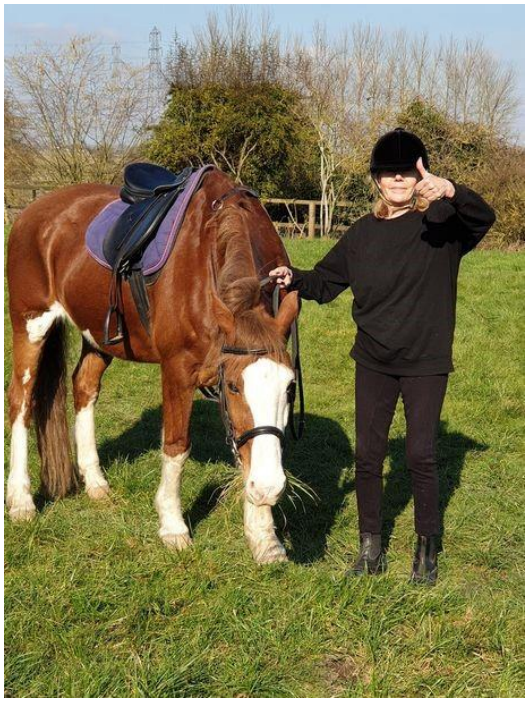

Within Reach
April/May 2021











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From the Editor



As I write this, the UK seems to be in an increasingly better place. The sun is shining and it is due to be quite hot – over the next few days at least. And we are gradually coming out of lockdown, today outdoor sports re-open and there will be further relaxations to come. Plus spring is in the air . . . .



And soon we'll be able to go out to pubs and restaurants, outdoors at first but very soon afterwards inside as well. The **Dyke's End** is preparing for this and you can see an advert containing their new menu on page 16 of the adverts section.

The magazine is surviving these difficult times - I am pleased to be able to announce that we have two new advertisers whose contributions have helped enormously. The first is **AJJ Garden Services**, Andrew and Marlena, who live down Ditchfield. The second is **Chapel Dental** who are based in Great Wilbraham (I go here and find them excellent). Both adverts can be found on page 3 of the Adverts section. Please do you best to support all of our advertisers, it is down to them that we continue to be able to have Within Reach freely available to all households.

And finally, soon the cricket season will be upon us – indeed the first game for **Reach Cricket** takes place on the 24Acres on Sunday 25th April, starting at 1.30pm. Why not head over there and support them – and there are plenty more matches during the season.

David Parr
davidmparr@btinternet.com

Cover Photo courtesy of **Rosanna Moseley Gore**

About the Magazine

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

Copies of *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 May 2021. This magazine (which is fully funded from advertising) is approved and printed by Reach Parish Council.

The Team

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Cricket	Ross Clark
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Gardening	Danuta Gibson
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Neighbourhood Watch	Kevin Evans
Parish Council	Alex de Giorgio-Miller
Reach Riders Group	Sue Cameron
Rosanna's Ramblings	Rosanna Moseley Gore
Snakehall Farm	Liz Pitt
Then and Now	Chris Patterson
Wicken Fen	Julia Hammond
Wildlife	Joss Goodchild

Village Update



With the first tentative signs of spring, there is also hope that, before too long, we will also be able to emerge from our lockdown state and some semblance of normality will resume.

Fingers crossed…

For anyone who is self-isolating for whatever reason, please do know that the **Reach Help Network** is still available to anyone who needs us. If you do need some shopping, a prescription picking up or something from the post office, or just a chat, then do get in touch and we will be happy to help.
Email a.degiorgiomiller@gmail.com or call me on 07771 348013. Please do pass on this information to anyone in Reach who you think it may help.

Some other news from the district volunteer network…

Vaccination transport available

There are a number of community transport schemes and taxi firms available to support people with transport to their COVID-19 vaccination appointment. This website has a link to an online form to show you the options available:
https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination. Alternatively, you can call 0345 045 5219 for help. Where possible, most transport providers ask for a minimum of 24 hours' notice for bookings. All drivers have up to date DBS checks.

New Diabetes Type 2 Peer Support group

Diabetes UK are working with GP Practices in East Cambs to facilitate a new online Peer Support Group in East Cambridgeshire and is seeking new participants. Zoom meetings will be held fortnightly, they are free to attend and held in the afternoons. If you are interested in joining and meeting up with others to share experiences and support others, please contact david.robinson@diabetes.org.uk for more information.

From the VCAEC (Voluntary Community Action East Cambs)

The Social Car Scheme continues to operate, all of the drivers have had their first vaccinations and they are available to take residents to their appointments so please contact them if you need help. Their number is 01353 666553.

The Helping Hands gardening team has had a short break but will be up and running from mid March for people that need help in their gardens as spring approaches. Call 01353 666553.

The VCAEC are looking to recruit people who can spare a few days per year to volunteer on local projects as part of the East Cambridgeshire Community Support team. Please email Granville (Granville@vcaec.co.uk) if you would like to be involved.

Call for old laptops

Businesses and local residents are being asked to donate spare laptops to support young people in Cambridgeshire who do not have access to a computer or the internet at home. During the coronavirus pandemic, many young people were able to keep up with online lessons and schoolwork at home. However, there are many far less fortunate. Despite government investment, a survey of schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has identified around 8,000 pupils who still lack suitable equipment or internet access at home, meaning they are unable to benefit from online resources, support from teachers, or even interact with classmates. We are asking businesses and residents to consider donating any spare or unwanted laptops, or making a financial donation, to make sure no pupil continues to go without. Further details on the specifications for donated laptops and where to donate a laptop or make a financial donation can be found at this website:
https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/laptops-for-children

Help to shape future plans of West Suffolk Hospital

As the plans for a new hospital for West Suffolk get underway it is important that as many people are involved in developing the proposals as possible. The project team are establishing a Co-production Community Engagement Group (CCEG) which will help shape the public engagement around the hospital redevelopment. If you would like to join the CCEG or to find out more information, please visit the website and complete the expression of interest form. https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/New-healthcare-facility/Get-involved.aspx

Keep well

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



Neighbourhood Plan



It has taken longer than anticipated to finalise the draft Neighbourhood Plan. However, release of the draft for comment and consultation is imminent. It will be published on the Neighbourhood Plan webpage: www.reach-village.co.uk/neighbourhood_plan.html.

A printed copy of the draft, a short summary of its key proposals and a comments form will be delivered to every house in the village. Once you have had a chance to read it, we look forward to your views. In a bid to make up for the enforced lack of face-to face-engagement, we plan to hold drop-in sessions so that we can take ideas and answer questions. Details of the sessions will be circulated shortly.

The environmental/biodiversity appraisal of our neighbourhood, produced in support of the Plan by MKA Ecology, has now been completed and can be viewed on the webpage. The appraisal is a self-standing document and offers a number of practical projects for improving the ecology of our parish. We can pick up on these when the world returns to something like normality. The appraisal shows that, despite its small size, the parish of Reach has an extraordinarily diverse and valuable ecology. This assessment will come as no surprise to many of you, but it is good to have it confirmed by an outside professional and in a form that dovetails with our Plan.

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

On an associated issue, Lucy Frazer, our MP, has registered the Parish Council's concerns about the current Government white paper on planning reform and the absence of strategic oversight of solar farm planning applications in the locality. She is scheduled to attend a PC meeting on 7 April to discuss these issues.

Reach for the Future
The Reach Neighbourhood Plan

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

Elections



Electors will go to the polls on Thursday 6 May 2021 to elect new Councillors to the County Council, elect the Combined Authority Mayor and to elect the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Elections will be run under strict covid-19 guidance, which includes the current government messages.

- Please maintain social distancing
- There will be a one-way system in operation
- Please sanitise hands on entering and exiting the polling station
- Face masks must be worn at all times in the polling station
- You may use your own pen or pencil should you so wish
- If you have coronavirus symptoms, please do not enter the polling station

Following our polling station risk assessments, we will also have a range of other measures in place, such as the number of people permitted in the polling station at any one time. Please be aware that you may have to queue to go into the polling station. Staff will indicate when it is OK to enter.

The polling station staff will be behind individual screens and will be wearing face masks. If you have difficulty hearing or you are a lip reader, please indicate this to the staff on arrival.

You will be given three ballot papers, one for each of the elections taking place and you just need to follow the instructions at the top of each ballot paper.

Once you have cast your vote, please leave the polling station promptly using the exit route indicated, to allow other electors access.

Rosanna's Ramblings



It feels quite surreal, sitting down to write this piece for the April 2021 issue of the magazine and realising that it is almost exactly a year since I pulled the plug on my acupuncture patients a week before the first national lockdown was initiated. We must all be feeling it, all the ways in which we've become experts on things we'd never even thought of before (mask preferences, Zoom socialising and working, buying locally and endlessly receiving deliveries, the coping – or not coping very well – with not seeing loved ones).



The other day, I was walking along Reach Lode and got just past the gate at the end of the pylon meadow (as I think of it) and stopped to take a photo of the water, the reeds, the trees and the sky. In that first lockdown, I made a point of taking this same view virtually every day and a similar regular snap at the start of the little path leading off the bigger one going uphill on the far side of the allotments, just as you turn to head back towards Reach Wood. Somehow that small ritual felt reassuring and comforting to me, marking as it did the gradual passing of the days and the gradual morphing of the season from spring to summer, at a time when the "every day is Blursday" was deeply bewildering.

Bare branches … blackthorn blossom budlets … full snowily white blossom … leaves coming … flowers browning … miniature green incipient sloes appearing … And here we are again, watching the same cycle starting up without a care for what we humans have been experiencing. And the wood pigeons are at their impressively relentless courting again (and again and again). I'm trying to be pleased for them, I really am – but I do find it difficult to enjoy watching them flying around in pairs as much as I get pleasure from watching other birds doing the same.

But be that as it may, spring is here again and we are hoping, as I write, to begin the slow process of being released from lockdown no.3 and taking cautiously eager steps towards the reclaiming of treasured and missed, parts of our lives.

I tend to think that all I really want is to see my children again and my best friends – but the other day, an unexpected knock on the front door by a former pupil (now 50) of Charles's and said pupil's mother, followed by a 20 minute sunny conversation on the doorstep, caused my dear husband to declare that he hadn't seen me so animated for months. And these were strangers to me, albeit extremely open and friendly ones.

That comment really got me thinking about how desperate we must all be for the refreshment that normally comes with this season. The excitement of new beginnings, new life (watching Ron's lambs running around is surely just around the corner?), new ventures, new plans. That's what usually starts stirring in the spring, the sowing of seeds literal and symbolic. The uplifting of heart that happens when the succession of bulbs flower and the succession of blossom and the succession of tree leaf bursts according to their species' preferences. Hawthorn already greening up more and more every day. Horse chestnut sticky buds getting stickier.

Trees have so much to tell us, don't they? About steady resilience, patient endurance, surviving sometimes against the odds, the ability to spring up unexpectedly and thrive; and the variable ability to cope with gales and drought, and flood. Being married to a very long-term guerrilla tree planter has taken my love and respect for trees to a new level. By his recent reckoning, Charles has planted getting on for 100 of the trees familiar to us in an around Reach. There is a spinney at the side of Barston Drove where all the now big trees exist only due to his efforts 35 years ago and I think I've written before about how proud I am to be married to the man responsible for the magnificent spreading oak tree that presides over the drove opposite the Hythe just before the gate into the meadow.



But what I hadn't realised is quite what a responsibility it is to maintain the health, wellbeing and husbandry of the trees in the garden. Charles watches over these surrogate children of his with the concerned attentiveness of a mother hen, mourning over the imminent demise of this now-diseased ash tree, preening proudly about how well the oak tree is doing since the walnut had to come down – more light, more claim to some territory. And of course, being in a tree conservation zone, the process of cutting down dying trees and replacing them with Young Pretenders isn't so straightforward – though now, with Covid, the Tree Officer seems happy to be contacted remotely and make judgments based on photographic evidence. But even when permission has been granted, the felling of a tree still feels like a ceremony of solemn sadness.

Take the unlovely crooked plum tree, disrespectfully referred to by me as "the lollipop tree" that marked the corner of our front garden (and was a leaning tree thanks to having taken the force of a speeding car driven into it decades ago by a now middle-aged village resident in his reckless days of youth). Charles knew its days were up, it was hollow and rotten and for the last year has been sheltering a rowan sapling designated as its successor. But although he does truly love wielding a chainsaw (another sigh), the cutting of it down to a tall stump made him sad because he remembered that tree as a baby, and throughout its life. The garden looks bare without it.



But the rowan tree's sibling is growing well in my Ely garden, as are nine cordon fruit trees and a silver birch. If they haven't already burst into leaf, it will only be a matter of a few short weeks before they do. And blossom and catkins and fruit and berries will follow. As, I fervently hope, will hugs and the warmth and love of gatherings indoors. But certainly, very soon, lunches with friends and neighbours, in the garden!

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Events Team

It's becoming tough for us to find something to write about with regard to our activities – because in the short term we have nothing planned, for obvious reasons. So maybe a reminder of the kind of thing we have done in the past (and would love to do again) is appropriate.

Our **Royal Wedding Garden Party** took place on Friday 29th April 2011 – coming up 10 years ago.





It was a very special event with over 300 people enjoying the excellent weather. Robert from the Fairground got the big wheel going especially for us and all the village kids used it for free – prior to Reach Fair which took place on the Monday. For all the pics on the day see: www.reach-village.co.uk/news_garden_party_april_2011.html

As for the remainder of this year, the Events Team will be getting together as soon as it properly can and then dates will be finalized for our three Christmas events of **Lights Switch-on**, **Carols around the Tree** and the **Senior's Christmas Lunch**.

The Events Team

Adult Learning

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few months where Covid-19 restrictions have made it difficult for us to provide some courses.

Now that we can see light at the end of the tunnel we are looking forward to welcoming you back.

To build up our programme we are recruiting new tutors, so if you have skills in the following areas and are passionate about your subject, do you have spare time to teach an Adult Learning course?

Arts and Crafts
Cookery
Dance
Eco/Environmental/Upcycling
Health and Wellbeing
ICT Skills
Languages (including BSL)
Music
or anything else…..?

If so, please contact us for further information:
www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning
Tel: 01223 811372 Email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott

Getting to Know You – Paul Redfarn



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

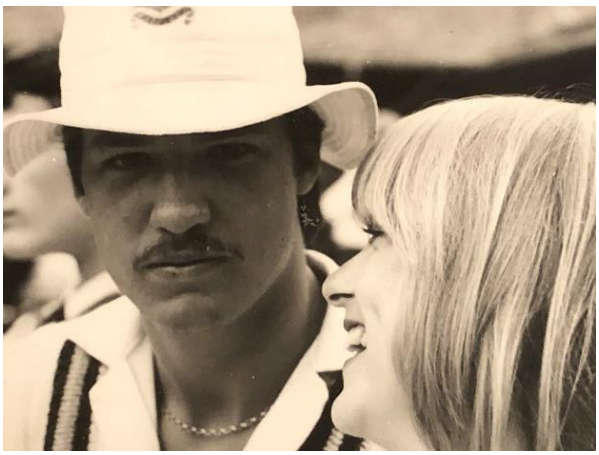
A. Paul Alan Redfarn born in Metcalfe Road, Cambridge to wonderful parents, Joyce and Landon.

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

A. My first school was Milton Road Primary School where I became expert in plasticine modelling, egg box painting and rolled up sock football - other than that, I can't remember learning much more so the current COVID lockdown would not have hampered my future prospects too much. My secondary school was Chesterton Community College where I learned to play cricket, football and run away from a fight – back in the day it was a very tough school! Finally, I attended what is now The Anglia Ruskin University and managed to leave with a degree in table football and a Business Diploma (I did do some work!).

My school days were great, lots of sport and lots of girls, and as it turned out I was attracted to both, these were some of the best days of my life. It was while at school that I found out that I could play cricket and was soon selected to play for Cambridgeshire and ultimately selected to Captain England Under 19's. I toured Zimbabwe as vice-captain and played against Australia and the mighty West Indies whose team included Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

For those of you who don't follow cricket, these two tall fast bowlers were to go on and terrorise international batsmen for over 17 years. I am extremely proud to have played against them and less proud of the 2 runs I managed to amass in 4 innings but Ho Hum!



Q. When did you marry and how did you meet? Do you have children?

A. While I was at college my best friend and I decided to go skiing. We went to IPT Travel agency on Mill Road in Cambridge to book a Club 18-30 Ski Package… and there she was! Jo Nash, as she was then, helped us book the holiday and came with the tour party as courier, it was love at first sight! I simply had to try and win her affection. So, I decided to buy a box of chocolates and ski down the mountain to put the gift in her hand and speed off before any embarrassing rejection could take place (Coward!). Those of you who remember the Cadbury Milk Tray adverts with the Man in Black will realise where the idea came from. Well, it worked a treat as we have been together now for 38 years and celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in June last year.

Somehow, we have managed to produce two wonderful children in whom we are extremely proud. Jemma is a Sister at Papworth Hospital currently working in ICU to help those most seriously ill with COVID. Laura is carving out a highly successful career in Human Resources for PA Consulting - they are our pride and joy!

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

A. My first job was at Lloyds Bank where I joined as a management trainee otherwise known as a "Tea Boy". I was soon bored at the bank so decided to apply for a sales role with Cadbury Confectionary. The story of how the Milk Tray Advert helped me meet my sweetheart swung the interview and a new career in sales began! After Cadbury I worked for Max Factor, Hitachi and finally 25 years at BT where I was an Account Director before taking early retirement in 2016.

When we moved to Burwell, Jo wanted to go back to work and we looked for a children's day Nursery for Jemma and Laura. Nothing existed so we decided to open one of our own and Jo has managed the Red House Day Nursery business for over 23 years. I also started a business of my own 9 years ago called MR Cricket Hockey which is also in Burwell. Prior to lockdown both businesses were performing well, and I am sure that given the expertise of our great staff and management teams they will bounce back to life in the "New Normal".

Q. What pets do you have?

A. We have two Golden Retrievers, Ruby and Bonnie. The later was a "lockdown" purchase which has brightened up the last 12 months brilliantly for us and for Ruby! We also have 3 lovely ginger cats who get on well with their canine friends.



Q. How did you come to live in Reach?

A. We had been looking to move to a new house for a couple of years and had an offer accepted on our Great Lane house only to be disappointed as it was taken off the market. We were about to exchange contracts on a place in Burwell when Sally Merryweather rang up to see if we were still interested in moving to Reach. Sally, we cannot thank you enough!

Q. What do you enjoy about living in Reach?

A. Since moving to Reach we have made some wonderful friends, all around the village. The community feeling here is something we should all cherish and work hard to maintain. It is a very special village indeed.

As we have dogs, I don't think there could be a better place to live with wonderful walks where the wildlife is prolific and diverse. Fabulous countryside, waterways, birdlife and at Kingfisher Bridge Fen we even have Buffalo. Incidentally, do you know the difference between a Buffalo and a Bison?
Well, you can't wash your hands in a Buffalo! Sorry I couldn't resist!

Q. What is your philosophy in life?

A. I have three ……
a) Life seems much better when you laugh, especially at poor jokes.
b) Practice what you preach!
and
c) Always look at your glass as being half full rather than half empty – and mine is usually half full of wine!

Joss Goodchild

Out and About Winter/Spring 2021



Reach seems noticeably quiet this lockdown, with fewer visitors, cyclists, cars, walkers and horse riders as people take individual responsibility to protect the lives of others.

I feel as if I've hibernated to the end of this long winter, 13th January, traditionally the coldest day of the year (St. Hilary's Day) has passed, as have the bitter and beautiful sparkling hoar frosts and dustings of snow in February. We fed and watered our garden birds well, depth of cold isn't fatal for them but duration and dehydration can be. Winter's dreary skies, sodden fields and short days have been exchanged for uplifting shows of snowdrops, daffodils and hellebores as spring arrives. Early blossoming blackthorn colours the hedgerows with 'clouds of snow-white flowers' (Woodland Trust). The ground is drying out, there's a change in the air and light, a weak warmth to sunshine.

I marvel when the delicate heads of snowdrops push above ground through snow, frost and flood. But they are especially well adapted to life in the cold, their leaves have hardened tips to help break through frozen soil and their sap contains a form of antifreeze to prevent ice crystals forming. The snowdrop's name Galanthus nivalis literally translates to 'milk flower of the snow'. Ants are attracted to dying snowdrops and take the tasty appendages on seed pods down to their nests as food for developing larvae. The seeds remain untouched and are effectively dispersed to new locations and planted underground.

Pretty clusters of dog violets flower beneath the hedge in Great Lane, unlike the sweet violet variety these are quite scentless. I watched three healthy rabbits run circles in our paddock, no tinge of gold in their coats, unlike their gilded predecessors. Crows, noisy and active build nests in Reach Wood. I read that rooks (paired up in early Autumn) revisit their old nests every day through winter or sit beside them.

Wrens are active again in their favoured place, it has been ten years since I first noticed them in an unlikely spot near Reach Wood. Male wrens build as many as a dozen nests, only one is lined once a female makes her selection.

Considering the fall in numbers (75% in the past 50 years) it is a joy to see/hear skylarks above Tubney Fen again. The flight song is principally delivered by the male bird who rises, vertically, from the ground, high into the air, where he remains stationary for several minutes on fluttering wings, singing. This continuous song is so rapid it can last five minutes.

Groups of roe deer graze in arable fields beside the Burwell Road, on 21 March we counted twelve in the distance. 'Mad March' brown hares can be seen boxing in nearby fields.



March falls right in the middle of the hare's breeding season, the males search out females, chase and circle them. If a male tries to get too close too soon, the female stands on hind legs and turns on him striking with her forepaws, forcing him to defend himself and they spar, leap, rush together and apart in a wild dance.

These lovely tawny creatures, double the size of rabbits, fare well in arable east England but the drastic loss of traditional old hay meadows, which once supplied their rich diet of plants and herbs, contributed to a decline in UK numbers to currently just under a million.

On 20 February, a bumblebee visited the garden, we've kept an area of quick growing/flowering spring weeds as fast food for insects. Spring blossom trees such as apple and cherries in addition to winter and spring flowering heathers, snowdrops, primroses, crocuses, rosemary and bluebells help feed hungry queens. I note the spring superfood - comfrey, which has tubular pink, purple and white flowers provides pollen and nectar for long-tongued bumblebees. Determined short-tongued bees bite a hole at the base of the flower to access nectar.

Wild Reach

As a guest, I recently attended the interesting and topical talk Steve Boreham gave to Cambridge Natural History Society members. His title was Wild Reach. I learnt a good deal from his presentation, access to a simplified version can be found on his website's section on Reach Wildlife Resources. This also contains a map showing wildlife sites and rights of way, which he felt some villagers might find useful:
www.wildreach.co.uk/reach-wildlife-resources/

Villagers' sightings:

20 Jan: David Thomas: 'big flocks of lapwing on Burwell Fen at the moment - I haven't seen so many for years'. On 22 Jan he sent a photo of beautiful golden catkins.

8 Feb: Sue Dunnett noted a reed bunting in her garden at Ditchfield.

21 Feb: Dafila Scott email: On 18 Feb 'we saw two pairs of cranes when we were standing on the lode bank near Reach bridge. We were just the other side of the bridge on the east side of the lode when a pair flew over from the south west and took a big loop out over Wicken, eventually returning and landing on the fen to the west of the lode and called several times. As they came back over the wetland, another pair seemed to be following them and they landed in the wetland near the middle where the buildings used to be. Yesterday, when we walked along the east bank of the lode by the wetland, we didn't see any cranes, but we saw four white-fronted geese in among greylags which were grazing close to the second pool! They are such beautiful geese. There were also several pintail on the second pool along with lots of other ducks, gadwall, wigeon, shoveler, teal, mallard and shelduck. It was a wonderful spectacle'.

21 Feb: Gareth Davies, walked Reach and nearby fen. Saw approx. 200 lapwing and flocks of greenfinches.

David Thomas, Ali Kohlman, Jo and Paul Redfarn mentioned watching the spectacular starling murmuration aerial displays at Tubney and Burwell Fen.



In early March Ali Ayres saw a red kite fly between her horse's field and James Rolfe's house off Great Lane.

17 Mar: Ron saw 1 frog at his field pond, which spawned. This was a reduction in previous years, where 4/5 would visit, he thought numbers were affected by badger predation. They also heard a frog calling for a mate in their garden pond.

22 Mar: Penny Greenhill saw two jays and five big rabbits on the little field beside the entry to the meadow near Reach Wood.

(Sadly, Penny and Ron lost their Jack Russell, 'Tommy', recently. He was a lovely friendly little dog and a very familiar sight on his daily walks through the village and Reach Wood).



'Tommy Greenhill' – R.I.P.

Hilary Fielding text: 'Great spotted woodpecker heard at stables every morning, Little Fen Drove. Green woodpecker calling regularly so hopefully nesting nearby. 2 stock doves regularly seen at bird feeder have now become one, hopeful that mate is on the nest. Something has lined an old swallow nest with white feathers .. yet to meet the inhabitant ...'

John and Jenny Reed said that a pair of kestrels were nesting in the box they had used before.

Steve Boreham emailed: 'I have just been down the lode to Reach pit, the Pocket Park and Tubney Fen. Apart from the ubiquitous moorhens, mute swans, mallard ducks, herons and egrets, with jackdaws roosting, long-tailed tits hunting aphids in the willows and a few starlings swirling overhead, there was nothing else exceptional. The hawthorn buds have burst, wild plum trees are in flower and the goat willow catkins have their yellow anthers exposed.'

25 Mar: Dafila emailed: 'Just to let you know that yesterday morning we had two siskins on our bird feeders. They are so pretty with their yellow breasts and black caps.



I think this is probably only the second time we've seen them in the garden. Unfortunately, they were chased off by a bluetit!'

Nick Acklam's Nature Notes:

The heavy rain for much of the period and the National Trust's abstraction of water from Reach Lode on to its land have created two significant seasonal ponds - one on Tubney Fen close to the wood yard and one on the pasture between Straight Drove and Reach Lode. The latter is proving to be the more long-lasting but both have drawn in extra bird life, notably up to five Little Egrets and large numbers of Black-headed gulls. The presence of extensive areas of standing water gives the landscape a wilder feel too. Steve Boreham and I are in discussion with the National Trust to ensure that the benefits of seasonal flooding on Tubney Fen are maximised.

20 January: Our local pair of mute swans is in convoy on the lode with the remaining two of last year's offspring.

21 January: In fading light a Hen Harrier flies purposefully from the north towards Tubney Mere. It does not land and roost in the reeds surrounding the mere, though, as I had hoped.

31 January: 15 Roe Deer form a strung out herd on Hurdle Hall. A further five or six lurk in the field beyond (closer to Burwell). This is the largest grouping I have seen locally. Unusually no Roe Deer were seen on the Tubney side of the lode on this date so it is possible that the groups had (briefly) amalgamated.

4 February: An unusual (for this time of year) sighting of a Green Sandpiper on Tubney Fen.

14 February: Numerous Redshank on Tubney, all solitary and breaking cover at the last moment. A mixed flock of about 40 Canada and Greylag Geese circle the winter pond on Tubney.

15 February: A female Stonechat in tall hedging by Straight Drove.

18 February: Short-eared Owl at the far end of Tubney Fen. My only sighting this winter.

21 February: Honey bees and bumble bees of various kinds active in the mild conditions especially around flowering box and winter honeysuckle in the garden.

25 February: The Mute Swan pair have now evicted their offspring and are rebuilding their nest by the Hythe.

12 March: 20 Roe Deer on Hurdle Hall.

Joss Goodchild

Burwell Museum Coach Trips



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

Barbara Turner



Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



Fall in love with local photography.

A long time ago, I was announced by a fickle and flake, but well-known photographer and photographic judge, of being nothing more than that of a simple 'stay - near home' photographer.

It was not a nom de plume I had wished or hoped for. I thought my image (below) of a Fenland Storm in black and white was amazing, but it just happened.



I live on the out skirts of the Fens and I had entered a national photographic landscape competition with a picture taken in an unplanned moment while walking in part of said Fens. Just outside Burwell in fact. Therefore, to this judge and their opinion, my ability of being able to photograph the beautiful mountains of Switzerland, the plains of Africa or even the red deserts of Australia, half a planet away, was out of the question. I can photograph those, of course, if I wish – and so can you.

We are all subject to fate. It may be due to a physical injury or perhaps someone in the family requires your attendance. The economy may have weakened your position, or maybe you are just at home due to a global pandemic and a nationwide lockdown. What is a photographer's answer to this dilemma?

Well, the first and most important step: Do not put your camera equipment in a cupboard and let it gather dust. If you can move around, go for a walk and see if you can get a little time away from home, then while out walking, don't forget to take your time and look around. Whenever I go out, even just to walk around the block, or across the Newmarket heath near where I live, I've always got my camera to hand.

Photo opportunities are everywhere.



Dressed for winter on the Devil's Dyke

We moved up here from North Hertfordshire, just over 9 and half years ago now. Originally landing in Burwell. My initial thought about living in this part of the world was that I would be relegated to photographing my growing children for their grandparents. That would be fun but would not satisfy my photo itch and with just finishing working in Television, that itch was only going to grow. So, I took my own advice. I got up and looked about.

I began by checking the local newspaper, as well as the local village magazines. They were loaded with tales of life in these parts and the more I read the more I could see this area was loaded with potential photo opportunities.

Some were a short drive away (nothing a landscape photographer was afraid of), but there were also lots nearby. Several National Trust properties, a world-famous Racecourse, picturesque villages, several incredible museums, churches, windmills, Lodes, boats, Cambridge and Ely and the vast open flat lands of the Fens themselves. Wow. I was spoilt for choice.

I went out and acquired several OS maps of the area. Love a good map. They revealed everything from public footpaths, roads, car parks, rivers and an area called 'The Devil's Dyke that stretched for miles through my new playground. It's great for walking, ever changing landscapes, and wildlife. I've never seen such well feed sheep!

I made a list and took my family around, visiting those places that seemed to be possibilities.

Have you looked about? Of course you have, dear reader, you know this area better than I do.

My point is photo opportunities are everywhere – and 'everywhere' I'm also including your own back garden. Like most people, to help encourage local wildlife we have hung bird feeders around the garden and have a bird bath too.

Now I don't mind telling you, my "wild animal" or nature photography is, to put it bluntly, awful. I'm trying to improve my photography of the numerous kinds of birds, next door's cat and a couple of daredevil squirrels which visit and of course we are lucky to now get the odd fleeting visit from a Sparrow Hawk - but as every photographer knows - I've never ever got my camera to hand for those visits…..

While living in Burwell and later Exning, I also took to photographing bugs, frogs and even attempted the family of Hedgehogs living under the shed with really mixed results. I found I could take some amazing photos of my snails as our pots of tomato plants would always be full of them.

The Fens and this part of Suffolk have its own charms. Barley fields rippling in gentle breeze, green pastures, frolicking racehorses out for an early morning gallop, cattle lazily grazing across low-lying fields, that old barn glistening in the evening sun, or discarded farm equipment are all waiting to be captured.

With a bit of luck and ample rain gear, which I never appear to have on at the crucial moment, you can capture a summer storm as it rolls across the fields, peppering the crops with rain as lightning flashes in the distance. It's a delight for "Big Sky" photography.

There's magical stuff there if you look for it.

We all have great photographic locations close to us. Get to know them; photograph them.



Sunset Lookouts Devil's Dyke

Don't put your camera on the shelf. Don't give up a great hobby. Become a STAY-NEAR-HOME photographer. Get up, get out, and look around.

Go forth my friends and capture your surroundings. Enjoy the walk, the fresh air, the challenge, join a photography club and make new friends. Have a great time processing on the computer or phone app and try printing your photos, even if it's the "instant print machine" in Tesco. There's nothing quite like holding your final print in your hand.

Who knows, maybe you'll capture a prize winner.

Once we're all allowed out, there is the Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club. Why not become a member and craft your photographic journey? For more information about the club, what we do and when we meet, please visit https://bottburpc.org, or there is the club Facebook page, just search for Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

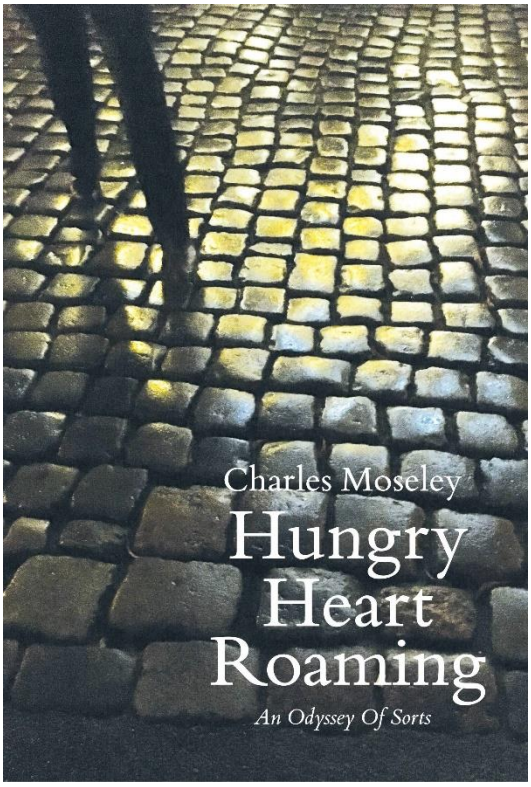
Until next time, happy snappy snapping.

Kind regards

Elliot Needham
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club.



Hungry Heart Roaming – Book Review



Take I can thoroughly recommend this latest book by Charles Moseley as an engrossing read, well researched and beautifully written. It is an account of his travels over a period of many years at home and overseas; the places he visited, the people he met and his many and varied experiences of life along the way.

There is much history here presented with a light touch which need not put off those whose knowledge of Greek mythology and Italian Renaissance art and architecture is not much above zero. There is also much about the countryside for Charles is a knowledgeable lover of nature. On a more sombre note are recollections of the Third Reich in Germany and the repressive Communist regimes which followed it - 'only the uniforms changed'. There is much also about the old pilgrim routes in our own country and the spiritually 'thin' places like Iona which resonate powerfully with Charles.

All the above is only a taster from the rich and varied larder which this book embraces. It needs to be read from start to finish to appreciate its full richness of mind and spirit. We all have 'hungry hearts' in one way or another and this book offers nutrition to us all.

David King

Anglesey Abbey



After a very soggy start to the spring, sunny and breezy weather has brought a sigh of relief for our gardeners as flooded conditions improved in early March. With the ground firming up underfoot we've been able to re-open large parts of our lawns bringing access back to South Lawn, Coronation Avenue and more of the Arboretum. This means that in April, with extra space, we can welcome more visitors safely in each pre-booked timeslot.

April and May are the best time to see the change in spring bulbs and early blossom on the trees. The Spring Bulb trail is still available to download from our website to help identify where the best bits of spring flowers are from Daffodils to Fritillaries. If you find yourself there at the right time, take a picture and send it to us, we would love to see them - angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk.

From March 29th until supplies last join us for an Easter adventure in nature at Anglesey Abbey. We will be running a family-friendly trail with fun activities for you to do along the way. Pick up your Easter pack on arrival (£3) and head out on a trail with your family, finishing with a reward of a yummy chocolate egg (or an alternative non-edible treat). We know how much joy our Easter egg trails bring to our visitors each year and we hope this year will be the same. However, we ask that you support your local property and tickets must be booked in advance. Please see our website or speak to a member of the team for more details.

Alexandra Smaridge

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

Wicken Fen



Image courtesy of Glynis Pierson

Spring at the Fen is always such a rewarding time. The ranger team have an informal competition, for who records the earliest dates for returning summer migrants, whether swallows or swifts, reed or sedge warblers; others like to notice their first butterflies, damselflies or keep track of which of the willows and hedgerow shrubs are in flower. I love spotting cuckooflowers and ragged robin in the field at the back of the Visitor Centre and suddenly noticing that the flag irises are out in profusion further round the walks. Seeing a yellow brimstone fly past my window is a moment to savour in a day. And this year, especially, we are looking forward to sharing spring with our visitors again, enjoying the birdsong and early flowers together.

Our plan for reopening the Sedge Fen, the Visitor Centre and shop, is following the government roadmap out of lockdown; rather than put dates down here, please continue to refer to the website for the latest information at any stage. This is particularly the case as we will keep a booking requirement for managing numbers of people on the Sedge Fen walks. The café is already open for takeaways and will move towards outdoor and then indoor seating as restrictions ease; our cycle hire is open, but operating in a more limited safe way, so booking is advisable. Later in the season, we will be looking to get our boat trips up and running again and our hides and Fen Cottage safely open.

With the koniks and cattle out on the wider reserve, while foals and calves in these natural family groups can – and do – arrive at all times of the year, spring is still the busiest time for new arrivals. Our ranger team, out every day keeping an eye on all the grazing animals, is on high alert, to check on mothers and young, complete the necessary ear-tagging and compliance requirements.

When you visit our wider reserve areas, please help us by ensuring you keep to paths, with dogs under close control, and admire the animals from a distance.

Look out for news of our Footprints Community Engagement Project, with planned events and activities across the Vision area. This 3-year project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, was put on pause last March, but we are ready to start it up again now, and will be on the lookout for volunteers, and your involvement too for different types of activity, from astronomy to Bioblitzes.

Keep up to date www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen.

Keep in touch 01353 720274; email wickenfen@nationaltrust.org.uk; facebook, Instagram and twitter @wickenfenNT

Isabel Sedgewick

Burwell Museum



Burwell Museum: Getting Ready for Reopening

Usually, this article would be all about our fabulous start of season events, but of course things continue to be different this year! As I write, museums are not allowed to open to the public until the 17th of May at the earliest, making our first day Thursday 20th May and our opening event Sunday 23rd May. Of course, that depends on everything going smoothly with the "road map" out of lockdown, so please keep an eye out on social media and for posters around the village to find out what we're up to. We'd love to welcome you back but we want to make sure that it's safe to do so.

While we're closed to the public, our wonderful volunteers have been busy over the last few months and we're making some improvements to our site. The biggest change will be a new path up the side of the mill and a more accessible entrance to the mill itself (see picture for the work in progress).



We're very grateful to Martin Mead and his team for the building work and to the Co-op community fund and the Cambridge branch of John Lewis and partners for funding this project, which will help more people to be able to access the windmill safely and comfortably.

When we told them that the path was being built, Christine Shaw said "at John Lewis & Partners, we appreciate the local area we work in and enjoy being able to give back to the local community, as it's a way of saying thank you for your support and our Partners in the Cambridge shop will also have the added benefit of being able to visit this amazing local museum". Steve Smith, who is a great supporter of the museum above and beyond the community fund, said "I'd just like to say what a pleasure it's been to work with and support the museum through being one of our local causes and also by collaborating on community events. We are so pleased that funds raised have gone to support works on the grounds and hope thisbenefits so many in the community for years to come. Also, we look forward to post covid times and planning future events with them".

We're also planning a new shed on site so that we can get things better organised. We always welcome new volunteers, although at the moment there are some restrictions on what we can do - if you're interested in helping the museum then please contact Alison on education@burwellmuseum.org.uk to find out more.

Alison Giles

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

Escaping Covid – at the America's Cup

Firstly, a quick recap . . . .

I have two delightful daughters. Jenny, with husband Richie and kids Will, Em and Nat, is in Berkhamsted and dealing with government restrictions (which happily are easing).

My other daughter Rachel, with husband Matt and kids Ols and Els, has been in New Zealand since September and they have significantly fewer Covid restrictions, indeed life is very normal with interruptions only when a case appears (they get very few) and the authorities need to trace contacts. They're there because Matt is the CFO of the British America's Cup Team and the 36th such event has recently concluded in Auckland.

At the end of my last contribution, the Brits were just starting to compete with Italy and the USA in the Prada Cup, to decide who would be the Challenger to the holders New Zealand.

And the **good news** is that the we won the first round of the event, which meant that the INEOS team went straight through to the Prada Cup Final, whilst the USA and Italy battled it out to get meet us there.

So there you have it – that was the good news.

In the final of the Prada Cup, we took on Italy, who had beaten the USA. We were confident; we had beaten them in the first round, but the Italians had been busy in the meantime and made their boat go faster.

So the final outcome for INEOS was elimination and it was the Italians who went through to challenge New Zealand in the Americas Cup.



Rachel and family were distraught (it was a four year project for them which ended in failure).

In the America's Cup, the Italians set off well and gained a lead of 3-2 (it's the best of 13). But the NZ yacht gradually improved (they had had nowhere near the race practice that the Italians had had) and won the next 5 races, winning the Cup itself by 7-3.



The winning NZ yacht

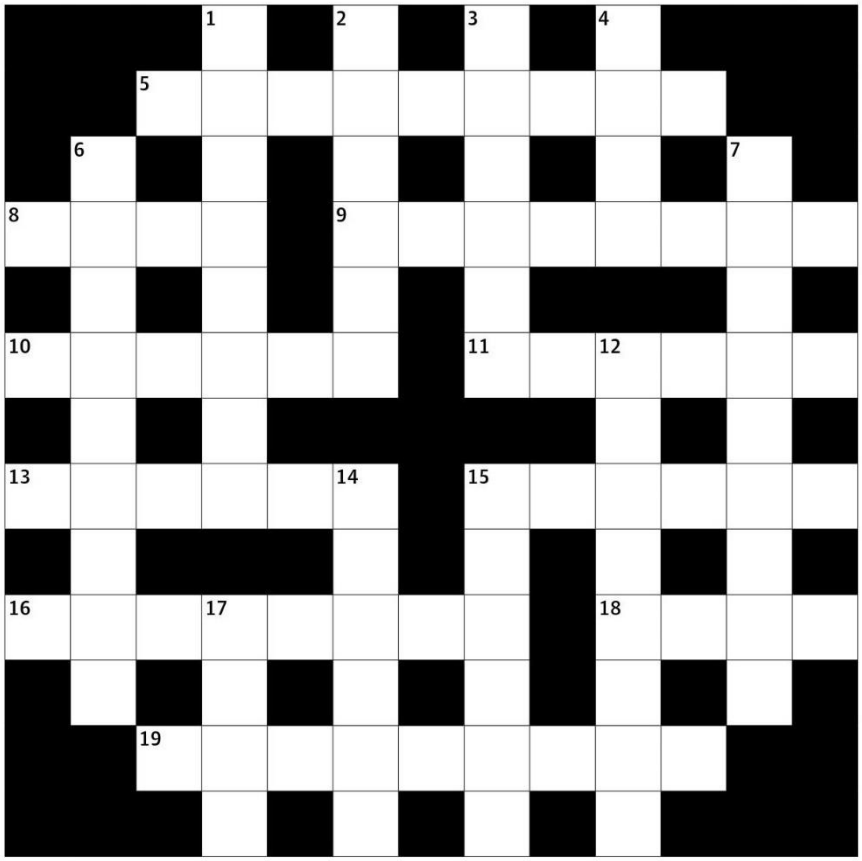
Ultimately Rachel and family decided to make the best of it and head to South Island which is even more beautiful than North Island – and they will be there until the middle of April.



It's been a wonderful adventure for them all and Jim Ratcliffe who owns INEOS, the main sponsor for the British yacht, has agreed to support them for the next challenge – so all is well. And the likelihood is it'll be in Auckland in four years which hopefully means I'll get to go!

David Parr

Crossword



Across

5 Member of the middle class? (9)
8 Manner (4)
9 Injury (which may need plastering?) (8)
10 Out of the way (6)
11 Small diving bird without webbed feet that feeds on river bed (6)
13 Cope with a difficult situation (4,2)
15 Charity race (3,3)
16 Only understandable by an enlightened inner circle (8)
18 Wander freely (4)
19 Someone easily put upon (4,5)

Down

1 Cloudburst (8)
2 Cold dessert (6)
3 Just deserts (6)
4 Hand, when clenched (4)
6 The other way round (4,5)
7 Against the rules (9)
12 Tiny puncture (8)
14 Equal status (6)
15 Element influencing a decision (6)
17 Sound a car horn (4)

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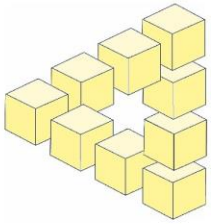

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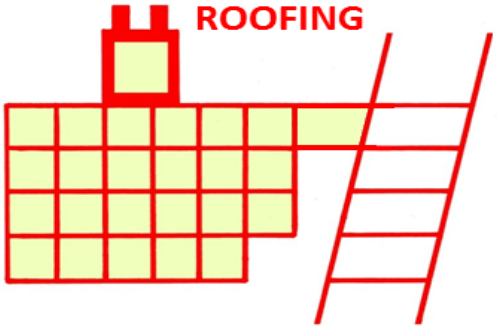

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The Dyke's End

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It is our plan to re-open, as per the current government guidelines, on **Friday 23rd April** with our:

Dyke's End Spring Menu

To Start or Share

Potato omelette 5
(Tortilla de patata)

Breaded meatballs & tomato sauce 6.50
(Albóndigas)

Serano ham breaded dough balls 6.50
(Croquetas de jamón)

Spicy diced chips 3.50
(Potatas brava)

Spanish cheese & meats 6.50 p/p
(Tabla de embutidos)

Mains

Chicken fricassee, baby veg & potato aligot 13.50

Beef & mozzarella Lasagna, roasted garlic bread & salad 12.50

Fish, chips & mushy peas 12.50

Tartiflette savoyarde, reblochon cheese & baby veg 11.50

Ratatouille & parmesan potato gratin 10.50

Classic Sheppard's pie, seasonal veg & gravy 12.50

Deserts

Crème brûlée 6

Chocolate mousse 6

Crumble of the day 6

Homemade Ice creams 3 (*per scoop)*

Dyke's End Spring Menu

Braised beef brisket 15.50

Spinach, mushroom & hazelnut wellington 12.50

Confit chicken thighs stuffed with sausage & mushrooms 13.50

(Served with all the trimmings)

Tales from a Reach Garden



It's March, the daffodils are in full bloom and it is a very busy time of year for gardeners. In the vegetable garden, it is a time for sowing seeds, I enjoy it but Richard doesn't - he's more of a digger, hoer and hacker. I enjoy sowing seed, pruning and tying-in, though I'm not averse to wielding a saw when necessary. We both enjoy harvesting and eating the rewards of our labour.



Masses of daffodils in bloom in Cambridge Botanic garden

For me one of the joys of sowing seed is being in the warmth of the polytunnel when it's still cold outside. It's a very calming task in the garden calendar - dispensing the seeds into compost, labelling the pots and watering them. Later on in spring I'll be pricking out the seedlings and potting them on. Occasionally I listen to music or a podcast, but usually I'm listening to birdsong while pottering.

At this time of year the pots are brought indoors as we don't have a heated greenhouse and temperatures are more constant in our house (especially overnight) which is better for seed germination. When the first pea or broad bean shoots form, they are returned to the polytunnel to harden off before planting outside. Tomatoes, peppers and aubergines are returned to the polytunnel when there is less risk of overnight frost, usually in late April, to benefit from the extra light. Even a sunny windowsill is not as bright as a greenhouse or polytunnel. However, I do pay attention to the weather forecast, so if there is a risk of overnight frost I rescue the young plants from the polytunnel and return them to the house.

Other vegetables like carrots, spinach, chard, lettuce, cabbage, kale, leeks etc. I sow directly into the soil. I've found from past experience that they benefit from direct sowing - voles and mice are not so interested in these seeds and leave them alone, until the seedlings poke through the soil. It's inevitable that seedlings have to be thinned out after germinating. I use the lettuce, chard and spinach thinnings in salads. The young shoots are attractive to deer, pigeons, rodents (especially rabbits) so we cover the bed where they are growing with mesh to keep off the would-be animal foragers.



Lettuce, spinach, chard and pak choi seedlings after thinning out

Carrots have to be thinned out too if you want tubers of decent size, but the act of thinning them out encourages carrot root fly which are attracted to the carrot scent. I've tried to disguise the smell by growing them next to garlic, with mixed results. One carrot variety I've grown, called "Resistafly" does seem to be resistant to carrot root fly.

Last year our "Purple Haze" carrots also did well growing near garlic, but "Autumn Giant", a variety which grows the biggest tubers, succumbed. This year I'll keep them under horticultural fleece, but keep it well pegged down because the little blighters will try to find a way in. We do eat most of the affected carrots but cut away the damaged bits. I have to say that even after this effort, the carrots have a flavour that's not matched by the supermarket varieties, so they are worth growing, especially the more unusual varieties.

Danuta Gibson

Food Focus

Jerusalem Artichokes



In my opinion these extraordinary looking and rarely available vegetables are delicious roasted. If the skins are left on, they take on a crunchy toffee like consistency at their edges, becoming so sweet and soft.

I rarely manage to get them cooked in time for Sunday lunch though as by the time I've dug and cooked them they aren't ready until about 3 in the afternoon. All is not lost however, as cold from the fridge for the following week, they are a tasty and satisfying sneaky mouthful. I go through phases of cooking them too. We can only take so much wind. These two recipes below do them justice.

Jerusalem artichoke and bacon gratin
(courtesy of Riverford Organic Farmers)

This creamy gratin is particularly good for busy weeknights, as Jerusalem artichokes cook quickly on the stove. Then the dish only needs a blast under a hot grill to finish it off. It still works well if you leave out the bacon. It is rich, so it's good for a side dish for 2-4, depending how hungry you are and what else you're planning on serving. For an indulgent supper that's not too much in quantity, a crisp green salad alongside will do the job for two.



Ingredients

75g smoked bacon, diced
25g butter
200g Jerusalem artichokes, scrubbed clean
100ml double cream
100ml milk
20g Pamesan, grated
salt and pepper

Method

Prep time: 10 min
Cooking time: 30 min

Step 1
Heat the grill to high. Fry the bacon in the butter until crispy. Drain on kitchen paper and set aside.

Step 2
Peel and slice the artichokes and put them in a small pan with the cream and milk. Bring to a gentle simmer and cook until tender but still holding their shape, about 10 mins.

Step 3
Drain the artichokes and put the liquid back on to the stove to reduce. When thickened to a custard consistency, return the artichokes to the pan, add the bacon and season to taste.

Step 4
Tip into a gratin dish and top with the Parmesan. Place under the hot grill until golden, 5–10 mins.

Cream of Jerusalem Artichoke Soup
(courtesy of Good Housekeeping)
Serves 6

Ingredients

450g Jerusalem artichokes scrubbed then thinly sliced
50g butter
2 shallots peeled and diced
1tsp mild curry powder
900ml vegetable or chicken stock
150ml single cream (or milk for a less rich soup)
Freshly grated nutmeg to taste
Pinch of cayenne pepper
4 tbsp freshly grated parmesan

Method

Melt the butter in a large saucepan, add the shallots and cook gently for 10 minutes until soft and golden. Stir in the curry powder and cook for a minute. Add the sliced artichokes and stock. Stir well. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for about 15 minutes until the artichokes are tender.

Add the cream, nutmeg and cayenne to the soup. Whizz or blend then sieve into a clean saucepan (I never bother with this last stage). Reheat the soup and stir in the parmesan. Add salt and pepper as required.

Catherine Gibson

Letter from the Vicarage



Spring has to be one of the most inspiring and hopeful times of year, with lighter afternoons and evenings, trees sprouting new growth, flowers springing up and even days when we see the sun! A year on from the first national lockdown, there is still much uncertainty and restrictions are only slowly going to be lifted, but there does seem to be increasing hope that the end of this pandemic may be coming closer.

The challenge, now that we've been given target dates, will be to hold on and keep abiding by the necessary measures to protect each other. Let's keep praying for each other, for our community, for our world, as we wait and look forward in hope.

At St Mary's and St Etheldreda's, we are looking forward to celebrating Easter and along with some online services, we are hoping to be able to restart services in our church buildings around Easter, with all of the distancing and other measures still in place. As we re-establish a pattern of services in our buildings, up to date details will be on our website and Facebook page.

Because there is limited space, we will be using an online booking system on our website to help us with planning, and with collecting details for Test and Trace, or you can contact us by phone. Later on, as restrictions are gradually lifted, we'll be aiming to restart some of our other groups and activities. In the meantime, we will be continuing with our online services, via Zoom and Facebook. More details each week on our Facebook page and our website. Our groups for families and children meet on Zoom: on Friday mornings at 9.30am there is Refresh Café - a very informal song/story time babies and pre-school children with their parents and carers and a chance to get together and meet other families. On Sunday afternoons we have a Messy Gathering at 5pm most weeks, with activities, story and prayers. Regular updates and more details about how to connect with us are on our website https://stmarysburwell.org.uk/ or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell/.

For many, the last year has brought grief, financial hardship and struggles with mental health. If it would help to chat or if we can pray for you, please get in touch, or if you need help accessing the foodbank or need other practical support.

God bless you

Eleanor

Eleanor Williams
Vicar of Burwell with Reach
01638 741262
Email: vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk
Web: www.stmarysburwell.org.uk

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell

Refresh Café and Messy Church Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/messychurchburwell

My page for photos and reflections:
https://www.facebook.com/echoesofgracebyeleanor

UPDATE ON PLANS FOR REFURBUSHMENT OF REACH CHURCH

After delays resulting from Covid restrictions, significant progress has been made since the beginning of this year. Draft plans and full specification for the development works were received in January and studied by the PCC. Questions and comments arising were sent to the architect and revised drawings and specification were received and have now been approved by the PCC. These will form the basis for the Faculty application to the Diocese of Ely for works to proceed. The aim of the work inside the church will be to provide a warm, comfortable and flexible building, with a servery, toilet and modern lighting and audio-visual systems that will benefit not only the church but the whole community. Disabled access will be greatly improved by the addition of a ramp up to the entrance and levelled floors. The basic plans have been shared with the village through public meetings and articles in the magazine, and some modifications have been made as we have gone along. These have been shared through the magazine, as they have been decided, but we will now bring all this together by setting a special page on our website:
www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/reachdevelopment
and by producing a leaflet, to send round by email. Some copies of the leaflet will be available in the church in the next couple of weeks. The website will be regularly updated as things progress.

We are looking forward to the next stage of this project and to an anticipated start-date for works in mid-August.

Rev'd Paula Spalding

On behalf of the **Reach Development Group**



Church Services

St Mary's Burwell
St Etheldreda's Reach
Loving God, Loving People

Scan the QR code to go to our website for more details and links to book for services in church buildings and to join in via Zoom and Facebook

https://stmarysburwell.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell

We are hoping to restart services in our church buildings when current lockdown ends

EASTER SUNDAY April 4th

9.00am Holy Communion in St Etheldreda's Reach
10.00am Holy Communion in St Mary's Burwell

Up to date information is available each week on the website and Facebook

ONLINE SERVICES will continue on Facebook and Zoom

Sundays

8.30am Thought for the Week on Facebook
10.00am Morning Worship via Zoom
5.00pm Messy Gathering via Zoom

Weekdays

Daily Prayers on our Church Facebook page
9.30am Friday - Refresh Café on Zoom
9.00am Saturday - Elk Prayer Group on Zoom

CHURCH BUILDINGS OPEN FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Days and times will vary depending on when services are scheduled
Usually Thursdays and some Sunday afternoons

PHONELINE 01638 598958 and dial in to hear a recording of our Facebook services

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.

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 will be opening, as per government guidelines on Friday 23rd April – with our new Spring Menu which you can see on page 16 of the Adverts section.

In the meantime, we are still able to offer our very popular **Takeaway Service** which is available:

5 – 8pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday

We are not currently offering Sunday Lunch

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

We look forward to seeing you all at the end of the month!

The Dyke's End
Email: bookatdykesendreach.co.uk
Tel: 01638 743816

Know Your District Councillors



At Council on 23 February the Chairman announced the impending retirement of Dr Liz Robin, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Director of Health. On behalf of the Members and Officers of the Council, the Chairman thanked Dr Robin for all her pandemic-related work and wished her well for her forthcoming retirement. We would like to add our thanks to Dr Robin for all the work she and her team have done over the years, and especially throughout the Covid pandemic.

On Thursday 6 May we will be voting for our County Councillor, Police and Crime Commissioner and Mayor. Covid may bring additional challenges to attending the polling station, so you may want to arrange a postal or proxy vote. With a postal vote, the Council will post you your ballot with a pre-paid return envelope, you vote before election day, so that your ballot is delivered back to ECDC by polling day. With a proxy vote you nominate a trusted person to cast your vote for you at the polling station. You can get the forms to apply for postal or proxy votes on-line www.eastcambs.gov.uk/elections-voting/ways-vote or by email;
democratic.services@eastcambs.gov.uk
or phone the Elections Office on 01353 665555

The Finance and Assets Committee approved the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). There were many comments from individuals and groups that felt that the SPD did not go far enough to counter climate change, with interesting and thoughtful contributions and we hope that most of these suggestions can be incorporated into the new Local Plan. Unfortunately, an SPD cannot go beyond the provisions in the current Local Plan, but it does contain some useful guidance. We were disappointed that several large housing developers had sought to water down the proposals.

The Operational Services Committee renewed the grant to the Newmarket CAB, but for one year only. The paper presented to the Committee recommended that "Once the pandemic and its associated restrictions ease, the Council's Housing and Community Advice service will seek to create a housing and advice hub in the Newmarket area." We are concerned by this because many people are more comfortable going to Citizens' Advice than they are going to the Council, because they see Citizens' Advice as independent. We therefore think the grant should be continued in future years.

Council approved the budget for 2021/22 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy through to 2024/25. The East Cambs element of the Council Tax is frozen for 2021/22 but will rise by over 3.5% in 2022/23 and by the maximum amount allowed in the subsequent years. Despite these Council Tax rises, the Council is forecasting a budget shortfall of over £4 million from 2023/24. We supported an unsuccessful amendment which would have given financial support to local businesses recovering from Covid and carried out a consultation on leisure and recreation provision across the district as well as raising Council Tax more gradually and reducing the budget shortfall below £4 million.

Although the District Council's share of the Council tax is frozen, your Council tax bills will rise because the bill sent by the District Council covers the County Council, Police and Fire services and your Parish Council – many of these other bodies have increased their Council tax charges. If you are finding it difficult to pay your Council tax, you may be eligible for reductions or exemptions: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/services/counciltax/reductions/index.cfm.
or you can get advice from Citizens Advice or by contacting John – john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk or Charlotte – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk.

There was cross-party support for a motion in support of the proposed Fens Biosphere. (Biosphere Reserve status is awarded by UNESCO to unique and valuable landscapes). Biosphere status can bring people and organisations together to develop a shared vision for the future of the Fens. It will support better management of the natural capital of the Fens, create a sense of connectedness to the Fens and contribute to a sense of place and better quality of life. Charlotte had to declare an interest in this and not vote or take part in the discussions because she works for the local Wildlife Trust, who are a partner in the project.

The administration passed a motion calling for the A1123 to be downgraded to a B road. We did not support this motion because evidence from across the country shows that changing from an A road to a B road does not lead to any reduction in traffic or speeds, but it does lead to a reduction in road maintenance funding from central government. In this case, we would lose £250,000 a year putting yet more pressure on a budget which is already struggling to fund adequate road maintenance.

It was confirmed that the Council has a 7 year land supply and therefore our development envelopes in the Local Plan 2015 should be respected.

Our next virtual District Councillors' Surgery and meet your Councillors will be on Thursday 29 April at 6.30pm. This will be held by zoom - Meeting ID: 886 6745 4755, Passcode: 984508. The following surgery will be Tuesday 25 May at 6.30pm - Meeting ID: 859 7408 5100, Passcode: 741447. If you prefer to join the meetings by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.

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

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

Village Hall

REACH VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

We would like to hear from anyone who might like to join our committee to help plan and build on our past success as we begin to think of the end of Lockdown and opening.

We are a small committee of 6 who normally meet every other month in the VH. We are losing 2 committee members at the next AGM in September who between them have served nearly 30 years and Grahame and Jan deserve huge appreciation for their efforts!

The VH serves our community and beyond and has been modernised with suitable provision for the disabled and has hosted many regular bookings from training sessions, nursery, school special needs, yoga, weddings and celebrations with music, curry nights to wine tasting! The committee simply facilitate and manage the Hall with most of the bookings and the H&S undertaken by the individual hirer.

We really need some new ideas to generate more income for the Hall to maintain its functioning or sadly it will just not be here. Hundreds of community centres have closed in the last few years. We are so lucky to have our Village Hall right in the heart of Reach which has only been possible by the huge numbers of people who over the years have given so much support. Please give me a call if you might be interested you don't have to make a commitment at this stage!

Sue Elliott
742268

Reach Cricket Team 2021



We are hopeful of being able to start our season on time on Sunday 25 April. This is the usual, annual call for any active, lapsed or never-tried-but-would-like-to cricketers who might be hiding away in the village.

We have a full season of Sunday friendlies (see opposite) and an international tour (to Monmouthshire) lined up for September. We are a mixed ability, multi-talented team which takes on all-comers and plays hopefully in the true spirit of the game.

We don't do grudge matches and no-one who drops a catch gets automatically driven from the parish (not for long, anyway).

If you would like to play please contact me on 743725 or email rossjclark@aol.com.

Ross Clark

Reach Riders

It's been a quiet time for the group, but we have had a few new members join which is lovely. The arena is looking great and has been lightly used through winter and now Spring.

Lessons at the arena have started up again, Lucy Tuck is running these

Fund raising has been on hold with all the COViD restrictions, but we will be planning some fund raisers and social events when we are allowed.

We use Craig Reader for our maintenance of the ground and it's down to him, over the last few years, that we have such excellent footing!

Looking forward to seeing you all at one of our first social events in 2021!

Sue Cameron

Fixtures 2021

Sun 25 Apr	**Home**	start 1.30pm Kerala
Sun 2 May	**Home**	start 1.30pm Ivanhoe
Sun 9 May	**Home**	start 2.00pm Simmons CC
Sun 16 May	**Home**	start 1.30pm Chippenham
Sun 23 May	**Home**	start 2.00pm The Journeymen
Sun 30 May	Away	start 1.30pm Barrow
Sun 6 Jun	Away	start 1.30pm Fen Ditton
Sun 13 Jun	Away	start 1.30pm Guilden Morden Cherubs
Sun 20 Jun	**Home**	start 1.30pm Pimlico Strollers
Sun 27 Jun	**Home**	start 1.30m Extras CC
Sun 4 Jul	**Home**	start 1.30pm Kirtling
Sun 11 Jul	**Home**	start Midday Space Cadets
Sun 18 Jul	Away	start 1.30pm Woodford Green
Sun 25 Jul	Away	start 1.30pm Stansfield
Sun 1 Aug	**Home**	start 2.00pm Rain Men
Sun 8 Aug	**Home**	start 2.00pm Chinar CC
Sun 15 Aug	**Home**	start 1.30pm Waterbeach
Sun 22 Aug	**Home**	start 1.30pm Sharks CC
Sun 29 Aug	Away	start 1.30pm Milton 1.30
Sat 4 and Sun 5 Sep		Monmouth tour
Sun 12 Sep	**Home**	start 1.00pm Stansfield
Sun 19 Sep	**Home**	start 1.30pm Teluga Association Cambridge
Sun 26 Sep	**Home**	start 1.00pm Phoenix CC

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on; Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Acting 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 assist with the Tennis court item & to hear the discussions.

The AtoB1102 representative presentation and discussion
The AtoB1102 group has been set up with the aim of "improving the quality of the lives of those who drive, ride, cycle, walk and live alongside the B1102". They are a group of volunteers from the communities of Burwell, Swaffham Prior, Bottisham, Longmeadow & Lode and Stow-cum-Quy, to represent communities, supporting local parish councils, to ensure everyone is aware of proposed changes to our transport infrastructure which will affect all our lives in the coming years. They engage in meaningful consultation with the communities and the County, District Councils and Greater Cambridge Partnership (who will be making these decisions affecting car travel, bus travel, cycle routes in Cambridge and beyond), canvassing views, aspirations, and concerns for Local and Regional transport infrastructure –issues that affect the villages and our transport links to Cambridge.
A very informative presentation took place, and the PC agreed that Reach should engage with this group ***Councillor Trump*** to become the Reach PC representative.

1. Declaration of Interests
There were none.

2. Councillors – Election of Chair. Recruitment of new councillors
There were no volunteers or nominations for the position of Chair of the PC. A new Councillor enquiry had been received; they had been asked to submit a brief introduction of themselves to The Clerk.

3. Planning Applications.
There were none.

4. County Councillor Report
No report received.

5. District Councillor Report
January's Planning and Licensing Committees were cancelled.
Operational Services Committee received various update reports and service reviews. They renewed the grant to Citizens Advice West Suffolk for one year only. The paper presented to the Committee recommended that "Once the pandemic and its associated restrictions ease, the Council's Housing and Community Advice service will seek to create a housing and advice hub in the Newmarket area."

John and Charlotte are concerned about this because many people are more comfortable going to Citizens' Advice than they are going to the Council, because they see Citizens' Advice as independent. This could be further exacerbated if Operational Services accepts the recommendation to join the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme under which the Council's housing staff would support the Police by sharing intelligence, data, and information with them. People who are unsure of their rights, e.g., about part-time or voluntary work and benefits, might be wary of seeking advice from staff who could be passing on information to the police and other 'accredited organisations'.
Finance & Assets Committee had too much business to cover in one meeting, so the agenda was split into two meetings, with the second to be held on 4 March. Unfortunately, the Chair decided to postpone the chance for members to consider the East Cambs Trading Company budget for 2021/22 to the March meeting. We therefore do not yet know the financial plans for this multi-million-pound subsidiary.

The Committee received various update reports and service reviews. They considered a paper on On-street parking enforcement. The administration is unwilling to implement a civil parking regime, even though this is the route most Councils have successfully followed, claiming wrongly that it would require them to charge for car parks. Instead, they are proposing to ask the Chief Constable to empower volunteers to issue Fixed Penalty Parking Notices. It is not clear how this will work, or even if it would work, but if it can be made to work Parish Councils could consider seeking volunteers to assist with the scheme in their villages. The paper covering this also called for ECDC to join the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, which would accredit some Council staff and some of East Cambs Street Scene staff to support the Police and take enforcement action. John and Charlotte felt this was ill thought through and had not been sufficiently consulted on within the community. We also felt that as it covered Community Safety it was beyond the remit of the Finance & Assets Committee and should be referred to Full Council or Operational Services Committee. After considerable procedural muddle, the Chair called a break in the meeting while he consulted with officers and it was finally agreed that the CSAS initiative should be referred to the Operational Services Committee. There could be advantages to the CSAS scheme, but it could fundamentally change the relationship of residents with Council staff if those staff are taking enforcement action on behalf of the Police. There needs to be wide discussion of what powers the Council will take and how it will manage the staff who are using those powers on behalf of the police. As noted above, it could have significant implications for the housing team who currently support people with advice on debt management, employment, housing provision and relationship tensions. Will people still be willing to consult them if they know they are also sharing information with the police and could take direct enforcement action? For example, will a beggar talk to them and maybe be helped into housing and employment or will they run away for fear of being given a fine?

The Committee approved the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document. This did not go as far as many respondents hoped, as it cannot go beyond the provisions in the Local Plan. But it does contain some useful guidance. We were disappointed that several large housing developers had sought extremely hard to water down the proposals. The Chair decided not to ask the Committee to make any recommendations to Council about the budget for 2021/22. However, the papers did show that on current plans by 2023/24 the Council will have a budget shortfall of £4.6 million on a total net expenditure of £12 million. The Finance Manager "strongly recommended that early consideration is made as to how savings in future years will be achieved."

The Committee approved the Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.

There will be a Planning Committee, Licensing Committee and Full Council meeting in February. The Full Council meeting will approve the budget for 2021/22, without any recommendation from Finance & Assets Committee and without the Finance & Assets Committee having reviewed the budget for East Cambs Trading Company for 2021/22.

6. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

7.1 Reach Grant Fund
There were none.

7.2 Finance
Nothing to report.

7.3 Parish Council Members
Nothing to report.

7.4 Play Spaces
The annual inspection is being arranged.

7.5 Rights of Way

Again, more complaints have been received regarding the byways around the village which are getting very cut up with the winter weather and more user due to COVID-19. There has been an increase in farm traffic 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.

7.6 24Acres Committee

The composite loo on the 24Acres has had a new roof fitted.

7.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Meetings and engagement with the village

There were no meetings in January.

Ecological Appraisal

MKA Ecology undertook a second day of fieldwork in Reach on 18 January focusing on the chalk faces and regenerating woodland the Clunch Pit, some of which is owned by the Parish Council.

MKA's draft appraisal is expected in the next few weeks. It will form part of the evidence base for our Plan. Elements of the appraisal will inform a proposal on improving the benefits for residents of the PC-owned land in the Clunch Pit. I hope to submit a proposal, which will contain practical support from two residents, for consideration at March's meeting.

There has been an initial, informal meeting with residents of Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck who are also engaged in ecological initiatives to improve their neighbourhoods (Bulbeck through its developing NP). There was consensus that our work would benefit from working collectively and extending the invitation to collaborate to neighbouring fen-edge parishes of Lode and Burwell. The timing of the first formal meeting to scope the nature and level of co-operation will be determined by delivery of MKA's Appraisal (which will help to focus discussion).

Planning Policy

A letter dated 18 January from Christopher Pincher, Minister of Housing, in response to our letter of 17 October 2020 to Lucy Frazer MP expressing concern about the Government's White Paper on planning reform and its likely negative impact on Neighbourhood Plans, has been circulated to councillors. Pincher gives a holding response but offers little evidence that Government is yet prepared to shift substantially from implementing a top-down directive approach to planning reform. I recommend that we write again to Lucy Frazer emphasising our unhappiness with the erosion of local democracy articulated in the White Paper. Pincher's response strengthens the case for getting our Plan to village referendum as quickly as possible.

Our letter of 11 January to Lucy Frazer seeking support for an oversight mechanism for solar farms development applications has been referred to Secretary of State at MCHLG. We await his response. The issue has also been raised by John Trapp at the Finance and Assets Committee meeting of 25 January and gained some support from David Brown Chair of the Committee and Councillor for Burwell.

Outlook

We plan to publish the draft Plan for comment in the near future as we begin a wider consultation of stakeholders including 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 residents face to face. An upbeat view of the country's vaccination pro-gramme 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 in the late summer or autumn of 2021.

7.8 Friends of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

8. Planning White Paper - MHCLG Response

A response from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government via Lucy Frazer had been received. This was merely a holding response and gave no reassurance. None of the PC's concerns had been addressed. ***Councillor Acklam*** to respond and to ask Lucy Frazer if she is able to attend a PC meeting to discuss this and also to discuss the lack of framework for the increasing solar farm applications.

9. Tennis court maintenance

The tennis court is now 10 years old and is overdue for cleaning and painting. There is a restricted reserve available which should cover the costs. Any additional costs would be required to come from the Grant Fund. The tennis court is an important asset to the village and free to use by the residents. The PC feels it is important that it is looked after. ***David Parr*** to obtain 3 quotes for the works. The Tennis Club will need a new committee going forward, they will need to be more proactive with advertising and keeping new sponsored members from outside the village, to organise fund raising and to generally ensure the tennis court is well used and looked after.

10. Registering PC owned land – Clunch pit.
A village resident & the PC would like to open up this area of land for recreational/conservational use, although access would be difficult. Firstly, the PC need to be named on the land registry. Once this is done there maybe other issues, such as liability, contamination, and the damage of the ecology. The costs for this project would be met by the villager. ***Councillor Acklam*** to continue with the project.

11. Acceptance of renewal of IT contract
Approved, subject to the cloud back up service being UK/European based. ***Councillor McMillan & the Clerk*** to arrange.

12. New dog poo bin
It was approved that a new bin will be located at the junction of Barston Drove, Great Lane and Little Fen Drove. ***Clerk*** to arrange purchase of bin and ECDC collections.

13. Information Items
David Parr to pass over the URLs of the village website and the Reach fair website to the PC.

14. Payments

E. on - Power on the green	£26.29
Fuse – IT contract	£512.64
David Parr – Reach Fair website hosting	£71.86

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on; Wednesday 4th March 2021

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Acting 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.
There were none.

1. Declaration of Interests
Councillor Fletcher declared an interest in the planning application 21/00231/FUL and left the meeting during this discussion.

2. Councillors – Election of Chair. Recruitment of new councillors
There were no volunteers or nominations for the position of Chair of the PC.

3. Planning Applications.
21/00192/FUL – Spring Hall Farm 50 Great Lane. Change of use of existing agricultural building to a commercial garage (use Class B2) including MOT station (sui generis) – retrospective.
21/00198/FUL & 21/00199/LBC - Needholy 22 Fair Green Reach. Single storey rear extension
Confusion had resulted in no Councillors visiting these sites, so the PC were unable to discuss. ***Clerk*** to check whether an extension until the next meeting is possible or another meeting will need to be arranged.

21/00231/FUL - The Old Paddock 48B Great Lane, Reach. Single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling and swimming pool.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the PC would object to this application and that the following report should be sent to ECDC. The PC will ask for application to be called in to Planning Committee if the Planning Officer is minded to approve it. Councillor Acklam would represent the Parish Council at Planning Committee.

Local Plan The site lies about 55 m outside the development envelope of the village as defined by the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 which remains part of the development plan.
Previous applications/appeals The existing dwelling was given planning permission in November 2016, with the existing garage granted permission, on appeal, in November 2018. This application appears to more than double the footprint of the original dwelling, although the roof line is slightly lower.
Loss of sunlight N/A
Overshadowing/loss of outlook The bungalow lies on the western outskirts of the village on Barston Drove, a single-track lane which heads towards the open fens. As the lane leaves the built-up area of the village, which is on slightly higher ground, the site provides the first glimpse of the fens in the distance over Catch Water Drain and Blackberry Drove on the other side of the property. This forms an important part of the sensitive edge of the village adjacent to the fens, one of its main characteristics. There will be minimal further impact on the outlook from Barston Drove, but significant impact on the outlook across Barston Drove from Blackberry Drove and other public footpaths across the fens.
Overlooking and loss of privacy The rear elevation will be significantly closer to the neighbours and increases from 4 windowpanes in one frame to 16 windowpanes in 5 frames and a door. Although there are hedges which will screen visibility for much of the year, there will be some loss of visual privacy and significant loss of aural privacy.
Highway issues: Traffic generation, Vehicular access & Highway safety N/A
Noise or disturbance resulting from use, including proposed hours of operation Because the rear elevation is close to the boundary with next door's garden and has 16 windows plus a door, there is potential for additional noise, adversely impacting on the quiet enjoyment of next door's garden. The applicants intend to install external lights (low wattage) on the exterior of the extension closest to the neighbouring property.
Smells and fumesN/A
Capacity of physical infrastructure There are concerns about the ability to safely drain the swimming pool. The applicants intend to manage the pool without routine draining. But it is not clear how the pool would be safely drained if required. If chemically treated water fed into the catchwater drain it could do significant damage to the ecology of that waterway and the Reach Lode into which it feeds.
Deficiencies in social facilities N/A
Storage and handling of hazardous materials and development of contaminated land It is not clear how any chemicals needed for pool maintenance would be stored safely and how leakage into the catchwater drain would be prevented.
Loss or effect on trees We would want assurance that the hedge between the two properties would not be damaged by the closeness of the new building.
Adverse impact on nature conservation interests and biodiversity opportunities Taking the dwelling close to the hedge will disturb any wildlife in the hedge. Additional windows will add to light pollution and noise which is likely to disturb wildlife especially at night. The light from the proposed extension will have an increased impact the catchwater, an important wildlife corridor, being 4 metres closer to it.
Effect on listed buildings and conservation areas N/A
Incompatible or unacceptable uses N/A
Local financial considerations offered as a contribution or grant N/A
Compliance with Reach Design Code Section 3.4 Green Spaces and Views refers
"Development adjoining public open spaces and important gaps should enhance the character of these spaces by either providing a positive interface (i.e., properties facing onto them to improve natural surveillance) or a soft landscaped edge."
Compliance with Reach Landscape Analysis Sections 4.4 Views, 4.5 Gateways and 5.2 Local Character Area 4 refer.
"Any new development would need to reflect the small-scale cottage vernacular typical of this lane and edge of village location". The proposed extension will increase the visual impact of the property, particularly until screening planting has developed (the applicants have recently planted natural hedging along their boundary to the catchwater. In the February 2020 resident's survey commissioned as part of the NP 79 per cent of respondents felt it was very important to minimise the effect of development on the fen-edge and 77 per cent 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.

4. County Councillor Report
No report received.

5. District Councillor Report

Council met on 23 February - The Chairman announced the impending retirement of Dr Liz Robin, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Director of Health. On behalf of the Members and Officers of the Council, the Chairman thanked Dr Robin for all her pandemic-related work and wished her well for her forthcoming retirement.
Council approved a budget for 2021/22 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy through to 2024/25. The Council Tax is frozen for 2021/22 but will rise by over 3.5% in 2022/23 and by the maximum amount allowed in the subsequent years. Despite these Council Tax rises, the Council is forecasting a budget shortfall of over £4 million from 2023/24. Charlotte and John supported an unsuccessful amendment which would have given financial support to local businesses recovering from Covid and carried out a consultation on leisure and recreation provision across the district as well as raising Council Tax more gradually and reducing the budget shortfall below £4 million.

The Chair of Finance & Assets acknowledged that the pre-planning application expenditure for the proposed cemetery at Mepal had risen from the £30,000 approved by Council on 31 July 2020 to over £91,000. He chose not to answer the query as to on what authority an overspend of 205 per cent on the additional £30,000 approved by Full Council had been incurred; who signed it off; and where that is evidenced.
There was cross-party support for a motion in support of the proposed Fens Biosphere. (Biosphere Reserve status is awarded by UNESCO to unique and valuable landscapes.)
The administration passed a motion calling for the A1123 to be downgraded to a B road. We did not support this motion because evidence from across the country shows that changing from an A road to a B road does not lead to any reduction in traffic or speeds, but it does lead to a reduction in road maintenance funding from central government. In this case, we would lose £250,000 a year putting yet more pressure on a budget which is already struggling to fund adequate road maintenance.
It was confirmed that the Council has a 7 year land supply and therefore our development envelopes in the Local Plan 2015 should be respected.
The administration refused to carry out a full review into how the Council lost email access for 3 days during February. They also refused to review the Disaster Recovery plan or the risk register, despite the Council having been without email for 3 business days and without Councillors being informed or without an automatic message being set up to let email senders know that their email could not be delivered. We hope that no emails from you went missing at this time. If you sent an email in February to which we haven't replied, please re-send.

Please note rubbish will be collected a day EARLIER before Easter and a day LATER after Easter.

6. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

7.1 Reach Grant Fund

Nothing to report.

7.2 Finance

Nothing to report.

7.3 Parish Council Members

It had been noted that the Christmas Tree was still on the Green. ***Councillor Trump*** to take away.

7.4 Play Spaces

The annual inspection has been completed. Discussion below.

7.5 Rights of Way

It had been noted that the pavement along Fair Green had been damaged during building work. ***Councillor Webb*** to speak to the resident about repairing it properly.

It was reported that a streetlight on Great Lane was broken, ***Clerk*** to report to BB.

Councillor Trump had reported the state of Little Fen Drove to CCC. ***Clerk*** to report to Councillor Schumann who had previously been involved in discussion regarding this highway.

Councillor McMillan asked whether the PC had heard anything regarding the LHI works for the Great Lane/ Fair Green bend. ***Clerk*** to make enquiries.

7.6 24Acres Committee

Nothing to report.

7.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Meetings and engagement with the village

There were no meetings in February.

Ecological Appraisal

The Group has received a draft Appraisal from MKA Ecology. We are generally content with the overall shape of the paper and have submitted minor amendments and corrections to MKA. A finalised appraisal will shortly be posted on the NP webpage and is reflected in the draft Plan.

Draft Plan

The Group is in receipt of a draft Plan produced by Ian Poole and has submitted a number of proposed additions, amendments, and questions to him. We hope to be able to publish the draft Plan in the next few days, such that the PC will be able to approve it at Wednesday's meeting and we can initiate the formal consultation process.

Outlook

The Government's current timetable for easing coronavirus restrictions rules out our preference for engaging with residents face-to-face about the draft Plan - given the time limitations of the funding available to us and our desire to take the Plan to referendum before any changes are made to UK planning legislation. As part of the consultation process, we will therefore publish the draft Plan on our webpage, deliver a copy with comments page to every home in Reach in the near future and hold a Zoom drop-in session to secure villagers' feedback

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

7.8 Friends of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

8. Play spaces inspection result.

The report and a quote for works has been received. The playground and swings are generally in good order.
Items flagged in inspection:

Swings on the green

Paintwork worn and metal rusting – this was flagged last year, and the PC were hoping to get a grant to have this fixed. This should be done this year. ***Clerk*** to get quotes.

Safety surface showing signs of wear – this has not deteriorated too much over the last year, the PC will continue to monitor.

Seat severely damaged and should be replaced – the seat has signs of wear and some cracks in the rubber, although it still appears very sturdy. As the report calls for it to be replaced then the PC agreed it should. ***Clerk*** to get quotes.

Excess chain on swing – this came up last year but when the PC tried to get other quotes for the work, we were told that the chain is not 'excess' it is meant to be there so that the length can be altered. PC agreed to leave.

Algae/moss growth on surface – it is reported that when the swings are used, in all weathers, the surface has never been slippery, ***Clerk*** to get quotes.

Playground

Basket seat safety chains not attached –these have been replaced before (the PC ordered replacements from Kompan and fitted them) but they have been removed again. Kompan said it was to stop the swing being put over the bar, so not having it does not compromise the safety of the children using it. ***Alex de Giorgio-Miller*** to replace.

Loose fixings on climbing frames and zip wire stand (not the zip wire itself) – there are quite a few which are a little loose, ***Councillor McMillan*** to look and tighten as required.

Rotator – the damage to the grass matting was from too close mowing over a year ago now. We spoke to the contractor and there have been no further issues. PC to monitor.

Raised bed in picnic area

The old growth has been cut back and it looks much tidier. The cut waste has been left on the floor around the bed. ***Alex de Giorgio-Miller*** will move it to the bushes.

9. Reach NP - Approval of draft Plan and next steps

A Neighbourhood Plan second working draft has been supplied to the PC. The document still need work and will be discussed at the April meeting.

10. Broadband fibre connection wayleave agreement

The contractor requires permission from the PC, as freeholder, to undertake works to supply fibre to the two properties situated behind the Dykes End. The PC agree with this and ask that free broadband is supplied to the Pub as part of the wayleave agreement. The contractor had also agreed to repair the road by the bus stop that has sunk following their works. ***Councillor Cane*** to discuss with the contractor and to discuss the fibre supply to Great Lane.

11. The clunch pit project

Councillor Acklam had obtained quotes for the legal work required to register the land. Discussions will continue later this year.

12. Information Items

There were none.

13. Payments

E. on - Power on the green	£17.13
Glasdon UK Ltd – Dog poo bin	£329.98
Fenland leisure	£120.00
Insurance	£1,143.64
David Thomas – 24Acres orchard trees	£48.03







Diary Dates

March/April	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 31st March	Recycling Day (Green)		
Wednesday 7	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Friday 9	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 15	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 22	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 29	Recycling Day (Green)		

May	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 5	Parish Council Meeting	Virtual Meeting	7.45pm
Friday 7	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 13	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 20	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 27	Recycling Day (Green)		



Bus Timetable

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

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

Cambridge to Bury - Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays)				
Cambridge Drummer Street	**Reach**	**Burwell Ness Road**	**Newmarket Bus Station**	**Bury Bus Station**
06:50	07:28	07:36	08:08*	08:49
07:50	08:28	08:36	09:08*	09:49
09.50	10:28	10:36	11:08*	11:49
11:50	12:28	12:36	13:08*	13:49
13:50	14:28	14:36	15:24*	15:49
15:50	16:28	16:36	17:30	17:55
18:15	18:53	19:06		
19:15	19:53	20:06		

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frost filled willows standing alongside the old wharf on the Hythe during the Winter of 1962-63. Sadly, they have mostly disappeared now and the wharf itself is hardly recognisable. The large stone in the foreground may have been used for mooring, at the time it stood beside a derelict barn and house. It can still be seen in the same position today albeit surrounded by vegetation.

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
	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








FAIR GREEN





