denial can be purchased online from Amazon

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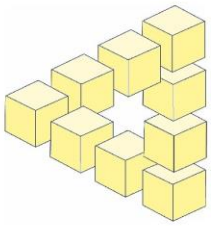

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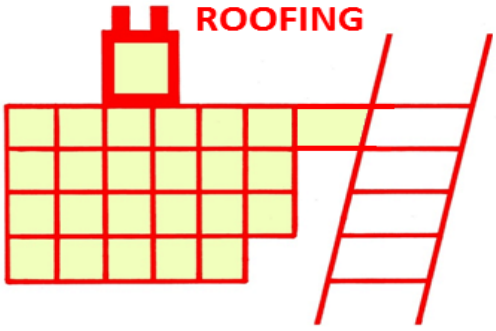

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Escaping Covid – at the America's Cup

I have two delightful daughters. Jenny, with husband Richie and kids Will, Em and Nat, is in Berkhamsted - tier 4, lockdown, home teaching, the works – and its winter.

My other daughter Rachel, with husband Matt and kids Ols and Els, has been in Auckland, New Zealand since September – tier 0, everywhere open, kids at school, do what you want when you want, no tourists to get in the way – and its midsummer.

They are there because Matt is the Chief Financial Officer of the British America's Cup Team and the 36th such event is currently taking place in Auckland.

Having suffered the initial 14 days quarantine that NZ insists upon (they were taken off the plane and bused for 2 hours to Rotorua where they were locked in an Ibis for the whole period), everything has been fine so far – holiday-wise for Rachel and the kids anyway.



New Zealand is beautiful and they have explored lots of North Island and once the racing has finished at the end of March, the plan is they will head to South Island which is said to be even more special.

But back to the reason they are all there . . . .

The America's Cup

The America's Cup is the pinnacle of yachting and was first contested in 1851, making it the oldest trophy in international sport, predating the modern Olympic Games by 45 years. The trophy's dates back to when a syndicate of businessmen from New York sailed the schooner America across the Atlantic Ocean for the World's Fair in England. The schooner won a race around the Isle of Wight against a fleet of British yachts to claim the £100 Cup.



From there, the United States embarked on what would become the longest winning streak in the history of any sport. A 132 year stretch saw boats representing the country successfully defend the trophy 24 times from 1870 through 1980, until 1983, when Australia II became the first successful challenger to lift the trophy from the Americans. The UK has never won the trophy.

Throughout its history, the America's Cup has enchanted leaders of industry and royalty from tea merchant Sir Thomas Lipton, to brewing and real estate mogul Alan Bond, aviation pioneer Sir T.O.M. Sopwith, the Aga Khan, media mogul Ted Turner and Harold S. Vanderbilt. This year the major sponsor for the UK challenge is Jim Ratcliffe who is the Chairman and CEO of chemicals giant Ineos, reputed to be an $80Bn company.

The winners in 2017 in Bermuda, were the New Zealanders, hence the current event taking place in Aukland. It also means that New Zealand got to choose the specification of the racing boats and they have gone for foiling monohulls. If you look at the picture on the left-hand page you'll get an idea on what they are all about. Put simply, these boats are designed to fly, with just one of the foils (there are 2, one each side) and the rudder being in the water at any time. This design can result in speeds of over 50 knots (57 mph) even when wind speeds are in single digits.

The basis of the competition is that three teams (Italy, UK and the USA) initially compete in an event called the Prada Cup and this is happening at time of writing. The winner of this becomes the Challenger and will take on the current Champions, New Zealand, in the America's Cup, starting on Saturday March 6th.

But before Christmas, all 4 teams competed in a practice competition (there would normally have been regattas in Europe and the USA during 2020 to allow teams to optimise and test the reliability of their boats but due to Covid these didn't happen). This event was an unmitigated disaster for the UK boat Britannia – we didn't win any of the races we took part in and were seen to have no chance at all in the upcoming Prada Cup.

The big issue was that whilst these foiling monohulls can go superfast, they have to be up on their foils to achieve these speeds and the UK boat struggled to do this – and when it did, it struggled to stay on them. When the hulls are actually in the water the speeds achievable are dramatically reduced.



Ben Ainsley

In the period from Christmas to January 15th the UK Team, led by Sir Ben Ainsley, worked around the clock to make the necessary changes to Britannia with help also given by the Mercedes F1 team boss Toto Wolff. The performance improvement was dramatic. Ineos has won all its races since, putting them straight into the final of the Prada Cup, whilst the Italians and the USA have to fight it out for the other place in the final.

It's been an exciting competition so far with the most scary moment being when in strong winds, the USA boat Patriot capsized. A freak gust of wind took the boat into the air and a piece of equipment smashed its way through the hull (all the sailors were uninjured).



I'll let you know the result of it all in the next issue of the magazine – in the meantime you can watch it on Sky or for free at www.ineosteamuk.com. Auckland is 13 hours ahead of us, so a 3pm NZ time start means 2am here – but it's worth it!

David Parr

Neighbourhood Watch

Reporting non-urgent incidents to the police, or indeed other authorities, has often been a little tedious in times past and can also appear unrewarding. However, it is an important aspect of our role as being the "eyes and ears of the police". I must admit that I have not had occasion in recent months to use 101, so I cannot say whether it is more responsive than in times past, but I have used the online reporting web site a couple of times and found it to be a quick and easy way to report non-urgent items and in each case, I received feedback on the action taken.

Under-reporting occurs when community members either do not know how to report or believe it is not worth the time spent but without our local intelligence, the police cannot respond effectively to what's going on.

Local policing teams use the intelligence that comes from reporting to identify trends, crime 'hot spots' to help influence where police resources need to be allocated. Areas where under-reporting is high, risk not receiving the police resources they need to keep communities feeling safe.

Over the last couple of years, the Constabulary has updated the way in which people can report crimes with a range of options:

1. Dial 101;
2. Fill out a report online at: www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime;
3. Use the webchat function at: www.cambs.police.uk.

While you may not receive a direct police response to your report, the information you provide will give the police a clearer picture of the resources your community requires and most importantly, a seeming small piece of information could be providing the police with the final jigsaw piece to secure arrests.

Stay safe and keep well

Kevin

Kevin Evans
Secretary - East Cambs Neighbourhood Watch
01353 614892

Tales from a Reach Garden



Another year, another lockdown against the spread of Coronavirus. This one feels worse than last year's lockdowns if only because of the very wet weather we've had. The soil is saturated and the lawn is very soft underfoot.

It isn't a good idea to walk on your lawn in a soggy winter, as it is quite a quick way of spreading grass fungal diseases and squishing any aeration that was carried out in autumn. However, there are signs that spring is on its way. The snowdrops and winter aconites are in bloom and the hellebores surprised me as they have started flowering in my garden too.



Hellebore blooming on a rare sunny day in January

It is a good time to prune apple and pear trees, to remove crossed and diseased branches. I try to do this on a dry day if possible! If, like us, you had an apple tree almost "groaning" under the weight of fruit last autumn, it may be a good time to shorten some of the longer branches which had been touching the ground.

Blackcurrant bushes can also be thinned out now to remove the oldest wood, anything older than 4 years is likely to be a poor cropper. Autumn fruiting raspberry canes should be cut down close to the ground some time before March. In spring, all fruiting trees and bushes can be fed with a general fertilizer, watered and mulched.

I also water soft fruit with a potassium-rich fertilizer (e.g. a tomato fertilizer) when the fruits are first formed, it helps them to swell.

At this time of the year, I'm planning what to grow in the vegetable garden and where. If you intend to grow aubergines or chilli peppers, now is an excellent time to sow the seeds in compost in small pots. They both need more time and warmth to germinate than tomatoes or peppers. This year I'm planning to grow "Padron" chilli peppers, which we managed to grow successfully in previous years. I first came across these little chilli peppers in a Tapas bar (in London) where they had been griddled whole and salted. They're very tasty and seem quite mild at first, but you soon realise that some are much hotter than others. You have no way of knowing which are hot and which are mild just by looking at them, which I suppose is part of the fun! However, if they are longer than 5 cm, they are definitely spicy…

I came across the seeds for Padron peppers in a local plant nursery and decided to give them a go and discovered that they are very easy to grow and they are prolific, more so than other peppers or chillies. This makes them very rewarding plants to grow. I use a tomato fertilizer when watering to keep them producing more flowers and to encourage the little peppers to swell.

The plants also need some staking because they will grow up to 1.5m (4 - 5 ft) tall. If I could guarantee a warm, dry summer, I would grow them outdoors. However, if you can't find a sunny, sheltered spot and protect them in a cold, damp summer, then they'll need a greenhouse or polytunnel but you may have to pollinate the flowers with a soft brush if pollinating insects are shy. Once pollinated the peppers grow quite quickly in warm weather and should be picked when they're about 2 to 3cm long (about an inch). Take them to the kitchen, brush them with olive oil and griddle or fry them whole until the flesh softens and the skins start to blacken, add a bit of salt and eat all but the stalks. Keep a glass of water or a pot of yogurt handy – just in case…



Padron peppers – the bigger one is ready to be picked

Danuta Gibson

Food Focus

Frittata ideas



Our poor chickens are suffering far more than us with their equivalent lockdown. They have now been in a covered run for more than 5 weeks following government advice to try and limit the spread of avian flu.

Their run is a quagmire and for the first time in I don't know how many years of chicken keeping, a rat ran brazenly past me. When I return from mucking them out to our relatively warm and clean, but fortunately dry house, I feel immensely grateful that I'm not a chicken.

The hens are struggling to keep themselves clean as they wade about in often frozen mud and I'm convinced they are yearning to peck and flutter in the open green that surrounds them. A certain amount of persuading myself that they aren't deep thinkers helps, we can but hope that this is the case in the face of this adversity. Somewhat nobly they are still laying – does that mean they fear the end is nigh or that they have adjusted well to the circumstances?

As a consequence of our chickens' prolific activity, eggs are featuring on the menu a lot in our house. Egg sandwiches, boiled eggs, poached eggs, scrambled eggs, egg fried rice, eggy bread, baked eggs, omelettes, kedgeree and for meat free Monday, often frittata.

I'm sure this recipe isn't original but this is the one that I find is easiest and most delicious hot with salad for supper and then cold the next few days for lunch.

Fry a large onion until soft, but not brown in oil in a skillet or large frying pan which can go in the oven. Add a clove or two of garlic chopped when the onion is nearly soft and sweet. Add a teaspoon of turmeric and fry for a few minutes before adding a layer of cooked and sliced potatoes on top. Take the pan off the heat, then add any vegetables that you think will go. I use frozen peas and broad beans, a handful of spinach or swiss chard, steamed broccoli or cauliflower, cabbage, leeks.

Break 6 or 7 eggs into a bowl and whisk with a largish handful of grated cheddar. Without too much cheese this addition somehow adds a salty depth of flavour without the dish actually tasting of cheese – which is what you are aiming for. Pop in the oven until just set all through. Serve with a green salad or coleslaw and ideally a salsa verde or chimichurri dressing.
In case you don't like my idea I thought I'd furnish you with a few other ideas from Nigel Slater – one of my favourite chefs.

Goats cheese frittata



4 large free range eggs
1 TBS fresh thyme leaves
a few basil leaves, torn
50g of butter (3 1/2 TBS)
100g of baby spinach leaves (a large handful)
150g of goats' cheese, sliced (It helps if the cheese is very cold and the knife is very sharp)
1 tsp chopped fresh rosemary
Fine sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Break the eggs into a bowl and whisk together well with a fork. Season very well with salt and pepper. Add the thyme and basil leaves, reserving a few thyme leaves to garnish. Heat an overhead grill. Melt the butter in an 8 inch round non-stick skillet over medium heat. Add the spinach and toss and turn with tongs until wilted. Add to the eggs in the bowl. There should still be a goodly amount of butter in the pan. When it is sizzling add the egg mixture. Lay the sliced goats' cheese over the top and sprinkle with the rosemary. Cook over low to moderate heat for 5 to 6 minutes, until almost set through. Pop the pan under the grill until golden on top. Scatter with the reserved thyme leaves and serve.

The next one is seasonal – hence the inclusion, but I haven't tried it.

Spiced Root Fritatta

Peel and grate 250g (total weight) of mixed root vegetables such as parsnip, beetroot and carrot. Peel, then finely shred a small onion and add to the grated roots. Stir in a tablespoon of plain flour, half a teaspoon each of ground cardamom, cumin and coriander, a pinch of dried chilli flakes and half a teaspoon of black mustard seeds. Mix in half a can of chopped tomatoes, drained. Lightly beat 4 eggs and add those too.

Warm a thin pool of butter in a 20cm shallow non-stick pan, then add the egg and tomato mixture, cook till a golden crust has formed on the base but the top is still quite liquid in the centre, then place under a preheated overhead grill and cook for 2 minutes or so until lightly set.

Catherine Gibson

Letter from the Vicarage



The New Year began with glimmers of hope from the rollout of the two main vaccines, but almost a year on since the first lockdown, the massive impact of the Covid-19 virus is being felt more than ever, with higher infection rates prompting further lockdown measures.

For the time being, whilst churches are legally allowed to remain open for services during the current lockdown, with the PCC, we have concluded that the right decision for the time being is not to hold services in church on Sundays, but we will be continuing our Sunday services online. We need to take into consideration the high local rate of infection and to take seriously our responsibility to care not only for our congregations, but also our clergy and volunteers.

We will keep this under review, as the situation develops over the next few weeks. Over the next few months, we hope and pray that the vaccination programme will bring an eventual end to this terrible pandemic. It's going to take time, as those who are most vulnerable receive their jabs first and the need to care for and protect each other will continue. But, even in these dark days, there is hope.

Lent begins this year on Wednesday 17th February. Last year's Lent was described on social media as: 'the Lentiest Lent ever', as it coincided with all the restrictions of the first lockdown. I wonder what Lent will be like this year. With the underlying uncertainty and anxiety and the difficulty in planning very far ahead, I've been challenged to look much harder at how I live in the moment, one day at a time and look at what is around me, what I can see, hear, smell, touch, taste, who I can connect with, what I can do, rather than what I can't, what I can be thankful for. Lent may be another opportunity to do that in a deliberate way. I'll be aiming to return to my practice of taking a photo each day during Lent and sharing some reflections and prayers on Facebook.

What about church during Lent and Easter? One thing that the pandemic has emphasised is how important our church buildings are to many, but that the church is the body of people who follow Jesus. We've learned new skills, reached out online, moved activities outdoors and it has been lovely to have new people join us.

We'll be celebrating Easter, when it comes, however it may be possible at that stage, perhaps re-imagining traditions in a new way. Contact us for more details if you'd like to join in with what we're doing.

Alongside what may be permitted in person at that time, our regular services and groups are continuing online, on Facebook and Zoom: Refresh Café on Fridays 9.30 – 10.00, Messy Gatherings on Sundays and our main Sunday service at 10am. We post regular updates on our website and Facebook pages. For those who can't access the internet, we have a church phoneline, where you can listen to audio versions of our services, for a local call charge on 01638 598958.

It's been said that we're all in the same storm, but not all in the same boat. Many have struggled with their mental health. Others have faced financial hardship. I am so grateful for the ways in which we have reached out to support each other during this time. It can be very hard to reach out for help for yourself, but please do. If it would help to chat or if we can pray for you, please get in touch, also if you need help accessing the foodbank or need other practical support.

God bless you, as we pray in faith, reach out in love, work together in hope.

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https://www.facebook.com/echoesofgracebyeleanor

UPDATE ON PLANS FOR REFURBUSHMENT OF REACH CHURCH

The preparations of the final plans for the development of Reach church, which had already been delayed by the architect preparing them being furloughed, were unfortunately delayed again due to illness at the architect's firm. They have now arrived and will be brought to the PCC very soon. Once these are finalized and approved, we hope that things will be able to move forwards quite soon, as Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Reach Church Development Group



Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Charlotte Cane	Vice Chair	741064
Nick Acklam	Councillor	743749
Cristine Fletcher	Councillor	07763 529886
David McMillan	Councillor	741259
Andrew Trump	Councillor	07980 955490
Hannah Web	Councillor	
Vacancy	Councillor	

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

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

Meetings take place, 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.



Reach Parish Council needs a new member. We are the closest tier of government to you and act as the voice of local people. Anyone on the electoral register in Reach, or very close to the village, can be a member. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm, currently using Zoom for our meetings. If you would like to talk to someone about this before deciding, please call Charlotte Cane on 01638 741064. If you would like to apply, please contact our clerk, Susan Bailey - clerk@reachparishcouncil.org.

We are also looking for volunteers for Reach Speedwatch. This would be a new group working with the Police to discourage speeding through the village. If you are interested, please email Charlotte - c.cane@reachparishcouncil.org.

Know Your District Councillors



As we write this, England is in lockdown due to Covid-19. The rules and guidance change frequently, so please check the government website for the latest rules https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus. The simple message is to avoid leaving home unless you have to, or for daily exercise and avoid contact with people who are not in your household. When you have to go out, e.g. on public transport or at shops, wear a face covering. Use the disinfectant made available while you are out and wash your hands thoroughly at home. Following these rules will help keep you and our community safe. If you need any help or advice, East Cambs has advice and links to other advice at:
https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/covid-19-information-and-support.

There is government help and voluntary help to cover most needs, so if you need help please ask John or Charlotte or follow these links.

The vaccinations are being rolled out to care homes and people who are 85 and over and will then be rolled out further. Our local vaccination centres are the Staploe Medical Centre, Soham and East Barnwell, Cambridge, with volunteer drivers to transport people to their nearest centre. This holds out hope for the future, but it is vital that we keep ourselves and others safe by staying at home as far as possible.

Some people have used lockdown to try new things. For example, if you would like to see flies in a new light you could try https://www.wildlifebcn.org/events/2021-02-17-flies-good-bad-and-ugly-john-showers-online-and-optional-outdoor.

Or for craft/design/history fusion you could try https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/make-and-do. Or go sightseeing from the comfort of your home - https://www.visitengland.com/things-do-to-at-home-bored.

At the last meeting of the Operational Services Committee:

- It was decided to support the Local Electricity Bill and to write to local MPs to ask them to support the bill.
- The grant to the Voluntary and Community Action East Cambs was renewed.
- The reports on Waste Collection and Street Cleansing showed very good performance.

At the last meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee:

- The External Audit noted some areas that required improvement, but nothing major and the report was accepted.
- The ECDC accounts for the last year were submitted and approved. There was some disquiet voiced about the further loan to East Cambs Trading Company, the Council's company for building development.
- The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was continued.
- A new trustee was appointed to East Cambs CLT which has only four members; some misgivings were voiced over the appointment of the Leader of the Council to a supposedly-community led organisation. Clarification of the purpose of this trust, its governance and its relation to Palace Green Homes and East Cambs Community Housing was sought.
- The Bus Services Review document was accepted and will be submitted to the Cambs and Peterborough Combined Authority. Besides the continuation, and augmentation, of the no. 11 bus to Cambridge, other interesting ideas such as a fast bus from Bottisham to Cambridge North, and Demand Responsive Transport to the south of the A14 were proposed.
- A CIL contribution of £750,000 to the much-needed expansion of St. Mary's Medical Practice, Ely.
- The Gender Pay report for ECDC showed that there was still a gap in pay between genders.

All Council meetings are now on Zoom and available to view retrospectively as well as being screened live, so you can see your Councillors in action. For details go to the Council website, www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

We shall be holding our next Councillor's Surgery by Zoom on Monday 15th February from 6.30 p.m. The Meeting ID is 631 542 4066, and the Passcode is 938720. If you prefer to follow a link, it will be on Charlotte's Facebook page: fb.me/charlottecanelibdem.

If you prefer to join by 'phone, you can join the meeting by dialling 0203 901 7895 and entering the meeting ID and password when prompted. If you join for the Surgery, you will be held in the waiting room if there is already someone in the meeting with us, so that any discussions with us during the Surgery remain confidential.

The Surgery will be followed by 'Meet your Councillors' on the same Zoom link and this will be a group meeting to listen to and discuss your ideas and opinions with others. The following month, our surgery will be on Wednesday 24 March at 6.30, with the same meeting ID and passcode as for the February surgery.

Charlotte Cane
charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk
01638 741064

John Trapp
john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk
01223 812120

The Dyke's End



As you will all be aware, the Dyke's End is currently closed for food and drink service on the premises.

However we are still able to offer our very popular **Takeaway Service** which is available:

5 – 8pm

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

We are not currently offering Sunday Lunch

To book your takeaway meal, please **email us** using the address is below

To see our current Takeaway Menu please see page 15 of the Adverts section of this magazine

We look forward to welcoming you all back to the Dyke's End shortly!

Matt and Mel

Email: bookatdykesendreach.co.uk
Tel: 01638 743816

The Hythe Discussions with Anglian Water

On 11 December members of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group zoomed with Anglian Water (AW) representatives. For the first time in our recent meetings, all departments of AW with a stake in the Hythe were represented.

The Reach team:

1. explained in detail why the Hythe site matters to Reach (geology, archeology, cultural history, conservation, recreation) and how passionately villagers feel about improving the site. In the NP survey, 90% of respondents wanted AW's redundant infrastructure removed.
2. articulated villager concerns about the sewage capacity in Reach - both strategic (i.e. relating to any housing allocation in our emerging NP) and tactical (i.e perceptions that, in certain locations, a single extra home would increase back-up episodes).
3. thanked AW for maintenance work undertaken to trees on the site.
4. noted improvements to wildlife in the vicinity of the Hythe since foul water from the village was pumped to Burwell.
5. reiterated the PC's wish to maintain an open and active dialogue with AW on the management of the site. We expressed appreciation that four members of AW had set aside time to participate in the meeting but also pushed for concrete outcomes, asking for progress on information signs to replace those vandalised in the summer and for feedback on our earlier proposal for a joint management plan for the site, possibly including the Environment Agency and the Great Ouse Boating Association. We also encouraged AW to undertake active management of the eastern channel at the Hythe which is silting up.
6. stated our strategic aims, based on villager sentiment, to see the redundant above-ground plant at the sewage works removed and to restore the site for community use. We made reference to the land being acquired by compulsory purchase in the 1960s and noted that such acquisitions came with obligations to cede the land back once the purpose of acquisition has passed. We mentioned the PR benefits that would accrue for AW were it to restore the site.

Anglian Water made the following points:

a) The **sewage blockages** that we have experienced in the village are not due to capacity issues and **should now no longer occur**. There is no foul water capacity crisis in the village and AW has no plans to change the current regime of pumping the village's sewage to Burwell for processing. There was no suggestion of a pending capacity issue at the Burwell treatment works despite significant residential growth there. AW said that there might be a need for occasional interventions to remove tree roots from Reach's current sewage system but there were no plans or need for a fundamental upgrade of our sewerage.

   AW said that the blockages in the village had been caused by a combination of 'unflushables' and 'FOG' (fat, oils and grease) entering the system and because the pumping system at the Hythe had not been set up correctly the latter had led to 'silting' where the main sewer enters the sump on the Hythe. AW had therefore modified the pumping arrangement recently and believed that it would now work effectively. The explanation seemed plausible to us.

   On unflushables, AW made a plea to villagers to keep such items out of the system and only to flush the three Ps (paper, pee and poo)! An AW flyer explaining the "unflushable challenge" accompanies this issue of the magazine. AW also encouraged villagers to do more to keep rainwater out of the sewage system by ensuring that downpipes lead to soak-aways or collection tanks and not into the sewage system. We commented that our recently published Design Code encouraged sensible collection and management of rainwater.

b) There had been no progress on new signs for the Hythe or a management plan. AW apologised and promised a response in early 2021.

c) On de-commissioning the redundant sewage plant and restoring access to more of the site, AW agreed to consider our requests and report back. In particular, it would endeavour to give us visibility of why this had not happened three years ago despite an initially promising dialogue with the PC.

Conclusions

Overall this was a positive meeting. Four AW members gave us an hour and a half of their time, heard us out and, in some areas, gave constructive responses. AW has agreed to reconvene and review progress in about three months time. On a practical level, AW has now provided a plausible solution to the back-up incidents that have beset Hythe residents. That said, I should be grateful if any resident experiencing sewerage problems please let me know.

Nick Acklam

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

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence
There were none.

Forum for members of the public.
A member of the public attended to hear the planning discussion.

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillor Cane announced a 1 minute silence in the memory of John Robinson, as he was a long standing Parish Councillor and Chair for several years.

1. Declaration of Interests
Councillors Fletcher and McMillan declared an interest in the planning discussions and Councillor Acklam declared an interest in the Grant fund application discussion.

2. Councillors – Election of Chair. Recruitment of new councillors
Hannah Webb had applied for a position on the Council. Acceptance proposed by Councillor Cane, seconded by Councillor Acklam. Approved. One space on the Parish Council is still available.

There were no volunteers or nominations for the position of Chair of the Council.

3. Planning Applications.
20/01415/FUL Land East Of 27 Burwell Road. Construction of a 4 bedroom, 1.5 storey timber-frame detached dwelling with detached double garage.
Following discussion, the PC concluded that it had no objection to this application given the precedent set at the site by 17/02095/RMA. The PC concluded that the application mitigates the significant challenges of vehicle access to the highway and enables refuse collection to occur without obstruction of the highway, and also note that the application complies with the Reach Design Code in its choice of sympathetic building materials and measures to reduce its environmental footprint.
The PC voiced concern about development along Burwell Road outside the development area of the village it is very important to maintain separation between Reach and Burwell.
The discussion also noted that, as with other houses on Burwell Road in Reach there is no safe pedestrian or cycle access from the site to the centre of the village. Approval of this application would strengthen the case for the construction of such a facility.

20/01371/FUL - 22 Fair Green. Proposed replacement of existing garage with annexe and store.
Following discussion, the PC concluded that there was no objection to this application. Drainage from Back lane and parking had been considered by the applicant.

20/00494/VAR - 48B Great Lane, to remove condition 14 of previously approved 16/01008/FUL for the demolition of derelict stable block and construction of a dwelling house.
Th PC wishes to reiterate its support for ECDC's decision to refuse removal of condition 14 on development at this site. It does so in light of the appellant's assertion to the Inspectorate that the site and location of the development does not merit such a condition.

48B Great Lane sits on a prominent part of the fen-edge. The PC considers that the fen-edge to be the landscape feature that defines the shape and character of our village and its relationship with the surrounding landscape.
The land around the site is of significant recreational and conservation value. Due to its elevation, the site is visible from fenland already owned by the National Trust and from several well-used public rights of way, most notably the adjacent Blackberry Drove. It follows that any development on or close to the fen-edge has the potential for significant adverse impact and requires careful scrutiny.

Parish Council is supported in its assessments by a landscape appraisal of June 2020 commissioned in support of the village's emerging Neighbourhood Plan. In the recent resident's survey, which received strikingly high returns, 79% of respondents felt it was very important to minimise the effect of development on the fen-edge and 77% felt views into and out of the village were very important. A number of respondents identified views to and from the fen to the north west of the site as being especially important to them.

In summary the PC considers the additional scrutiny of development proposals at this site as provided by Condition 14 to be necessary and proportionate.

Clerk informed the PC that permission had been received for the cricket pavilion on the 24Acres.

4. County Councillor Report
No report received.

5. District Councillor Report
At the last meeting of the Operational Services Committee:
- It was decided to support the Local Electricity Bill and to write to local MPs to ask them to support the bill.
- The grant to the Voluntary and Community Action East Cambs was renewed.
- The reports on Waste Collection and Street Cleansing showed very good performance.
- A small underspend is forecast for the spending of this Committee; and a much bigger underspend in the capital programme due to deferment of purchases this year.

At the last meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee:
- The External Audit noted some areas that required improvement, but nothing major, and the report was accepted.
- The ECDC accounts for the last year were submitted and approved. There was some disquiet voiced about the further loan to East Cambs Trading Company, the Council's company for building development.
- The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was continued.
- A new trustee was appointed to East Cambs CLT which has only four members; some misgivings were voiced over the appointment of the Leader of the Council to a supposedly-community led organisation. Clarification of the purpose of this trust, its governance and its relation to Palace Green Homes and East Cambs Community Housing was sought.
- The Bus Services Review document was accepted and will be submitted to the Cambs and Peterborough Combined Authority. Besides the continuation, and augmentation, of the no. 11 bus to Cambridge, other interesting ideas such as a fast bus from Bottisham to Cambridge North, and Demand Responsive Transport to the south of the A14 were proposed.
- A CIL contribution of £750,000 to the much-needed expansion of St. Mary's Medical Practice, Ely.
- The Gender Pay report for ECDC showed that there was still a gap in pay between genders.
- The Finance report showed a forecast of a mild deficit at the end of the year.

6. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

7.1 Reach Grant Fund
An application had been received for from the Events team to add to moneys from the magazine for a Christmas Event. Approved subject to ***Clerk*** checking this is an acceptable use of the funds.

7.2 Finance
The audit had been concluded and the report and certificate received.

7.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor Acklam stated that he had written to Councillor Trapp regarding the need for ECDC planning to establish a framework for considering all Solar farm applications together.

A resident had contacted the PC regarding the piece of lad at the chalk pit and whether it could be improved. ***Councillor Acklam*** to meeting them on site.

7.4 Play Spaces

The playgrounds have stayed open under the current government guidance.
The flooring under the swings has become quite green but isn't currently slippery, this may change once it gets frosty. The PC will monitor the situation and decide whether it should be cleaned or replaced.

7.5 Rights of Way

A horse owner had contacted the PC to complain that her horse was disturbed by the hedge cutting that had taken place. She asked to be informed prior to any future cutting.

7.6 24Acres Committee

Nothing to report.

7.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Meetings and engagement with the village

There were no meetings of the Group in November. The Group will meet in the near future to review an initial draft Plan and to consider how best to take it to the village given the ongoing disruptions of coronavirus.
An online public meeting is also in prospect at which our recently appointed ecologists (see below) will outline their approach to the environmental appraisal and take feedback. A short article on the ecologists' work appears in this month's 'Within Reach'. To set the ball rolling, the article asks villagers the following:

- Can you let us know which areas you feel are most important for biodiversity in the neighbourhood?
  This might help to throw up some locations which aren't immediately obvious from the mapping and assessment of key sites
- Can you remember species which you used to see but no longer do?
  We wondered if this might provide some interesting context - and targets!
- Are there any species or habitats which you think have a particular connection to Reach?
  It can sometimes be easy to focus on the rare and scarce, however there are other species and habitats which often provide character for an area, and that are valued by the community and individuals. It would be interesting to hear if there are other features within the neighbourhood that are valued in this way.
- Are there any biodiversity projects that you would like to see in the neighbourhood?
  As part of the appraisal we would like to put forward some biodiversity projects for the community to consider over the coming years. If there are already ideas out there, we would like to hear about them for inclusion.
- Have you any good photographs showing biodiverse Reach?
  We'll be undertaking our work through the winter months. However, we would like to include some good photos of biodiversity within Reach. This could be hard to achieve in the winter so if anyone does have good photographs it would be great if we could include these in our report too. We'd ensure they are all attributed to the photographer.

Appointment of an ecological consultancy

Following approval of the business case at last month's PC meeting, we have appointed MKA Ecology to conduct an environmental appraisal of our neighbourhood - the final large piece of evidence gathering. Ian Poole and I had a preliminary and very positive meeting with Will O'Connor and Ellen Miller of MKA to explain the work of the NP Group and thus the context of their appraisal.

MKA will make a brief familiarisation visit to the village on 30 November and will hold a public meeting some time shortly thereafter to take input including, perhaps, practical contributions, from villagers before undertaking their own field work to fill gaps in the evidence gathering to date and to test their emerging thinking.

Outstanding work

The draft Plan remains work in progress. Its completion has been delayed whilst we sought to understand the implications of a legal challenge to Witchford's NP and proposed Government legislation. The draft Plan also needs the ecological appraisal to be a fully rounded document. We are clear about the structure and overall aims of the Plan and assess that completion of the draft should not take very long.

Outlook

By early February 2021 we hope to have circulated a draft Plan to all villagers for comment as we begin a wider consultation of stakeholders such as ECDC and Anglian Water.
We remain optimistic about being able to put a finalised Plan to the village for endorsement (or otherwise) in a referendum in the late summer or autumn of 2021.

7.8 Friends of Reach Wood

The Woodland Trust contractors mowed Reach Woodland Meadow by hand using strimmer's and brush-cutters. They have done a good job, but this was supposed to be done in September not November. The Management Plan seems to have been ignored, and management interventions undertaken without consultation. The reason given for hand-cutting was their inability to cut the meadow using a bar cutter because of the ant hills, irrespective of the fact that this had been going on successfully for the best part of 20 years without a problem.

We still have a difficult relationship that with the Woodland Trust. Often it takes several attempts to get them to answer. Finally, I'd like to say that on 26th November 2020, it is the 26th Anniversary of the planting of Reach Wood. Here is the link to a movie of the community planting taken on 26th November 1994:
https://www.wildreach.co.uk/wildlife-resources/reach-wood/

8. Year End budget 2022 to include cemetery & mooring fees

Last year the PC agreed a large increase in the precept, followed by a return to the standard 5% for the year 2021-2022. Following discussion this was approved. It was felt that at a future date a discussion was required as to the role of the PC and its financial responsibilities and the community efforts.
Mooring fees would be kept at the same rate and cemetery fees to increase by the standard 5%.

9. The Dykes End - agreement in principle for replacement of fire escape window with a door.

The tenants at the Dykes End would like to change the upstairs window which is used as the fire escape to a door to make access easier. There had also been talk of a private outside area or roof garden. The PC supported this in principle subject to seeing full details and the appropriate planning procedure being followed. ***Councillor Cane*** to reply to the tenants and to include the PC's leaseholder.

10. LHI – Great Lane/Fair Green corner

CCC have proposed a length restriction of 29ft. PC approved and ***Clerk*** to confirm approval to LHI at CCC.

11. Cambridge Eastern Access Consultation 2020

Representatives had offered to attend a PC meeting. ***Clerk*** to arrange. ***Councillor Acklam*** to write a piece for Facebook and email highlighting the consultation.

12. Information Items

13. Payments

E. on - Power on the green	£7.51
PKF Littlejohn – Audit Review	£240.00

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on; Wednesday 6th January 2021

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Vice Chair	Present
Andrew Trump	Councillor	Present
David McMillan	Councillor	Present
Cris Fletcher	Councillor	Present
Nick Acklam	Councillor	Present
Hannah Webb	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Forum for members of the public.

A member of the public attended to hear the discussions.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership representative presentation and discussion
The GCP have been tasked with improving access into Cambridge from the East up to and including the Quy roundabout. There was a presentation detailing the process and the different options they are considering.

The PC had previously written to GCP outlining concerns that the proposed measures could exacerbate congestion at the Quy roundabout for users of the B1102. The letter had been noted but GCP's remit prevented it from undertaking work beyond the A14. The PC commented that this felt like a serious shortcoming and urged GCP to engage with all stakeholders along the B1102 corridor.

There are other schemes which are looking at more local issues, which the PC hopes to engage in. There is concern that the GCP plans may push the problems further out of Cambridge.

1. Declaration of Interests

2. Councillors – Election of Chair. Recruitment of new councillors
There were no volunteers or nominations for the position of Chair of the Council. Advert for a new Councillor to be placed in the next village magazine.

3. Planning Applications.
20/01575/FUL - Erection of general-purpose agricultural building & associated infrastructure (retrospective), Site Southwest Of Hill Farm Fair Green.
Following discussion, it was concluded that the following would be sent to ECDC.

This is a small agricultural building with minimal impact on the landscape setting. However, if given permission it should not be allowed to create a precedent for development along Little Back Lane. Reach Parish Council has no objection to this application, as long as its approval would not weaken the protections given in the related outline planning permission 18/01397/OUT - i.e., protection for Little Back Lane not to be over developed and to ensure that development permitted in outline is restricted to the brownfield element of the site.

We would, however, like to request some conditions to be attached if permission is granted:
1. The building should be wood clad, as per the application. If this is not possible it should be painted green. This would ensure it would have less im-pact on the landscape.
2. There should be no windows on the wall facing Little Back Lane. This would prevent any overlooking or loss of privacy.
3. The gaps between the panelling at the corners should be filled and the building wood clad, as per the application. This would reduce the noise causing nuisance to neighbours.
4. The plum tree which has been cut down should be replaced, possibly to improve the hedge with runs at 90o to Little Back Lane. This would ensure there was no loss of trees or adverse impact on nature conservation.

20/01654/FUL - Battery storage installation and associated infrastructure. Goose Hall Farm Factory Road Burwell.
20/01645/VAR - Variation of condition 1 (Approved plans) of previously approved 17/02205/FUL for Development of a 49.9MW battery storage facility, bridge, and associated infrastructure. Land North West of Electricity Sub-Station Weirs Drove Burwell
These applications were discussed together, it is the cumulative impact of so many applications for solar projects and infrastructure that is worrying. The PC has previously written to District Councillor John Trappe. ***Councillor Acklam*** to write to Lucy Fraser to ask for her support.

4. County Councillor Report
No report received.

5. District Councillor Report
The only meeting in December was Planning, at which no local applications were considered. January's Planning Committee was cancelled, and February's meeting is expected to consider the application for a Retirement Village in Bottisham.

Operational Services Committee will meet on 18 January and one of the items for discussion is a Review of Grant to Citizens Advice West Suffolk. Following last year's decision to cut the grant to the CAB in Ely which led to its closure John and Charlotte will be paying close attention to this review.

Finance and Assets will meet on 25 January to consider several items including several significant items in addition to the routine items:

- 2021/22 Annual Treasury Management Strategy
- External Audit Annual Certification Report
- Revenue Budget 2021-22
- On-Street Parking Enforcement
- Equalities Policy
- ECTC Business Plan 2021/22

Since Boxing day, East Cambs has been in Tier 4 COVID-19 restrictions. In the 7 days to 29 December, Bottisham ward had 29 confirmed Covid-19 cases, which was an increase of 12 cases. Extrapolated to per 100,000 this is 460 cases, significantly above the national average of 362. Vaccination has started and this promises a brighter future, but it is critical in the meantime to follow the Tier 4 restrictions to protect ourselves, our community, and the NHS.

East Cambs reception is closed to visitors, but they can be contacted
Email: customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
Telephone: 01353 665555
The Hive Leisure Centre is closed, but playgrounds and the markets are open (although only for those stalls selling essential items). Refuse collection is continuing as normal, subject to holiday dates.
Under Tier 4 all non-essential shops must close as well as personal care services such as hairdressers, gyms, and entertainment venues such as theatres and cinemas. Hospitality venues such as pubs, cafes and restaurants must also close, offering only take away and delivery services.
The tier 4 rules are as follows:

- Do not invite anyone into your home for social reasons, who you do not normally live with or who is not in your existing support bubble.
- Only leave home for essential reasons (for food/medicine/essential care or personal safety) and when you are out, remember to keep 2 meters away from anyone you do not live with, wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay in well ventilated, uncrowded places.
- You can go out to exercise alone, with people you live with, or with one other person you do not live with providing this is in a public place like a park.
- Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so, and if it is essential to work outside the home take maximum precautions – particularly travelling to or from work (avoid car sharing and busy public transport, wear a mask, regular hand washing or sanitising, staying in well ventilated places, and cleaning surfaces).
- Do not travel outside tier 4 unless for essential work or education or a legally permitted reason – and reduce the journeys you take inside the area. People from tiers 1 - 3 should not travel to tier 4 areas, except for essential purposes such as work, education, or a legally permitted reason. Places of worship open for private prayer or communal worship – but do not mix with anyone not in your household.
- Visits to care homes can take place if there are arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows.
- Close-contact indoor care home visits supported by rapid testing, which are allowed in some care homes in Tiers 1-3, will not be allowed in Tier 4.
- Entertainment venues are closed. Some outdoor sports facilities are allowed with COVID-19 secure measures

The link to the Tier 4 guidance is here https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home

There is also a range of support services for residents at this time:

- The East Cambs COVID-19 Coordination Hub can be contacted at covid19@eastcambs.gov.uk or on 01353 665555 (08:45-17:00 Monday to Thursday and 08:45-16:30 on Fridays) or on 07710 978900 (outside of these hours). The Hub's webpages can be found at https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/covid-19-information-and-support.
- Cambridgeshire County Council's Winter grant scheme is available to support families and individuals experiencing immediate financial hardship with access to food and essential supplies over the Christmas holidays and beyond. More details: https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/winter-grant-scheme

Mental health services

- Lifeline Mental Health Helpline - 0808 808 2121 - open 11am to 11pm every day
- The Countywide Hub, for links to befriending services - 0345 0455219
- Keep Your Head, for links to local and national mental health services: https://www.keep-your-head.com/
- If any resident is in mental health crisis, they can dial the NHS 111 service and choose Option 2.

6. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

7.1 Reach Grant Fund

There were none.

7.2 Finance
There is a need to have the power on the green checked and maintained, approved.

The tennis court is in need of maintenance, ***Clerk*** to obtain more information for discussion at the February meeting.

7.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor Acklam had a zoom meeting with Anglia Water, communication will continue in the coming weeks. The pumping system has been changed which should help with the blockage problems experienced in The Hythe. A short report explaining the change in AW's pumping regime will go out in the next edition of 'Within Reach" along with an AW supplied flier explaining the problems created by 'unflushables'.

The old clunch pit is being investigated by Councillor Acklam and a resident to see whether the area could be made accessible to the public. The NP ecologists will be consulted, and ***Councillor Acklam*** will update the PC.

7.4 Play Spaces
The playgrounds have stayed open under the current government guidance. The signage put up initially has not withstood the weather, the PC think that the measures are well publicised enough that signage is no longer required.

7.5 Rights of Way
The byways around the village are getting very cut up with the winter weather. There has been an increase in farm traffic on straight drove and a large increase of off-road recreational traffic on all byways. ***Councillor Acklam*** to contact local farmers to see if the is anything that can be done, and to contact the Highways department of CCC to seek advice.

7.6 24Acres Committee
The composite loo on the 24Acres has been cleaned and a new roof will be fitted after a complaint was received.

7.7 Neighbourhood Plan
Meetings and engagement with the village
We held a public meeting by Zoom on 18 December to allow Will O'Connor of MKA Ecology to outline his initial thoughts on the environmental appraisal of our neighbourhood. A copy of his presentation is attached. Will received useful feedback from an enthusiastic bunch of villagers who attended. This supplemented responses to Will's questions (see the November Monthly Report). MKA hope to report in January 2021.
Members of the NP participated in a Zoom meeting with Anglian Water (AW) on 11 December. A summary of this meeting has been circulated to the PC. We consider that articulating all the village's concerns about sewage and the Hythe to all the varied stakeholders at AW and achieving a measure of engagement from them including a commitment to review progress in early 2021 to be useful steps forward.
Outlook
We plan to circulate a draft Plan to all villagers for comment in February 2021 as we begin a wider consultation of stakeholders such as ECDC and AW.

We remain optimistic about being able to put a finalised Plan to the village for endorsement (or otherwise) in a referendum in the late summer or autumn of 2021.

7.8 Friends of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

8. Parish Council Equal opportunity & diversity policy
Clerk had produced an Equal opportunity & diversity policy – Approved.

12. Information Items
There were none.

13. Payments

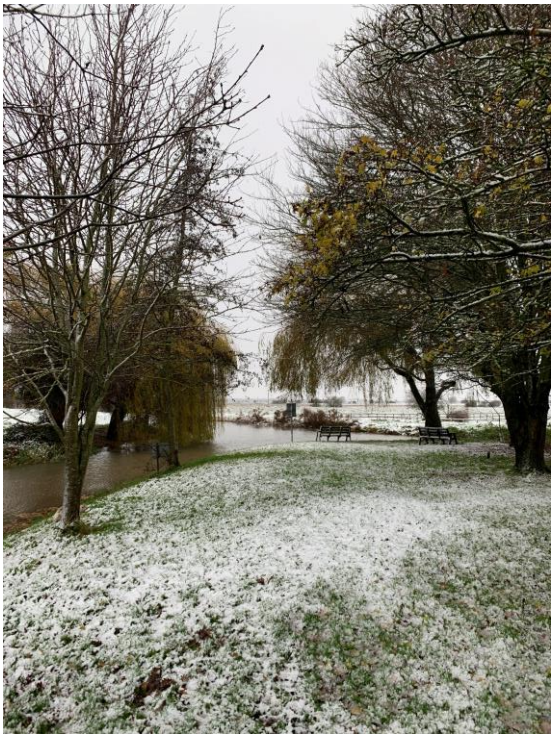
E. on - Power on the green	£18.14
S. Bailey – Clerk salary	£1030.38
D. Thomas – replacement tree – 24Acres	£36.95
Reach Community Magazine – Christmas event	£182.25

Diary Dates

February	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 3	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Thursday 4	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 11	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 18	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 25	Recycling Day (Blue)		

March	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 3	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Thursday 4	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 11	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 18	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 25	Recycling Day (Blue)		





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)*

Another photo taken from the scaffold erected in 1959 to make repairs to the church after the lightning strike.

Looking towards the Weirs, the pylons and electricity substation have not yet made an appearance but much remains the same. The recently renovated ruins of the Chapel of St. Etheldreda look imposing once again.

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









Lacey Bridgeman



Penny and Ron's



Marcus Waithe



Pippa - James and Lucy's cat