Within Reach



February/March 2022



Senior's Christmas Lunch 2021

This is a wonderful event - and it was so pleasing that it was able to take place again in 2021

*But it simply couldn't happen without the huge contribution from the cooking team of **Catherine** and **Ian** with help from **Glynis**, and without **Claire** who produces undoubtedly the best puds in the world*

And our Seniors make it so much fun on the day!

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From the Editor



It's now February and life going forward looks more encouraging. We're not over Covid but hopefully we can individually manage it and get on with our lives.

Christmas events in the village went well. The tree was lovely, big thanks to the Aves family for providing it and Matt Marian for decorating it so wonderfully.

The Senior's Lunch was outstanding, good to see so many there and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Check out the inside front cover.

And the Advent windows, again, the village excelled itself, thanks go to everyone who took part.

This coming year we have **Reach Fair** in May and the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** to celebrate in June – fun is being planned.

We have two new contributors to the magazine. Joss has handed over her nature article to **Cath Tayleur** and her Getting to Know You article to **Karen Carpenter**. They are both excellent – thanks both of you.

We rely on our advertisers to fund the magazine and we have a new one with Fara Afifi who is going to be providing **T'ai Chi Chuan classes in the Village Hall** – check out her article on page 11 and her advert in the Adverts section, page 2.

And we have an introduction to **Kennedy Roofing** who have advertised in the magazine for some time now. The aim is to give our readers a bit of background to our advertisers and this will be a continuing theme.

Soon be Spring!

David Parr



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. This magazine (which is fully funded from advertising) is printed by Burwell Print Centre, an excellent social enterprise which trains and supports adults with learning disabilities and provides high quality design and print capabilities.

The Team

Editor	David Parr
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Cricket	Ross Clark
Events Team	Debbie Quilter
Gardening	Danuta Gibson
Getting to Know You	Karen Carpenter
Neighbourhood Watch	Kevin Evans
Reach Riders Group	Sue Cameron
Rosanna's Ramblings	Rosanna Moseley Gore
Snakehall Farm	Liz Pitt
Then and Now	Chris Patterson
Village Matters	Alex de Giorgio-Miller
Wicken Fen	Julia Hammond
Wildlife	Cath Tayleur

Village Update



Whilst the frosty mornings are more frequent and the fight with small people and their hats, scarves and gloves is real, we've been enjoying the wintry weather. Plenty of weekend trips to the park and board games in the warm at home, we seem to have gotten used to being at home more. Trips out and about used to be every weekend, and whilst it's great to have the option now that things are more open, we've learnt to love just being at home! And we have obviously appreciated the wet weather of a few weeks back to get in some great puddle jumping!

Whilst things are more open now, there are still lots of coronavirus cases in the community and inevitably some of us will need to isolate at some point. Most people have their support networks well set up by now, but if you do find yourself 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 07771 348013. I have a lovely lot of volunteers who I send out calls for help to so don't think that you are just bothering me! Please do pass on this information to anyone in Reach who you think it may help.

Cambs County Council have sent round some information about vaccinations, testing and grants to pass on to the community:

Housebound patients

Housebound booster vaccinations are currently ongoing and are a priority area of focus. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG has written to all housebound patients in our area and has teams making phone calls to patients to offer appointments within their home. If you know someone who is housebound who may have been missed, then please contact their doctor's surgery.

Transport to appointments

There are a number of community transport schemes and taxi firms available to help with transport to vaccination appointments. You can find the booking link from the council website or call 0345 045 5219 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Lateral Flow tests

LFTs can be collected from Soham library, your local pharmacy or from the Old Fire Station, Reach Road, Burwell CB25 0BU (who also do on-site testing) Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm.

Further information on the vaccination programme

To find out more about the vaccination programme in Cambridgeshire visit www.thevaccinators.co.uk. For more information and advice on COVID-19, including the support available to those in need, check out the Council's website or social media channels.

Household support fund

A new Household Support Fund has been set up to help those who are struggling to pay for food, energy or other essential items this winter. The Government-funded scheme is being managed by Cambridgeshire County Council and will run until 31 March 2022. More information, including eligibility criteria, can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council website.

Keep well and enjoy the frosty mornings!

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

Reach Fair 2022



Reach Fair 2022 and Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has already indicated that they are willing to assist with the organisation and roll out of Reach Fair 2022! It is very heartening to the committee members to receive your support.

The Fair has been cancelled for the last two years due to the coronavirus. The prevalence of covid will continue to be monitored and government advice will continue to be followed; and if unfortunately necessary, the Fair 2022 will be cancelled. The parish council makes the decision.

All being well, the Fair will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 2 May 2022. It is organised by a sub-committee of the parish council. Despite the coronavirus and a gap of two years, most regular contributors to the Fair are around and are keen to re-join the Fair. The extremely popular local musician, Graham Buxton, will be playing on Fair Green for much of the afternoon.

We are actively making postings on Facebook and Reach Fair has several hundred followers. Similarly, the Reach Fair web site is regularly updated to reflect 2022. Take a look if you're new to the village or just want to remind yourself about the Fair.

Hopefully, you're of the opinion that Reach Fair is fun and enjoyable! It also raises money which goes directly to the village Grant Fund. This fund (previously called the Amenity Fund) has made significant contributions to the village amenities (the village hall, heritage streetlights etc) and events (Christmas events, sports day etc).

The Fair is also an opportunity for the village to come together in work and play, sharing and supporting each other and hopefully contributing to making Reach the positive community it is.

The committee members have visited houses in the village. We want to introduce ourselves, know what you think about Reach Fair; provide some information if you're new to the village and unfamiliar with the Fair and encourage villagers not already involved with the Fair to contribute by just giving an hour or so of their time. Nothing too onerous or scary.

Contributing to the Fair can be as much or as little as you wish and there are a wide variety of tasks. You can bake a cake, assist with the running of a stall, help set up, litter pick …… We will have a Rota of tasks (opportunities!) and the choice is yours.

Please do contact the committee members with your questions and offers of help:

Claire Halpin
16 Chapel Lane
07834 740881 claire.halpinmcdonald@gmail.com

Alex de Giorgio-Miller
31 Great Lane
07771 348013 a.degiorgiomiller@gmail.com

Cristine Fletcher
48B Great Lane
07763 529886 cristinefletcher@hotmail.com



Rosanna's Ramblings



Should you ever feel inclined to ask your editor whether I am usually punctual in meeting his deadline, he would tell you that I am prone to be very punctual indeed – rather in the style of the eager teacher's pet that I admit to having been at school.

But not this time. Rushing headlong towards the finishing line with a skidding of brakes is more how I would characterise my timing for these Ramblings. But, honestly teacher, it wasn't my fault. The dog ate my homework! Or rather, honestly dear reader, the puppy ate up all of my spare time. So the very least I can do to thank said Milo pup - for his generosity of spirit in providing reasons not to get on with very much indeed since we brought him from Hampshire on 19 December, one day short of two months old – is to devote my writing mostly to him.

Now I know that not everyone is a dog lover – indeed, I was a confirmed and exclusive cat lover before my life washed me up in Reach in 2015. Then I was a Hector lover. Then more generically only a black Labrador lover (preferably male black labs of the exact size, temperament and build of Hector). But until this past month or so, I've never been a puppy mum and had absolutely no idea what that would actually mean. I'm beginning to appreciate it now.



Photo courtesy of Jo Redfarn

So Milo isn't black, but yellow (as I've firmly been informed there's no such thing as a Golden Labrador – that was me told, so yellow it is).

And while he has a beautiful and appealing face, it looks pretty certain that he is going to grow up to be a stockier version of a Labrador than Hector of the fine working dog pedigree was. Even when his ribs show, he looks chunky and sometimes even on the portly side. And all that is to the good, because he deserves to be loved and appreciated for himself. And so far, he seems to be enjoying life, having not just two adult humans catering for his every whim. Oh no, that would be far too modest an ambition! Because Reach's lovely inhabitants are, in ones and twos, falling for his charms – mostly, it has to be said, because honestly who can resist an Andrex Puppy in their vicinity? He even ran off with a toilet roll the other day and unravelled it to order, with much glee.

First there were the people stopping us, after reading that Milo was coming to us in the last issue, to enquire after him. Then, there was the succession of individuals just happening to peer over the garden wall when the little princeling was taking his first steps on the grass and discovering that it held charms other than that of a convenient loo (though he wasn't too sure the first night he experienced a chilly white frost under his paws). Then the introduction to Adrian the postman and to select invited visitors into the house. And the New Year's Eve outing to Rowan and Matt's house across the road – with the inevitable use of someone else's grass as … well, let's draw a veil over that …

We've all learned more than we ever wanted to know about vaccinations and the time needed after 2nd doses before immunity levels have been established, haven't we? So having to wait until Milo had had his 2nd jabs and then another long week of forced confinement and separation from other dogs was no surprise but did seem to go on for a Very Long Time.

Finally, the day came when he could be taken out for a walk in the meadow on a beautiful frosty morning – and typically, I wasn't there to see it because I was in Ely with my daughter sorting our family archive. But thanks to Jo's excellent photo and video recording of this momentous milestone in Milo's life, I was able to get a flavour of his excitement and joy and actually meeting new friends – forget the lovely humans, we're talking about Ruby and Bonnie and Pippa, who kindly deigned, from their lofty height, to romp with the overexcited pup and watch him running races around them with aunty-like tolerance.

It's been five days since then and he's now met Jess and Bertie and others whose names he knows but I didn't ask. And Charles and I have just come back from taking him round Reach wood for the first time. He loved it and it did us both good to watch again the comfortable sight of a relaxed Labrador's tail swinging from side to side as accompaniment to a steady trot. It's just so much more … well, *right* … to walk again with a dog – so much more possible to be in the moment, seeing the world through his eyes and wondering what exactly it is that he can smell.

Because to be honest, both of us have been walking around Reach still holding a tight knot of grief since Hector died, now nearly four years ago. We've walked for exercise, for pandemic mental health, for the joy of the big Fenland skies and the starling murmurations, for the necessary perspective that tramping over the land and the mud and the stubbles gives us. And I daresay it won't be as easy to indulge in forest bathing for a while, with an impatient doglet ignoring clear instructions to SIT and STAY. But that's a small price to pay for the joy of seeing my beloved's eyes twinkling with happiness – I'm talking about the human beloved, by the way, because try as I might, I honestly can only read hunger and mischief and excitement in the dark canine eyes!

Thank you to all our friends and neighbours who have made a point of telling us how delighted they are to see Charles with a dog again. That warms the cockles of my heart. And should you be one of the many village dog owners familiar with him being seen as That Green Coated Man Who Has Gravy Bones In His Pocket, please reassure them that Charles will undoubtedly continue to offer them freely to all comers.

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Burwell and Reach Car Scheme



A Reminder, the Burwell and Reach Car Scheme is up and running again to offer those with travel restrictions or mobility issues a drive to the doctor, dentist, hospital, optician, hairdresser, shopping or just a visit to a friend, at a cost of 15p per mile.

Just leave a message on 742543 with your requirements and someone will get back to you. Or contact Pam King in Reach on 742924.

If anyone in Reach would like to volunteer to drive we are always grateful for extra people. Just leave a message on the answerphone 742543. DBS certificates are required but easy to obtain through the scheme.

Pam King

Village Hall Committee



We are very pleased that the arrangements between the Church and VH seem to be going along well thanks to the efforts of Pat Chalmers from the PCC and Natasha Bridgeman from the VH and we look forward to continued collaboration while the Church is closed for major refurbishment thanks to the bequest of Maisie Whitehead who was born and lived in Reach all her life.

A lot of hard work and consultation has been going on by the committee to fine tune the various booking and administration apps to make it easier for potential hirers to see what the VH offers and what dates are available. We are very pleased to welcome the new T'ai Chi class which is meeting every Wednesday, see page 11. Please also join us for the Community Cafe every Friday from 2pm, come for tea/coffee and cake and enjoy the chat and laughter. Its good fun!

We are looking at what to do with the cherry tree outside the main door. It has become diseased and will probably have to be removed and replaced all part of the aim to make the outside back area looking an attractive place to sit and with plenty of space for children to run around.

We received a letter asking the committee to investigate the acoustics since some people were having difficulty in hearing conversations during the Village Cafe sessions. He was a lead member of the committee, involved in revamping the Hall and there had not been funds available to lower the ceiling and improve insulation then and unfortunately, it's unlikely we can address this for some time to come. It's worth saying frequently that without all the huge efforts over many years of committee members and support from the village, the Hall would have closed. Reach is a small community and the income is only generated by bookings.

Any ideas for fund raising would be very welcome and please do promote the Hall for private and family functions, it's a great space!

Sue Elliott Honorary Secretary 742268

Getting to Know . . . . Brit Cadman

What is your full name and where were you born?

My full name is Brit Elizabeth Cadman. I was born in Mill Road Maternity Hospital in Cambridge.



My family lived in Cambridge at that time. I am of Norwegian descent on my mother's side.

Which schools did you attend - and did you enjoy them?

When I was 3, we moved to Billericay in Essex. I attended what was Laindon Road School in the town. The school was just down the road from our house and I was able to walk to school with my friends.

When I was 10, we moved to Ipswich. I attended Northgate Grammar School. This was at the time an all girls school. The boys Grammar was next door but we were not allowed to speak to the boys when in school uniform and if we did and got caught we were placed in detention.

After A levels I attended Bradford University where I obtained a Batchelor of Pharmacy degree, followed by a pre-registration year at St James's Hospital in Leeds. I also completed some post graduate qualifications in clinical pharmacy, management and prescribing.

Where do you work and what do you do?

I was a pharmacist at Addenbrookes for over 30 years, starting in 1987 and leaving as a Consultant Pharmacist in Critical Care. I am officially retired but currently working part time for the critical care pharmacy team and prescribing for transplant patients at Addenbrookes. I am also involved in a national guide for the administration of intravenous medicines. I do intend to fully retire later in the year, though we will see.

Are you currently married if so who to and how did you meet?

I married Bryan Pearson at the registry office in Bury-St-Edmunds in June 2017 which is when I moved into Reach. We met on a blind date in a Thai restaurant in Cambridge.



Do you have any children and if so what are they doing now?

I have two children, Emma and George. Emma is 27, she works at the Perse School in Cambridge in Learning support and lives in Whittlesford. George is 24, he works in the music business and lives in London.

I also have 3 "bonus" children, another George! plus Jamie and Maddy. George is 33 and Jamie is 31, they work together in the exhibition industry mainly in relation to Africa and live in London. Maddy is 28, she works for Marshalls in Cambridge in logistics and lives in Ely.

Where do you work and what do you do?

I was a pharmacist at Addenbrookes for over 30 years, starting in 1987 and leaving as a Consultant Pharmacist in Critical Care.

I am officially retired but currently working part time for the critical care pharmacy team and prescribing for transplant patients at Addenbrookes. I am also involved in a national guide for the administration of intravenous medicines. I do intend to fully retire later in the year, though we will see.

What if any hobbies do you have?

I enjoy Yoga and attend 2 classes a week in the Village Hall. I attend a gym class called "ladies who lift" and despite being the weakest link in the class it is really good fun. I have belonged to a book club in Cambridge for about 20 years. I like to go to the cinema (not much in the last 18 months) and enjoy watching Scandinavian crime dramas.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, a black cat called Ibsen. He is about 13 years old and thinks he is a dog!

What do you enjoy about living in Reach?

Vine House overlooks the village green, which is a very special space which we are so fortunate to have.

I enjoy being able to go for walks without having to get in a car. Reach is a very friendly community and I am privileged to live in such a beautiful place.

What is your philosophy in life?

Grace under pressure, with a bit of sparkle!

Reach Community Cafe

Fridays 2pm – 4pm

Reach Village Hall

The Community Cafe has been well attended and will continue weekly on Fridays. It's been a delight to see the enjoyment it brings.

There is a rota if you wish to volunteer to make a cake or help set up and there is a donation box - pennies only to contribute to ingredients

Everyone is welcome to all the cafés so bring your family and friends



Events Team

It was such a pleasure to sit down with the team last week and start to plan some summer events. With the Queen's Jubilee later this year we have lots of opportunities to celebrate together!



Our tree was magnificent – again huge thanks go to the Aves family who not only funded it but put it in place and took it down. Thanks should also go to "American Matt" who, with help, decorated the tree so meticulously and beautifully.

Pleasingly, all our regular Christmas events were able to go ahead as planned. The Seniors enjoyed their Christmas lunch, we switched on the lights round the tree at the beginning of the month and sang carols round the tree on Christmas Eve. There was even a visit from Santa. If you didn't manage to attend, we missed you and look forward to seeing you soon.

Personally, it was such a joy on Christmas Eve to chat with familiar, friendly faces, many of whom I hadn't seen for much of 2021. A big thank you too, to all those involved in the Advent windows. They looked great and really cheered up the dark December nights.

Now we are focusing our planning on the outside summer events. The big one this year will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend from **Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June** (you can learn more about the UK's celebration plans by going to:
www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend
In Reach, we are planning a beacon lighting event on the evening of Thursday 2nd and a Picnic Tea Party on Sunday 5th June.

Sports Day is planned for Sunday 26th June - little ones, get training!!

We are all hoping for a return to normality this Spring and Sumer. If you would like to put on an event and need some support, do get in touch and we will do what we can to help.

Debbie Quilter

Do you need support with you or your family's cancer diagnosis?

At Maggie's we can help.

We provide free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends, from diagnosis throughout living with the affects after cancer. We help over 8,000 people a year to achieve the best possible state of psychological and physical health during diagnosis, treatment and throughout their cancer journey. People across Cambridgeshire and beyond can come to Maggie's at any stage, for as long or as little as they like. We believe that the built and natural environments in which people are cared for have a direct impact on wellbeing and how a person responds to the challenge of cancer.

Our Centre is staffed by Cancer Support Specialists, Benefits Advisor, Nutritionist, Counsellors, and Psychologists who can support people in whichever way is best suited to their needs. Maggie's is a place to find practical advice about benefits and eating well; a place where qualified experts provide emotional support; a place to meet other people or simply to sit quietly with a cup of tea.

You don't need an appointment - just come in for a chat to find out more about the support offered to them. Our centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Find us at 21 Milton House, Puddicombe Way
Addenbrooke's, Cambridge CB2 0AD

01223 249220	cambridge@maggies.org
Facebook:	@maggiescentrecambs
Instagram:	@maggiescambridge
Twitter:	@maggiescambs
Website:	www.maggies.org

Nature in Reach



After bowing out from writing the nature column for Within Reach, Joss has left some sharp-eyed binoculars to fill. This has always been one of my favourite sections of the magazine, enjoying the ebb and flow of wildlife sightings that mark the changing seasons. My husband John and I are both keen wildlife enthusiasts and also work in the field of biodiversity conservation.

Yet despite our professional credentials we are far from experts when it comes to British fauna and flora. I've often referred to myself as an 'accidental ornithologist' as I've spent a good chunk of my professional career studying birds, but mainly as numbers in spreadsheets rather than out in the field. If I'm an expert in anything it would be small mammals (shrews, voles, mice) as this is what my PhD focused on. These skills have come in handy this winter due to repeated mouse invasions of our house. So, I hope you'll excuse my inability to tell a song thrush from a mistle thrush at 100 yards and I hope that my stint writing this column shows that you don't need to be a diehard birder to enjoy the nature that surrounds us.

We moved to Reach, like many of you, because of its lovely countryside location. Having been based in London, a good 20 minute walk to the nearest greenery, I craved some of the open space I had growing up in New Zealand. The walks on our doorstep have been such an important part of our life since we moved here. Particularly for me when we had our second daughter and I spent many long hours of maternity leave walking across the fens with a baby strapped to my chest and then again during the 2020 lockdowns when the evening walk provided a break from the house. Recently we've acquired a miniature schnauzer called 'Badger' who now accompanies us and gives some purpose to our walks. It's been through these wanderings that I've got to meet and chat with many of you.

As I write this the sun is flooding the kitchen and we've had a nice hard frost after another clear night. I love these winter days - so much more cheerful than the grey days where the paths are just ankle deep in mud. The daffodils and hyacinths have started peeking out and we have winter aconites and snowdrops out in the garden. In the woods there are catkins on the hazel trees. The birds seem to be more active and are busy checking out the nest box in our garden. Not quite spring, but a whiff of promise that spring will return again.

On a foggy walk down by the Lode the other day we came across two big dog foxes having a disagreement - the first time I've actually seen a fox in Reach, they normally just nab one of our chickens and disappear in a puff of feathers. On a walk up the garden to check on said (grumpily quarantined) chickens I see a Red Kite lazily dodge two annoyed looking buzzards.

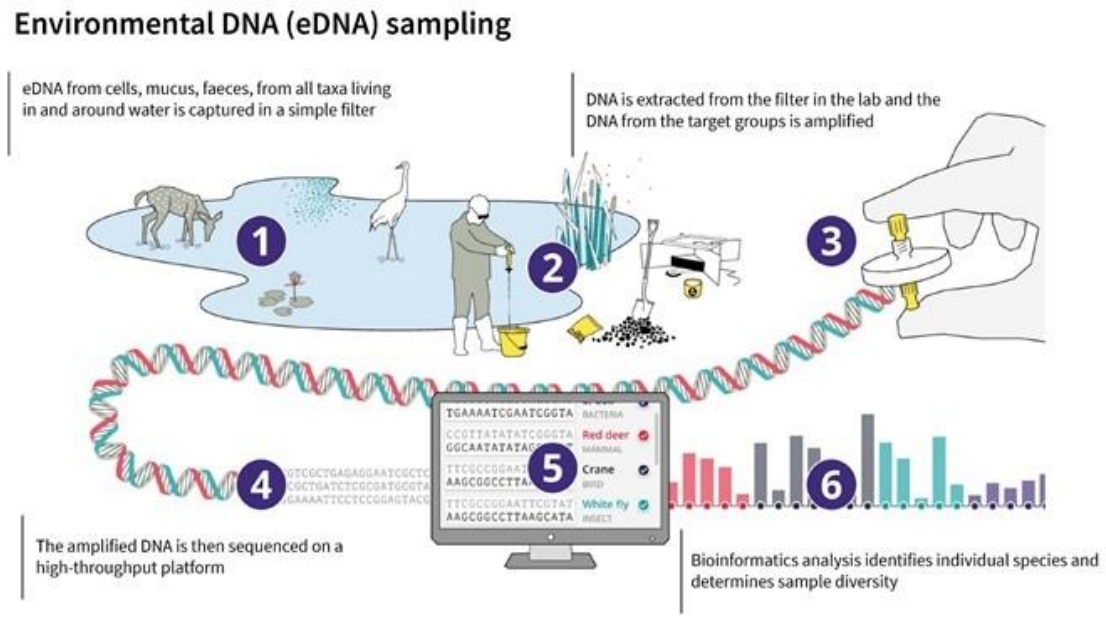
Given my mediocre field skills, it was no wonder I was drawn to my current employer NatureMetrics, that helps people monitor biodiversity through the dark art of 'Environmental DNA' (see pic on facing page). We all shed DNA and animals are no exception - so a bit like crime scene forensics - we can collect samples of water, soil and even air and process this to find the species that have been living nearby. It's an amazing technology and anyone can collect a sample and send it back to our labs for the whizzy processing side of things. Although this sounds a bit like science fiction, eDNA is becoming widely accepted, even Natural England now lets people survey for the infamous Great Crested Newts (the thorn in the side of many a housing development) using our technology. I should note that the technology isn't infallible - sometimes closely related species will be misidentified, or we won't be able to separate them out. This is where expertise comes back in.

Back in May last year I was able to take some eDNA samples down in the Lode with some really interesting results. The great thing about taking the water samples is that not only do you get the animals living in the water, but a whole range of animals that live nearby and maybe drink or pass through as well. There were some fascinating findings (see the table on the facing page) - it seems as though Reach Lode has some amazing biodiversity in it. I do wonder where the poor guinea pig came from though? An unwanted pet? Lovely to see confirmation of bank vole, I've yet to spot one myself. Of course, most of the species we found were freshwater fish, of which I'll happily admit to knowing nothing about, so I've done a little digging on some of the species we found.

Bullhead - A small strangely shaped fish, with a large head, they come out at dawn and dusk to feed, and they build a small nest of stones and lay their yellow eggs on the underneath of the stones.

Spined Loach - Restricted to just five east-flowing river systems in eastern England – including the Great Ouse and its associated waterways. Spined loaches are able to use intestinal breathing when they are in oxygen poor waters. They swallow oxygen at the surface which brings oxygen into the intestine and air is then expelled through the anus!

Northern Pike - One of the biggest fish you're likely to encounter in the Lode, they're carnivorous ambush predators, so beware trailing toes off of your paddle board. They're also long-lived, reaching 10-15 years on average.



How we use environmental DNA to survey biodiversity (copyright NatureMetrics)

Species	**Common name**
Abramis brama	Common bream
Rhodeus amarus	European bitterling
Blicca bjoerkna	Silver bream
Rutilus rutilus	Roach
Cobitis taenia	Spined loach
Scardinius erythrophthalmus	Rudd
Esox lucius	Northern pike
Barbatula barbatula	Stone loach
Gasterosteus aculeatus	Three-spined stickleback
Pungitius pungitius	Nine-spined stickleback
Gymnocephalus cernua	Ruffe
Perca fluviatilis	Perch
Cottus sp	Bullhead species
Leuciscus leuciscus/Leuciscus idus	Dace/Orfe
Gobio gobio	Gudgeon
Salmo trutta	Brown trout
Bufo bufo	Common toad
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard
Anser anser	Greylag goose
Cygnus olor	Mute swan
Mergus merganser	Goosander
Columba palumbus	Wood pigeon
Streptopelia decaocto	Collared dove
Gallinula chloropus	Common moorhen
Corvus monedula	Jackdaw
Emberiza sp	Reed bunting?
Turdus merula	Blackbird
Turdus philomelos	Song thrush
Ardea cinerea	Grey heron
Phalacrocorax carbo	Great cormorant
Cavia porcellus	Guinea pig
Arvicola amphibius	Water vole

Right, after that eDNA interlude, some real wildlife sightings from Nick Acklam, for whom Whooper swans were the standout sighting. Whooper swans, not to be confused with our resident Mute swans (who have an orange rather than yellow bill), overwinter in the UK – travelling here from Iceland.

Nick's sightings: On 5 December there were 40 or so on a black soil field next to Little Fen Drove, Burwell, close to Priory Farm. At the same time, nearby, a solitary Whooper flew towards Tubney Fen, calling. On 31 December a single juvenile Whooper flew over Reach Lode in the direction of Burwell Fen. There was also an agitated flock of 20 or so Lapwing close to Burwell Mere. I suspected that they had been spooked by a raptor although I failed to spot one. At the time the thermometer in my garden was reading an extraordinary 15.5C.

Throughout the period, small groups of Wigeon have been present on the bodies of water on either side of Reach lode including the temporary pond created by the National Trust between the lode and Straight Dove. To my mind at least, their whistling calls create a sense of wilderness.

On 20 December a Carrion crow mobbed a Peregrine falcon over the fields next to Straight Drove. The Peregrine made its escape rather easily and perched briefly at the top of one of the electricity pylons before gliding off in the direction of the barns at Swan Lake.

On New Year's Day a Red kite glided over our garden. Wigeon and Shoveler duck were present in substantial numbers on Burwell Mere and Coot and Tufted duck formed a striking black and white presence on the lake at Pout Hall.

On 5 January, in contrast to the record-breaking temperature of less than a week earlier, Reach Lode was heavily frozen. The overnight crossing points of Roe deer were the only areas of open water.

On 7 January Claire saw 60 to 70 Greylag geese on two arable fields beyond the cycle bridge. Over the past couple of years our local sightings of Canada geese have declined markedly. Not so long ago, Canada geese numbers seemed to rival those of Greylag. No longer.

Many thanks to Nick for his informed contributions, please do help me out by continuing to send in your own wildlife sightings. Or if anyone has thoughts on the list of species I detected in the Lode - please let me know. Looking forward to writing that Spring has arrived in the next issue…

Cath Tayleur

cathtayleur@gmail.com

T'ai Chi Chuan Classes



"Still as a mountain, move like a great river" – Lao Tzu

There will be a new T'ai Chi Chuan class at Reach Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons, with me, Faradena Afifi, a full-time instructor from the Cambridge-based T'ai Chi school Grey Heron Internal Arts. I have studied martial arts for 35 years and taught T'ai Chi for 18 years. I cover Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire and also teach online. My aim for my students, some of whom are care home residents with dementia, is for them to move in a correctly aligned and relaxed manner.

T'ai Chi Chuan is a 350-year-old meditative Chinese martial art whose aim is a healthy, peaceful way of life. T'ai Chi students first achieve a relaxed, calm state of mind and body, before moving to strengthen their muscles and bones. By connecting through the "bodyscape" as they develop their ability to move, students understand how movement affects the body.

This can lead to deep feelings of relaxation and mindful awareness as well as improved strength, co-ordination, cognitive function and emotional well-being. T'ai Chi has helped me in my work as a community musician, folk musician and international improvising musician.

A variety of classes, covering different exercise needs, is available locally. For location, times and prices, please see below.

Mondays, Swaffham Prior Village Hall

The **Forever Active Class** (10-11am, £5) helps develop bone strength, balance, joint stability and relaxation.

The Health Class (11am-midday, £5) focuses on relaxation and calming movements which gently strengthen the body.

The final class (5-6.30pm, £8), focusses on the movements known as the **Beijing 24 Step T'ai Chi Chuan** form, demands more concentration and physical strength.

Wednesday mornings, Burwell Sports Centre

An **Improvers Class** (9.45-10.45am, £3.50) with challenging health and balance exercises and T'ai Chi forms, is followed by a Beginner's Class (11am-midday, £3.50) which focusses on health, balance and relaxation movements.

Wednesday afternoons, Reach Village Hall

This class (12.30-1.30pm, £5) focusses on **Chen style** and the related internal art of **Yiquan**, using intent and image to elicit movement and work on co-ordination, balance and strength.

Thursday mornings, Paradise Leisure Centre, Ely

Keep Active Ely T'ai Chi (10-11am, £4). **Beijing 24 Step** and health exercises, at a slow, gentle pace, focussing on balance, relaxation and strengthening exercises.

To book, contact me by email or text. I accept online payments, cheques and cash payments on the door. You can pay in advance for a block of sessions.

Please wear clothing and footwear that allows for free movement and bring water. **Covid measures**: Please wear a face covering while moving around the building but remove it in class – and please use hand gel. As windows will be open, please bring extra layers, avoid attending class if you feel unwell.

Come along and discover the benefits of T'ai Chi – and be aware that **all classes have an online Zoom option.**

Fara

faradena@yahoo.co.uk
07919 857617

Wicken Fen



Baker's Fen by Mike Selby

Winter Wildlife and walks

Some 72 whooper swans were recorded roosting on Burwell Fen recently and a couple of short-eared owls have also been seen regularly. Other winter highlights to look out for include hundreds of lapwings and swirling groups of starlings. We've also had a pair of cranes present on the Fen throughout the winter. Taking a walk later in the afternoon is often a great way so see bird activity at this time of year. Birds are often trying to find safe places to roost for the night away from predators as dusk falls. There's nothing quite like the swishing of wings and different bird calls overhead as the skies change colour before sunset. One of nature's magic moments!

'Footprints' Community Engagement Project: volunteer opportunities

We've got some exciting new activities planned for this year, including walks in the Fen edge villages and visits to local fairs. We're currently recruiting walk leaders and fairs, feasts and festivals volunteers to join the team. To find out more and apply, go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer click on 'Find an opportunity now' and search for Wicken Fen. If you'd like to have an informal chat about these volunteer roles, please email Julia with your contact details and she will be in touch: julia.hammond@nationaltrust.org.uk.

For the latest information please visit our website and keep an eye on our social media feeds www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen.

Julia Hammond

Senior Programming and Partnerships Officer
Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Lode Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire CB7 5XP
julia.hammond@nationaltrust.org.uk
07929 722927

Anglesey Abbey

Snowdrop Season at Anglesey Abbey

Our Snowdrops have been waking up since early January and we finally have sprinkles of these delicate flowers across the gardens. Our specialist collection at Anglesey Abbey has grown from 120 varieties in 2001 to a staggering 400 now and is only available to view via one of our pre-bookable Snowdrop tours.



Snowdrops are very special to Anglesey Abbey; we even have our very own variant *Galanthus nivalis 'Anglesey Abbey'* (above). It is a green-leafed form of the common Snowdrop and is the reason for the start of our Snowdrop collection.

We've kick started our conservation projects for 2022 with some essential work on Lode Mill. For several months we have been unable to operate the mill due to the deterioration of some of the machinery. The work completed in early January was quite extensive and we were able to repair the upright shaft top gudgeon, reseat the pit wheel, redress the millstones and fit a new sack hoist to enable us to raise the flour to the top floor. This work will hopefully allow us to continue to produce flour and demonstrate the amazing engineering of Lode Mill.

To find out more information about booking on to a Snowdrop tour please visit our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/Anglesey-abbey-gardens-and-lode-mill

Meghan Curteis

Programming and Partnerships Officer
Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill
Quy Road, Lode, Cambridgeshire, CB25 9EJ

Bottisham Village College
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.

We are now looking forward to seeing you again - we are offering:

Astronomy
Calligraphy
Cinematography
Dressmaking
French Beginners
Spanish Beginners
Indian Cookery
Italian Cookery
Introduction to Counselling
Painting – Mixed Media / Watercolour
Patchwork and Quilting
Pottery and Ceramics
Stained Glass
Tai Chi for Relaxation
RHS Horticulture
Maths GCSE in One Year
Yoga

For full details please visit our website:
www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

Tel: 01223 811372 **Email:** adultlearning@bottishamvc.org
Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or **Twitter:** @CommunityEdBott

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



With all that's happening in the world right now, why would you even want to think about your photography? And particularly when we are all being told to be good and not socialise, why would you even consider joining a camera club??

Don't ask me why, but whenever I read an article on photography or watch a photography video online, it always seems to be a photographer in the "singular"?

Why is photography always shown as a lonely hobby??

It really isn't, as camera clubs shows that is not the case.

You will find that your photography, at whatever level, will improve much quicker by meeting other likeminded photographers, seeing their work, chatting with them, and learning from them. You can then pass on what you have learnt to other photographers when you get the opportunity. You will find that your photography will improve faster as part of a club, than all the years of not being. And it will be more fun too.

It's like a shot of coffee for your craft.

Having said that, the more you put into your camera club and the more active you are, then the more you will get out of it.

Do you still need convincing to seek out your local club and join? Well, here's what I get out of being a member of the Bottisham & Burwell photographic Club . . . .

Photographic Education

Throughout the year the club hosts practical workshops, talks, guest speakers and competitions. Any and all of these will take your hobby to new levels, no matter if new to photography or an experienced old salt like me. I say you're never too old to stop learning.

Meet Other Photographers

A chance to meet and mingle with like-minded people and talk about photography.

Days out

Once a year the Club organises a great social event, we travel to "exotic" locations and take photographs we would normally not get the chance to take. These events are a great deal of fun.

Fresh inspiration

We know writers can suffer "writers block" and photographers can and do, get into slumps as well. Being around other members that are highly energized can help get "slumped" members out and encourage trying something new and grow outside their comfort zone.

A camera club exposes you to real life experiences that you may not have even thought of and directions for your photography that you might have wanted to try but not had the courage or experience.

Being a member of a photographic club gives you a feeling of closeness to other members, you share something that you know will help other members grow in their "photographic journey". You will also be able to help people share in your talent, learn new skills and find new people with common interests.

It's an enriching experience - try it out for yourself and see!

Now, just for the moment, to keep us all that bit safer we have gone back to virtual meetings over the internet, although we plan to meet up very soon, we are continuing to offer our full programme with as little change as possible. Some of our upcoming highlights are:

February 8th A Demonstration of Photoshop & Lightroom led by Ian Wilson from Cambridge Camera Club.

February 22nd Sliding into Digital - a Presentation by Leo Rich from Salisbury Photographic Club.

March 8th What Makes a Successful Exhibition Picture? A talk by the club's own selection committee.

March 29th A Passion for Nature - a Talk by renowned local photographer Ann Miles.

Apriul 26th Yellowstone In Winter – a talk by photographer Paul Radden.

This is just a selection of upcoming highlights from the club, if you would like to come along for the evening (or take part if it's over the internet), then please feel free to contact us. We can be found every Tuesday at the Chapel in Lode, online at either Facebook @Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club or contact us via the club's web page @bottburpc.org.

I Look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks for reading, until next time, happy snappy snapping….

Kind regards

Elliot

Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club.

Kennedy Roofing

Recently two separate villagers asked for recommendations for roofers - and I was delighted to introduce them to Neil and John Kennedy.



Neil (pictured left) started roofing when he left school, working for a company called Tanner and Hall. Lots of their work was in Cambridge, with a focus on churches and colleges. He ultimately decided to set up his own business, working mainly locally, Neil lives in Burwell.

Neil's son is John Kennedy (pictured right), who some of you may recognize, he lives in Reach on the Burwell Road. John joined his dad over 20 years ago and between the two of them they have 80 years of roofing experience to call upon. They focus on domestic work which includes:

- Chimney Pointing
- Guttering
- Leadwork
- New Roofs
- Renovations
- Repairs
- Slating
- Soffits and Facias
- Tiling

The other member of the team is Neil's wife and John's mum, Di - and if you need roofing help it's likely to be her who picks the phone up. Full contact details are contained in their advert which you will find on **page 12** of the adverts section of this magazine.

David Parr

Dyke's End

Our daily menu is:

Menu

STARTERS

Soup or the day, garlic butter & focaccia 5.50

Focaccia bread, garlic butter & balsamic olive oil 6.50

MAINS

Fish, chips & mushy peas 12.50

Beef burger, bacon, chedder, onion rings, chips & coleslaw 13.50

Steak & ale pie, mash, veg & gravy 15.50

Turkey escolope, mash, veg & gravy 15.50

Breaded pasta bake, cheese sauce & veg 10.50 (v)

DESSERTS

Crumble of the day & custard 5.50

Cranberry & date sticky toffee sandwhich & custard 5.50

Mixed fruit eton mess & vanilla ice cream 5.50

Ice Cream 1.50 per scoop

Sunday Menu

STARTERS

Soup or the day, garlic butter & focaccia 5.50

Focaccia bread, garlic butter & balsamic olive oil 6.50

MAINS

Fish, chips & mushy peas 12.50

Braised shoulder of lamb 16.50

Turkey escolope 15.50

Mixed nut wellington 13.50

(Served with all the trimmings)

DESSERTS

Crumble of the day & custard 5.50

Cranberry & date sticky toffee sandwhich & custard 5.50

Mixed fruit eton mess & vanilla ice cream 5.50

Ice Cream 1.50 per scoop

Please check out our website for opening hours: https://www.dykesendreach.co.uk/

01638 743816

Tales from a Reach Garden



We have had some very sunny days recently, but it's been too cold for our snowdrops to fully open up their flowers. While I'm writing this in the middle of January, the earliest snowdrops to emerge are still showing tightly closed buds; the daffodils are barely poking their leaves above the soil. No hellebores have been brave enough to flower in our garden yet, thanks to a very gloomy December and the cold frosty nights (and days) we've had since then.

So, imagine a cold, crisp day in January, opening the front door, breathing in the fresh air and then wondering where that astonishing, sweet fragrance is coming from. The luscious bouquet is also obvious on entering the garden gate after returning from a walk. This powerful scent comes from the tiny white flowers of an evergreen shrub: *Sarcococca Confusa*, otherwise known as "Sweet Box" (– which has nothing to do with Quality Street and everything to do with the well-known evergreen shrub often used in low hedging, Box, which is a relative.)



Sweet Box blooming in January



and with berries too!

Sarcococca is a very forgiving shrub and almost thrives on neglect. It has glossy green leaves all year round, growing slowly in the shade (dry shade too). It can be grown in full sun, but it's leaves will not be such a dark green nor as glossy. Most of the year it sits in its corner of the garden being green and alas, forgettable. We give it a gentle trim once a year, which is more of a tidy-up than a proper pruning session and then ignore it for most of the year until it reminds us of its presence with its mighty perfume in the middle of winter. There are very few pollinating insects around at this time of year but any that have been disturbed from hibernation, dozy and hungry, will follow that scent just to drink up the available nectar and pollinate the flowers. Many of the berries which develop from this mid-winter pollination grow slowly during the rest of the year and will remain on the bush, black and shiny, into the following winter.

Even in the vegetable garden, the perfume can be detected, overlain with more delicate, earthy odours from the cabbage, kale and leeks which we have been harvesting over the winter months. The leaves of garlic bulbs planted in autumn have also appeared above ground recently and are being protected from persistent frost under fleece. It'll be several months before they will be ready for kitchen use.

The weeds are growing too, but while the ground is frost-hardened, there is little point even trying to do the weeding. We find it is best to wait for warmer weather, when the soil will be damp and friable - that is the best time to do the weeding and mulching because the task is so much easier on our hands and backs! We don't tidy up any old flower stems or leaf piles at this time of the year either, especially while the weather remains so cold.

It's only worth pruning those trees, shrubs and vines that really need it. The messy bits of the garden allow overwintering mini-beasts somewhere to hide or hibernate, some are becoming rarer, (such as hedgehogs which will hide under a pile of leaves), many of them are very useful in the garden predating pests in the spring, or being predated by the local birds.

It is a time for ordering seeds, cleaning pots and labels and generally preparing for the gardening year ahead. However, for an early crop and a longer cropping season it is worth sowing chillies and aubergines in the next couple of weeks. They are slower growing than tomatoes so they need an earlier start, but they will need somewhere warm and bright to flourish.

Danuta Gibson



Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Charlotte Cane	Chair	741064
Nick Acklam	Vice Chair	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 if Covid-19 restrictions are in place), on the first **Tuesday** of each month. They start at 7.45pm and all Reach villagers are welcome to be involved.

Know Your District Councillors



A belated Happy New Year! We hope you had a good Christmas, despite the additional Covid restrictions.

The grant to Citizen's Advice Bureau West Suffolk (CAWS) is to continue for another two years, which is good news for all our residents. We would like to thank those residents who contacted the Council to support CAWS.

We hope that Green Waste Collections re-started from 28 January, with two new HGV drivers joining the team. We are sorry we didn't forewarn you of this reduction in the service, but we were not told until 26 November, when Councillors were informed by East Cambs Street Scene that they would be cancelling the green waste collection from Monday 13 December to Friday 28 January inclusive because they were short staffed. This announcement came just 11 days after the Operational Services Committee had met and no mention was made of reducing the service, although the problem of staff shortages was well known by then. This reduction in service needed to be agreed by Councillor Julia Huffer because Schedule 4, Section 3 of the agreement between ECDC and ECSS provides: 'The scope of services to be delivered is set out in the Service Specifications for waste and street cleansing and these can only be amended with the endorsement of the Chair of Regulatory Services (or equivalent) for general operational matters and the Regulatory Services Committee for matters of policy relating to the delivery of services.'

In line with this, Councillor Huffer was briefed and endorsed the cancellation of green waste collections for the period. She could have held ECSS to delivering the service, she could have asked them to bring forward alternative proposals, she could have held a special meeting of Operational Services Committee to discuss the options, but she endorsed the amendment to suspend the Green Waste collection. In answer to our questions, Cllr Huffer explained that she accepted this reduction in service to protect the health of the workforce; that to demand a reduction in costs would be petty in the extreme, because other local Councils had also suspended the service; and that she decided green waste was the best collection to cancel because it was non statutory.

We support actions to protect the health of the workforce but remain concerned that this decision was taken with such limited member input. The suspension of the service is an inconvenience to residents and potentially sets back our efforts to reduce waste going to landfill – the officers considered it was likely that the level of food in black bags would increase following the suspension. We understand that there is a marked reduction in green waste over the winter, but it is still important that it is kept separate and doesn't go into landfill. In her statement, Cllr Huffer noted "From our last waste analysis, we know that typically 30% of everything we throw away in black sacks is food waste…" It therefore seems very strange that she agreed to remove our option to have our green waste collected separately.

The East Cambs Community Fund grant application window will be open between Monday 17 January and Monday 21 February. Grants are intended to support the development of new or existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents of East Cambridgeshire.

Details including eligibility criteria are at: www.eastcambs.gov.uk/finance/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund. For more information please contact: stephanie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk or call Stephanie Jones on 01353 665555.
The government's unwillingness to permit all Councils to meet on-line is causing difficulties for Parish Councillors and District alike. Some Parish Councils have reduced their discussions to immediate items only and others have tried to run full meetings but found themselves inquorate. We wrote to Lucy Frazer MP, but she did not support reintroducing on-line meetings and said that even if it was to be proposed parliamentary time would be needed to approve it. We can't help feeling that if they spent more time on parliamentary business and less on Bring Your Own Bottle 'work gatherings', they might find time to bring local politics into the 21st Century.

The Council was late in publishing its annual accounts, even missing its own revised deadline of 'on or about' 30 November. When they were presented to the Audit Committee in November 2021, the auditors gave a verbal update to the Committee as they had not completed their review when the papers were sent out. They reported that the accounts were largely free from material error apart from a £2million error due to incorrect consolidation of the trading companies. We asked for a further meeting so that members could review a corrected set of accounts before approving them, but the Conservative majority decided that it would be sufficient for the Committee Chair to review them, unless there were further material errors. At one point they were ready just to approve the accounts as they were, subject to non-material amendments, until we pointed out that that would prevent them from correcting the £2m error. They tried to deny this, saying £2m was not material but the external auditor confirmed that £2m was indeed material.

Charlotte had the bizarre experience of an Audit Committee meeting in January 2022 where neither the external nor internal auditors were present due to Covid, so they could not be questioned about the £4m errors they found in the 2020/21 accounts or the £4m errors they found in the 2019/20 accounts which had to be corrected through a prior year adjustment. Although these errors cancelled each other out so that the results didn't change, they were material and it's unfortunate that we have to wait until our next meeting in July to question the auditors in Committee. We would like to understand why the error increased from the £2m reported in November in just the 2020/21 accounts to £4m in both 2020/21 and 2019/2020 accounts.

Mepal Outdoor Centre has now been demolished. The Council's current leadership is pressing ahead with its plans for an unwanted and unnecessary crematorium on the site, despite the fact that only thirteen per cent of local residents supported the idea.

The Council has already admitted that the crematorium proposal will take financial contributions from developers intended to improve facilities for local residents and turn them into ready cash to subsidise council tax. To date they have spent £348,049 on the crematorium project.

Our next 'meet your Councillors' and Surgery will be on Thursday 17 February at 6.30. Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196. Our following Councillors' Surgery will be on Monday 21 March at 6.30 by zoom using the codes above.

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

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



CentrePeace

Current opening times

Tuesday 10 - 12.30
Wednesday 2 - 4
Thursday 10 - 12.30
Friday 10 - 12.30
Saturday 10 - 12.30

CentrePeace is run by volunteers and supported by our churches. Opening times may be extended as more volunteers feel able to come forward. If you wish to volunteer, please get in touch with Hazel Williams (743897), even if you have worked in the shop in the past.

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Please contact David Parr on 01638 744081 or 07887 563720 or email davidmparr@btinternet.com

T'ai Chi Chuan Classes

Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Prior and Ely



"Still as a mountain, move like a great river." Lao Tzu

Improve posture, focus, fitness, strength and co-ordination

Monday: Swaffham Prior Village Hall

10am - 11am Forever Active Chen Style (£5)

11am - 12pm T'ai Chi Health (£5)

5pm - 6.30pm Beijing 24 Step T'ai Chi Chuan (£8)

Wednesday Morning: Burwell Sports Centre

9.45am - 10.45am Improvers 24 Step (£3.50)

11 am - 12pm Beginners T'ai Chi Health (£3.50)

Wednesday Afternoon: Reach Village Hall

12.30pm - 1.30pm Chen Style and Yiquan (£5)

Thursday: Paradise Sports Centre Ely

10am – 11am Beijing 24 Step T'ai Chi Chuan (£4)

(Part of the Keep Active Ely sessions)

Contact Instructor Faradena Afifi (Fara) for more information

Phone: 07919857617 Email: faradena@yahoo.co.uk

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T'ai Chi Health



Beijing 24 Step



Yiquan



Chen Style

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CHAPEL DENTAL

Welcome to **Chapel Dental,** we are a modern and convenient dental practice, located in the lovely village of Great Wilbraham, just **7 miles from Reach**.

We pride ourselves in the quality of our dental practitioners and the services we provide which include specialist treatments such as implants and orthodontics.

We are currently accepting Denplan/Private patients.

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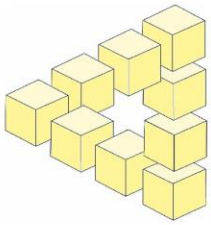

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Bottisham Village College has a widely important role in the local community so we would like to apologise for the disruption our closure caused - but are very excited to have
***reopened Bottisham Sports Centre as of the 4th of January 2022**.*

Our Opening Times are:

Monday to Wednesday 4:00pm - 10:00pm
Thursday 6.30am 9.00am and 4.00pm - 10.00pm
Friday 4.00pm - 10.00pm and **Saturday & Sunday** 8:00am - 4:00pm

Currently, the Sports Centre has lots of clubs covering swimming, football and many other sports, so please get in contact with us if you would like to know more of what is on offer!
We look forward to welcoming you all in Bottisham Sports Centre once again!

facebook.com/BottishamSportsCentre
For more information call **01223 811121**
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Food Focus

Brunch



In theory, I love a late breakfast or a brunch, in practice it rarely happens. However, I live in hope and create brunch options for breakfast at any snatched opportunity. The brunch option which I have managed to integrate fairly seamlessly into weekday life is poached egg on sourdough with squashed avocado, chilli flakes, black pepper and a squeeze of lime.

Accompany with any fresh herbs that you have available. It's best if the yolk of the egg is soft. Eating this I am momentarily transported to a trendy café serving perfect flat white coffees, where I eat my brunch child free. The dream is normally quite short lived.

I have a distant memory of making a delicious brunch for friends when I lived in Devon. It is a Jamie recipe which I re-found online.

Eggy Crumpets (serves 2)

Ingredients: 1 fresh red chilli, 2 large free-range eggs, olive oil, 6 rashers of higher-welfare smoked bacon, 4 crumpets, brown sauce or maple syrup.



Method:

1. Deseed and very finely chop the chilli, then add to a bowl with a pinch of sea salt and black pepper.
2. Crack in the eggs and whisk together.
3. Drizzle a splash of oil into a large non-stick frying pan over a medium heat, add the bacon and allow to crisp up on both sides.
4. Add the crumpets to the egg mixture, really pushing and turning them – they'll soak it up like a sponge.
5. Push the bacon to one side and tilt the pan so the fat runs into the middle. Add the crumpets and fry for a few minutes on each side, or until golden.
6. Serve the eggy crumpets topped with the crispy bacon, and with a dollop of brown sauce or a drizzle of maple syrup. To finish, you can sprinkle over any extra chopped chilli.

Granola

I've also changed the way I eat granola into more of a brunchy affair. Instead of having my homemade granola (see Within Reach May 2016) with milk (as one would eat cereal – slightly strange in retrospect and rather indigestible), I now sprinkle it on top of greek yogurt and throw on any fruit that's available with a teaspoon of local honey – yum!

Shakshuka - see within Reach July 2021

Still very much a future intention as it would only be me that ate it, but if you have sophisticated brunches with friends at the weekend – perfect.

Breakfast Oven Pancake (serves 4)

I haven't tried this myself but I will be tempted once berries are in season. It's from Rukmini Iyers book "The Quick Roasting Tin", a welcome Christmas Present.

According to the blurb "this recipe will make the most beautifully light, fluffy oven pancake, with a crisp top and edges. If you haven't got ricotta, a tub of cottage cheese works just as well."

Prep time: 10 minutes | **Cooking time:** 30 minutes

Ingredients

- 50g unsalted butter
- 250g ricotta or cottage cheese
- 4 free-range eggs
- 200ml milk
- 50g caster sugar
- 150g plain flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- Big handfuls of raspberries, blueberries and blackberries (frozen is fine here)
- Icing sugar, to dust

To serve

- 100g softened unsalted butter
- 30g icing sugar
- Zest and juice of ½ lemon

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.
2. Put the butter into the roasting tin and pop the tin into the oven for the butter to melt.
3. Beat the ricotta or cottage cheese, eggs, milk and sugar together, then pour in the melted butter from the tin.
4. Stir through the flour and baking powder until smooth, then pour the batter into the hot buttery roasting tin.

5. Scatter over the berries, then return to the oven to bake for 25-30 minutes, until golden and well risen.
6. Meanwhile, beat the softened butter, icing sugar, lemon zest and juice together. Dust the pancake with icing sugar, then cut into slices and serve hot with the lemon butter.

Happy Brunching!

Catherine Gibson

Letter from the Vicarage



Adaptation seems to be the way forward for now, as the pandemic is far from over, but there are hopeful signs and like many organisations, we have found ways to adapt and move forwards. Our main Sunday service is at 10.00am in St Mary's and all are welcome to come along.

Building work has begun on renovating St Etheldreda's, and we've had our first services in the Village Hall, adapting to a different space, which has the advantage of being warm! We'll be continuing to hold services there while the church building is closed, including Sunday@7, our monthly informal worship service which will be back in Reach for February as a trial run, so please do join us.

For our other groups and activities, particularly those that have not yet restarted since March 2020, we're continuing to adapt and experiment. Refresh Café is our group for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups, which meets on Friday mornings at St Mary's from 10.00am to 11.00am. We have adapted our programme to manage Covid-19 precautions and welcome any little ones and their parents/carers. CentrePeace is our drop-in and second-hand bookshop on the Causeway and we were delighted when it was finally possible to re-open the shop.

Up to date information on services and activities for all ages is on our website and Facebook page. If you'd like to find out more about who we are and what we do, or get more involved in the life of St Mary's and St Etheldreda's, please get in touch and also if you would like to chat or if we can pray for you, if you are struggling, or know someone who is, or need help accessing Ely foodbank. God bless you

Eleanor Williams Vicar of Burwell with Reach

Tel: 01638 741262
Email: vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk
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CentrePeace

Current opening times

Tuesday 10 - 12.30
Wednesday 2 - 4
Thursday 10 - 12.30
Friday 10 - 12.30
Saturday 10 - 12.30

CentrePeace is run by volunteers and supported by our churches. Opening times may be extended as more volunteers feel able to come forward. If you wish to volunteer, please get in touch with Hazel Williams (743897), even if you have worked in the shop in the past.

Reach Church Building Update

The church was cleared in mid-December, with pews, altar, font and all the other furniture going into storage. The pews that are no longer needed have all found new homes in the village, which is great.

The builders duly started on 3rd January and lost no time in removing the porch, which will be repositioned a little further forward to accommodate the kitchen and toilet and the plaster on the lower section of the walls, which will be replaced with insulation. The resulting clear space is huge and rather beautiful!

The builders next job was to take up the floorboards, as the plan includes underfloor heating. Unfortunately, this revealed quite a few rotten joists that will have to be replaced, but it was inevitable that a few things like this would crop up in an old building. They then moved on to the ceiling, again removing all the old plaster, so that the roof can be insulated and then re-plastered. Care was taken not to disturb the bees who live under the roof at the back! It's amazing that so much has been achieved in just 2½ weeks and we look forward to the reconstruction beginning in the weeks to come.

One of the requirements of the planning permission for the changes to the path and garden was that we should produce a Biodiversity Improvement Scheme, to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site.

A group was convened to work on this, consisting of the people who have been working on St Mary's Churchyard for the last 2 years plus Pam King and John Reed from Reach. Their ideas include wildflower areas, a raised herb bed, using the old pulpit, a log pile and bird boxes. The ground behind Reach church is an attractive site and we plan to maintain it in the future as a pleasant resource for users of the church and the wider community.

Our experiences in Burwell, where we gained a Bronze Churchyard Conservation Award as part of a scheme run by Ely Diocese in association with The Wildlife Trust, have taught us how maintaining the churchyard with biodiversity in mind not only produces a beautiful environment, but also attracts a great deal of interest from the community. Our plan is to maintain Reach churchyard along the same lines and if possible, to gain a Churchyard Conservation award here too. We also hope that, in the future, it may be possible to register the churchyard under the Quiet Garden Movement, which aims to identify beautiful places for reflection and rest https://quietgarden.org.



Pat Chalmers



Burwell Museum and Windmill



Although the museum is closed to the public until Easter, there is plenty going on behind the scenes! Look out for some revamped display areas when we reopen, as well as a new temporary exhibition on Burwell Carnivals through the ages. We'll also be celebrating the museum's 30th anniversary in 2022 – doesn't time fly when you're having fun?

We will be having some changes in personnel as the year begins. Alison has reduced her hours and will be concentrating on the education officer role, so we hope to welcome a new administrator very soon to take on the rest of her job. The new person will be in charge of planning the year's events, so we have nothing to share yet, but you can book a visit, outreach talk or Zoom talk for a group by contacting Alison on education@burwellmuseum.org.uk.

Some volunteers are also stepping back or taking on new roles, and we are grateful to all of them for their hard work over the years. We're also grateful to those who are filling their places, and as always, we would welcome more volunteers to join our team. If you're around on a Tuesday in the winter, or a Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday in the summer, and you are interested in helping the museum please contact us on volunteers@burwellmuseum.org.uk for more information about volunteer roles. We are currently recruiting new trustees, so if you are interested in having a say in what happens at the museum please come and join us.

Although we don't have an official events programme for this year yet, we do know that we are planning to open to the public for the new season with the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 17th April and Monday 18th April. Please save the date and we look forward to seeing you there!

Alison Giles

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

Church Services at Burwell and Reach

February 2022	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach
Sunday 6th 4th before Lent	10.00am Holy Communion	9.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 9th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 13th 3rd before Lent	10.00am Holy Communion	7.00pm Sunday@7 informal service
Wednesday 12th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 20th 2nd before Lent	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 19th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 27th Next before Lent	10.00am Holy Communion	
March 2022	**St Mary's Burwell**	**St Etheldreda's, Reach**
Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 6th 1st Sunday of Lent	10.00am All Age Service with baptism	9.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 9th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 13th Lent 2	10.00am Holy Communion	7.00pm Sunday@7 service in Village Hall
Wednesday 16th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 20th Lent 3	10.00am Holy Communion	9.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 23rd	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 27th Lent 4 **Mothering Sunday**	8.30am Holy Communion (TBC) 10.00am All Age Service	
Wednesday 30th	10.30am Holy Communion	
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**	

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the village hall on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.45pm

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence - There were none.

Confidential session.
The PC had invited Frances Dylong-Fuller to the meeting to discuss the breach of lease of The Dykes End pub. Mrs Dylong-Fuller was unable to attend due to medical reasons and had given the PC permission to contact her solicitor directly. Councillor Cane had emailed the solicitor and was awaiting a response. Following discussion, the PC agreed that no action should be taken until a reply had been received, however, ***Councillor Cane*** should wait 2 weeks for a reply and the contact the solicitor again if none had been received.
The advertised opening hours are not those that are required by the lease, but it is thought that even these are not being adhered to. ***Councillors*** to document any breaches they become aware of.

Forum for members of the public.
A member of the public attended the meeting to give their support and information for the petition which was delivered to the NP group objecting to the proposed change to the development envelope.

1. Declaration of Interests
There were none.

Neighbourhood plan report.
The NP Project Group met on 25 November. Ian Poole was present. Four members of the public also attended. Catherine Gibson was elected to fill the vacant post as Chair.
The meeting focused on feedback to the consultation of the draft Plan. Ian reiterated that 57 responses offering over 300 substantive comments was good for an exercise of this kind. The Group noted that approval ratings for all policy proposals in the draft Plan exceeded 70 per cent, often significantly so. The Group acknowledged a petition, seeking retention of the existing development envelope of the village, which had attracted 90 names.
The Group endorsed publication of the formal responses with individuals' names. This is standard practice in the NP process and the consultation document had made it clear that completed forms would be made public. In a few cases redactions might be necessary given the pejorative and defamatory content. The petition could not be published in full as it contained no evidence that those named in it had given explicit consent to their personal data being published.
The PC is asked to approve publication, on the Neighbourhood Plan webpage, of the formal consultation responses and the terms of the petition and the fact that it attracted 90 names.
Many of the formal consultation responses and the petition focused on the proposed changes to the village development envelope, most specifically a proposed reduction of the envelope in the vicinity of the Hythe. The remainder of the meeting was therefore devoted to considering the case against and for retaining the revised development envelope proposed in the draft plan. The Group noted the significant of number of names on the petition but agreed (in line with the principle in matters of UK planning) that consideration would be structured by substantive points against and for the revised envelope.
Housing need: the Group noted that the local authority housing requirement for Reach to 2031 was nil and that the Planning Department at ECDC had expressed itself content with the proposed revisions to the development envelope in its response to the NP consultation. The Group noted that provision for new housing within the proposed revised envelope of the Plan exceeded local authority requirements and met the aspirations of a significant majority of villagers who responded to the NP residents' questionnaire. A potential loss of building land arising from the proposed reduction of the envelope adjacent to the Hythe was therefore not considered a justification for retaining the existing development envelope in this area.

Visual amenity: in respect of the proposed revisions at the Hythe, Ian commented that landscape sensitivity had been a significant consideration in the imposition of the section 52 agreement, in ECDC's refusal of an application to build two two storey dwellings on the site and in the Planning Inspectorate's rejection of an appeal against refusal. The Group also noted the very specific recommendation in our independent landscape appraisal to avoid development in the vicinity of the Hythe and the very strong wishes of the village to preserve and enhance the Hythe, captured in the residents' survey. The Group was not persuaded of the case made by a member of the public that certain forms of housing development could be achieved on the site without detriment to views of the landscape from the Hythe or from surrounding amenity land.
Archaeology: There was evidence that the site formed part of the port of Reach, but the Group acknowledged that the archaeological significance of the site was unknown. The Group discussed whether underlying archaeology could be protected in circumstances where development was allowed on the site. The Group did not reach a definitive view although a member of the public expressed concern about the adequacy of current protections.
In conclusion the Group agreed unanimously to retain unamended its proposal to amend the development envelope. The PC is invited to endorse this position.

A member of the public stated that their experience in securing names for the above-mentioned petition revealed that large numbers of villagers were 'angry' and 'disengaged' about the Neighbourhood Plan. The Group felt that this did not reflect its own feedback or indeed the consultation responses but registered the concern. It acknowledged that face-to-face engagement with the village had been im-possible for long periods of 2020 and 2021 and it was suggested that a drop-in session be held in the New Year to enable a two-way flow of comment and explanation.

Timetable.
Assuming the PC approves the actions above, the Group will produce a revised draft for submission to the PC for approval in spring 2022. If approved, we can then hold the above-mentioned drop-in session and then go to ECDC for sign-off before undergoing independent examination. If that hurdle is cleared it should be possible to put the Plan to a village referendum in the summer of 2022

PC discussion took place regarding the request to endorse the NP Groups conclusion and agreement to unanimously to retain unamended its proposal to amend the development envelope, and to approve publication, on the NP webpage, of the formal consultation responses and the terms of the petition and the fact that it attracted 90 names.

One member stated that the PC represents all the parishioners of which 90 had supported the petition. The PC discussed this at some length, together with the detail given by respondents to the consultation. The PC considered that the signees of the petition had been given adequate notice of the importance of completing the consultation exercise. The PC were informed that no indication had been given that the petition could be considered as a legitimate means of opposition as this was provided by the consultation process and considered that the petition signees had been given adequate notice of the importance of completing the consultation exercise and that those who had responded to the consultation had been able to give explanations of their comments, which the NP Plan group and the PC had been able to consider therefore the consultation process had to be given greater weight.

Councillor McMillan proposed that the PC to endorse the NP Groups conclusion and agreement to unanimously to retain unamended its proposal to amend the development envelope, and to approve publication, on the NP webpage, of the formal consultation responses and the terms of the petition and the fact that it attracted 90 names. Councillor Trump seconded. Approved 5 votes to 1.

2. Planning – 21/01633/FUL - 7 Ditchfield Reach. Construction of 4 bedroom house with associated parking – This application had only 2 slight differences from the previous application for this site. That of one less first floor window and a larger parking area. ***Clerk*** to write to ECDC with the same comments, that all construction traffic should access the property from the byway behind the property in order to ensure that Ditchfield is not obstructed by contractors' vehicles during construction. As this byway provides access to Highcrest House it is important that access is maintained to this property.
When previous construction was undertaken in Ditchfield the water supply was cut off for several residents while the new property was connected to the water main. Please ensure this doesn't occur with the construction of this property.

3. District Councillor Report
December deadlines for responses to Greater Cambridge Partnership consultations
The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has two public consultations on proposals for transport links in and around Cambridge. Some of these proposals have significant implications for our routes into Cambridge, especially along the Newmarket Road.
The Making Connections consultation closes on 20 December and more information can be found at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021
The Cambridge Eastern Access consultation closes on 22 December and more information can be found at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/NewmarketRd2021
Green waste collection cancelled from mid-December to January

After local press reports of staff concerns and low morale at East Cambs Street Scene, we now hear that the decision has been made behind closed doors to cancel the green waste collection service from Monday 13 December to Friday 28 January inclusive. The Council's wholly owned waste collection company told Councillors that it has been short staffed due to COVID-19 and the national shortage of HGV drivers. It says that 'it is currently recruiting for three HGV drivers, fast-tracking two employees to enable them to obtain their HGV licence and working with existing staff who want to obtain HGV licences in the future'. In the meantime, residents are told to reduce food waste, and that green waste can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Witchford. We were surprised and disappointed to learn of the plan to stop green waste collections. We know this will be an unwanted inconvenience for residents. It will result in many more car journeys for those who have the means to take their garden waste to the nearest recycling centre, but this is not an option for all. As opposition councillors we first learnt of the ECSS HGV driver shortage in a whistleblowing story in the Ely Standard. That story also raised worrying claims of low staff morale. The council's administration needs to be much more open and transparent about the issues faced at ECSS and develop a comprehensive plan to address them.

Christmas waste collection dates

Over the Christmas periods, collection dates change:

w/c 20 December – collections will be a day earlier than usual (or the previous Saturday if the normal collection is Monday)

w/c27 Dec – apart from Monday, all collections will be a day later than usual. Collections normally due on Monday 27, will be collected on Friday 24.

w/c 3 Jan – collections will be 2 days later than usual (with Friday 7 collected on Monday 10)

w/c 10 Jan – collections will be a day later than usual

Citizen's Advice Bureau West Suffolk

The grant to CAWS is to continue for another two years, which is good news for all our residents.

Mepal Outdoor Centre to be demolished by Christmas

East Cambridgeshire District Council leadership's Christmas present to local residents is the wrecking ball due to be sent in to the Mepal Outdoor Centre in the week beginning 6 December. The Council's current leadership is pressing ahead with its plans for an unwanted and unnecessary crematorium on the site, despite the fact that only thirteen per cent of local residents supported the idea. The Council has already admitted that the crematorium proposal is intended to take financial contributions from developers intended to improve facilities for local residents and turn them into ready cash to subsidise council tax.

Retirement Village, Bottisham Appeal (APP/V0510/W/21/3282241)

We have submitted our representation to the Planning Inspectorate urging the Inspector to dismiss the appeal over the Council's refusal of the application for a retirement village on land to the rear of 163 To 187 High Street, Bottisham. Anyone wanting a copy of our representation is welcome to email charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk for one, or write to 34 Swaffham Road, Reach, CB25 0HZ.

Trading Company repayments to Combined Authority slip

All but one of the five housing loans from the Combined Authority is proceeding in line with the revised COVID-19 programme approved by the Board in August 2020. That exception is the East Cambs Trading Company loan on the MOD site at Ely, where the projected repayment profile is slipping behind that anticipated.

The Combined Authority says: "This is for two reasons. There is still a delay in the sale of the 15 affordable housing units in the scheme. We are advised that this is expected to be resolved and the substantial capital payment received from the sale of those units now before end January 2022. We will continue to monitor the progress of that transaction.

The second reason is a slower than projected rate of sale of the market units over the past eight months. The loan is due to be re-paid by no later than 31st March 2023 and we will continue to monitor ECTC's performance closely to meet that deadline. There are currently four market units reserved and going through the acquisition process and three unit sales have completed in the last month. Receipts from those reservations will help stop the anticipated repayment profile falling even further behind from what was originally projected, but more and accelerated sales rates are required to catch up. For the avoidance of any doubt ECTC are not defaulting on the loan. A default will only occur if the loan is not re-paid in full by 31st March 2023. We will continue to monitor and report to Housing Committee on the progress of the repayments."

We have been continuing to press for information about the resolution of this delay.

Cycling & Walking strategy

The Council's Finance & Assets Committee has agreed a Cycling & Walking Strategy, which arises from the consultation carried out at the start of the pandemic in March to May 2020. The Council intends to use the Strategy to try to influence County Council and Combined Authority plans for active travel.

The priority routes identified in the report include:

- Fordham-Burwell (cycling and walking)*
- Burwell-Exning-Newmarket (cycling Burwell-Newmarket, walking Exning)
- Lode-Waterbeach (cycling)
- Fordham-Soham (cycling)
- Burwell-Swaffham Prior (cycling)*
- Reach-Burwell (cycling)*

The asterisks indicate projects for which the Council has commissioned Sustrans to produce feasibility studies for cycling routes. Of these, Swaffham Prior-Reach-Burwell is being treated as one scheme.

Business Growth Fund
The District Council is launching a 'Business Growth Fund' to use up remaining monies granted by the Government to support businesses during COVID-19. The Council has £616,425 left and will be inviting applications for up to £30,000—not from businesses that are still struggling, but from businesses that want to 'accelerate growth and long term sustainability'. The grant scheme and criteria will be advertised on the Council's website and the deadline for applications will be 5:00PM on Wednesday 12 January 2022.
Meet your councillors
We will be holding our virtual surgery via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30PM on Wednesday 19 January 2022. Please contact Charlotte at charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk to book your timeslot.

4. County Councillor Report
The PC had obtained a CCC report from another County Councillor.
COVID-19 Overview
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Enhanced Response Area status for tackling the Covid pandemic lasts until at least Monday 6 December. More information at: https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/enhanced-response-area-status-vital-to-protect-nhs-and-vital-services
Cambridge University Hospitals' Chief Executive Roland Sinker warned in early November that Addenbrooke's was 'ceasing to function as a hospital' and that 'You'd have to be asleep to not realise the profound nature of the crisis we're in'. At that time 150 of the 900-1,000 beds were closed due to infection control and pandemic-related reconfiguration. The hospital was caring for 58 people with COVID-19, 11 of them in the critical care unit. Ambulances were queuing outside the hospital, and one woman died in the back of an ambulance while waiting.
Covid in schools
Cases in schools have risen significantly in the last week of November and are expected to rise further. Pressure on staffing resources is now critical and a number of schools are close to closing classes due to safety considerations. Attendance continues to be high, however. Cambridgeshire's school attendance benchmarking tool was sent to the Secretary of State for Education by his policy advisor as a case study of best practice on highlighting challenges with pupil attendance.
Vaccination rates among Cambridgeshire's 12-15 year olds are at or above the East of England average in all Cambridgeshire districts, and all are higher than the England average. Vaccination rates among 12-15 year olds in East Cambridgeshire are the second highest in Cambridgeshire. As at 23 November vaccination rates among 12-15 year olds were as follows.

Area	**12-15 vaccination uptake**
South Cambridgeshire	60.0%
East Cambridgeshire	56.5%
Huntingdonshire	54.7%
Cambridge	47.0%
Fenland	45.8%
East of England	45.8%
England	39.8%

Case rates in Cambridgeshire As of 27 November:
• 3,139 cases were recorded in Cambridgeshire in the previous seven days—477.6 cases per 100,000 population. This is above the East of England average of 455.9 cases per 100,000 population.
• 443 of these cases were in East Cambridgeshire, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous week—491.3 cases per 100,000.
Vaccinations
• 71,228 people in East Cambridgeshire had been given their first dose of the vaccine by the end of 25 November.
• 65,461 people in East Cambridgeshire had been given their second dose.
Booster vaccinations are now being offered to those aged 40 and above who had their second dose of the vaccine more than six months ago. However, the NHS is struggling with capacity to deliver the booster programme, meaning that a number of local residents are being offered their booster vaccinations in locations as distant as King's Lynn, and even people with pre-booked vaccination appointments are having to queue round the block at their chosen location.
Testing
Mobile testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot tests as well as kits to take away and complete at home. You can also order kits to use at home. More information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting
General Covid information
• https://twitter.com/CambsCC
• https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview
• https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine
Holiday Activity & Food in Cambridgeshire
Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch are being made available in the Christmas holidays for the children of families receiving benefits-related free school meals. The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme offers fun with friends and free food for primary and secondary school children in Cambridgeshire. Sessions will include a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children. Any child receiving benefits-related free school meals is eligible for the programme.

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) for the next three years, the HAF scheme enables councils like Cambridgeshire to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, and co-ordinated locally by Cambridgeshire County Council.
Each eligible child will be able to access up to 16 hours of free holiday childcare or enriching experiences through the school Christmas holiday period. Bookings have already opened and information about how to book with participating providers can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf
As part of the HAF programme, eligible children will be able to access:
• Fun and enriching play opportunities or new experiences that provide children with new skills and knowledge.
• At least one meal a day.
• Guidance on healthy eating and getting children involved in food preparation and cooking.
• Support for parents, carers or other family members with guidance on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.
• Information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful.
The Council is working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the HAF programme.
At the time of writing, the programme is available in East Cambridgeshire at Isle of Ely Primary School, Bottisham Community Primary School, Football Fun Factory at Littleport and Soham, Kids Club Ely Holiday Club, and Premier Education at The Hive Ely and Weatheralls Primary School Soham.
Registered Holiday Scheme Providers and childminders are welcome to sign up to deliver the programme, by emailing HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk . It would be great to see the programme expand into some of our larger villages locally.

Household Support Fund

Cambridgeshire's Household Support Fund, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. The scheme will run until 31 March 2022.
Support is offered in two ways:
• Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families: residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
• Direct food voucher scheme: as in previous school holidays, supermarket vouchers will be issues to families meeting the low income criteria for free school meals, funded childcare for two-year-olds, early years pupil premium, or sixth form students eligible for free school meals. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund

Land Use Framework for Cambridgeshire

The motion on land use was passed by a majority, with members of the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent joint administration voting in favour of it, and the Conservative opposition voting against. This motion seeks to develop more strategic approach to land use to enable it to play a better role in delivering key social, economic and environmental objectives and aligning resources for public value. The County Council will now be working with partners to develop detailed policy recommendations for implementation of a framework.
The motion will now be circulated locally by the Food Farming & Countryside Commission to be used as a model for partner organisations to use if they wish to indicate their support for this important piece of work.

Full Council

Other items for the full Council meeting on Tuesday 9 November were:

• The appointment of Stephen Moir as the Council's new Chief Executive— Stephen used to work for the County Council some years ago and was a strong choice as the new Chief Executive.
• Various changes to the Council's constitution, which were agreed.
• The parental leave policy for councillors which was approved.
• The Pension Fund Committee annual report, which was also agreed,
• Motions on surface water flooding, resettlement of Afghan citizens, the Government's social care plan, and cuts to Universal Credit, which again were all agreed.
The motion on Universal Credit resolved that the County Council would work with partners to set up a funding scheme to support children and young people whose families are on Universal Credit or free school meals to have reduced cost access to out of school activities, in order to support them to reach their educational and personal potential.

Hundred Foot de-silting

Work continues to attempt to resolve the controversy over the Environment Agency de-silting works on the Hundred Foot, and local community concerns about the nature of the material dug up from the river. The Environment Agency has asked the opinion of a Reservoirs Panel Engineer who says there is no cause for concern. Samples of the arisings from the de-silting works are to be taken for analysis. Any further actions will depend on the results of this analysis.
An update from the Environment Agency was due on or around 22 November but has not been received at the time of writing this report.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee approved a draft revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which will go out to public consultation shortly. The overall objectives of the strategy remain the same:
1. Understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire
2. Managing the likelihood of flooding
3. Helping Cambridgeshire's citizens to manage their own risk
4. Ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire
5. Improving flood prediction, warning, and post flood recovery

The new strategy will cover the period 2021-2027. It has been updated to reflect the effects of climate change, changes in policy and legislation, the increased importance of working in partnership—and of course the winter 2020 floods. The strategy identifies that there needs to be much greater clarity on the roles of each flood risk management authority, and greater reference to riparian ownership and community involvement.

Sunnica planning application

Slightly later than envisaged, Sunnica have now submitted their application to the Secretary of State for their enormous solar installation stretching from the outskirts of Thetford Forest to Burwell. The County Council is working with Suffolk County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and West Suffolk District Council to make the required response on the 'adequacy of consultation'.

Climate Change & Environment Strategy

A draft of the County Council's revised Climate Change & Environment Strategy will be considered by the Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on 16 December. This follows a series of engagement meetings with parish councils, local businesses, and Council staff across the organisation. The final version of the Strategy will be considered by the Full Council at the budget meeting in February.

The Council's annual report on its carbon footprint will go to the Committee for consideration in January.

Climate-related research

Meanwhile, work is ongoing by postgraduate students from the University of Cambridge on two pieces of climate-related work.

• The first is considering the potential for a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and how it might work.

• The second is considering how Local Area Energy Planning could work in Cambridgeshire. Local area energy usually refers to energy projects that are led by local organisations, whether public, private or third sector, and run for local benefit. Local area energy plans can cover lots of different activities taking place within a local area such as

→ Improving the energy efficiency of homes within a local area

→ Installing micro-generation, like solar panels on the roofs of houses and community buildings

→ Creating local generation, such as a local wind farm to produce energy exclusively for consumers in that area

→ Managing local distribution, potentially via a 'smart' local grid (a network that moves energy around a small geographic area)

→ Making public or on street electric vehicle charging points more widely available

→ Taking action on climate change including requiring low carbon heat in new buildings, creating heat from waste, or public and private transport/clean air priorities such as low emission zones.

We look forward to receiving the reports from the students in the new year.

More schools moving to renewable heating

In early November a school in King's Hedges in Cambridge launched what one pupil described as an 'air force heat pump'. The Council has a growing programme to replace school gas and oil boilers with greener options.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Combined Authority has introduced a new 'Sustainable Growth Ambition Statement' to accompany its budget. This Statement restates the commitment in the Devolution Deal signed between the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils and Government, 'to double the size of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough economy in the 25 years from the date of the Deal'. It also lists the six themes which will inform the Combined Authority's investment programme:

• Health and skills
• Climate and nature
• Infrastructure
• Innovation
• Reducing inequalities
• Financial and systems

The Combined Authority Board also considered the final report of the Independent Commission on Climate and agreed to address the proposed actions for which the Combined Authority is responsible, and consider the additional recommendations for other 'stakeholders' such as local councils, businesses, Government, and others.

In very good news, the Combined Authority has recognised the need to develop a new Further Education campus in Ely to address gaps in provision. 'This is to meet sufficiency requirements for the projected growth in the 16-19 cohort, tackle 'cold-spots' in FE provision for adults and create new facilities for specialist curricula. The proposed provision will also expand access to Technical Education through expanding T-Levels and green skills courses. It will reduce travel times for students by providing local provision.' This will not happen quickly, but it is great to see this in the budget papers at last.

The Board also agreed to spend nearly £350,000 in Ely—on CCTV, the general appearance of some city centre business frontages, and signage and street furniture. This is part of the £1M awarded to each of the 'market towns' in Cambridgeshire, to fulfil the recommendations of a series of 'market town masterplans' produced by consultants. Soham is due to be putting in several bids, and Littleport (which wanted to spend the money on a roundabout) has been steered to work on other bids instead.

The Combined Authority has portioned out to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the Capability Fund money received from Government for active travel. Cambridgeshire's share is £258,939, to be spent on workplace travel planning, school travel planning, active travel communications, updating of cycle maps, active travel scheme planning and design, data and evidence collecting, and Fenland to Peterborough national cycle network 63.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting - approved as correct.

6.1 Reach Grant Fund
Nothing to report.

6.2 Finance
Councillor Acklam questioned the correctness of the restricted reserves figure for the NP. ***Clerk*** to investigate.

6.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor Fletcher proposed an earlier start to PC meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that PC meetings would start at 7pm from January 2022.

6.4 Play Spaces
Nothing to report.

6.5 Rights of Way
It was noted that Straight Drove was again becoming damaged due to the users and the bad weather. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored.

6.6 24Acres Committee
The hedge on the Drove needs managing. ***Councillors Acklam and Trump*** to meet onsite to discuss.

6.7 Neighbourhood Plan
See above.

6.8 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report

6.9 A to B1102 Group
Articles have been submitted to parish magazines regarding the GCP consultation Making Connections City Access Public Consultation with the aim of encouraging local residents to understand the changes that are being proposed and to participate in the consultation. We are also planning to put up some roadside signs to highlight the need for local participation for those who may commute from outside the local parishes or those who don't read them. The hope is that local residents will engage with the process and participate in the consultation.
It is concerningly there is no mention of Reach in the Making Connections brochure which will mean greater need for improved connectivity with Burwell to access the bus services for fear of Reach not benefitting from more regular services. ***Councillor Trump*** to write asking the question about how Reach will be served by the bus links.

7. January meeting - move to 11th
Due to the Christmas break and bank holidays the January meeting will be moved to Tuesday 11th January at the new time of 7pm.

8. Sunnica battery storage – fire risk
Concern had been raised about the fire risk of the battery storage facilities being developed in the local area, not just those proposed by Sunnica. Are the local Fire Brigade trained for such events? Do they have an action plan? Is there sufficient water available in these areas? Is there an action plan to deal with steam, smoke, and run off should water be used in these instances? ***Councillor Trump*** to write a letter of concern and enquiry.

9. Reach Fair Update
MINUTES Reach Fair Meeting Thursday 18 November 8pm Village Hall
Present: Alex de Giorgio-Miller and Claire Halpin. Apologies: Cristine Fletcher
1 Update
Reporting to the PC. AdG has joined the PC so the representation of the PC at Reach Fair meetings is compliant with the PC's requirements. If for some reason AdG or CF cannot attend David McMillan will attend in their place.
Bank Account. AdG has joined the PC so the signatories of the Reach Fair bank account include a member of the PC (AdG). The PC is to arrange additional signatories.
Reach Fair Insurance. The PC is investigating this cover and AdG has furnished information, for example, what costs would be incurred if the Fair unfortunately had to be cancelled.
2 Update (CH)
Logistics. Good progress continues to be made with the logistics. All the relevant individuals have been contacted, and reminders are being made. The toilets will cost more, and this is because the charge for travel has increased (by £20 each way); the Fair is larger, so we are ordering more loos (12 instead of 10; the unit price is the same (£50)); plus we have ordered a disabled loo with baby changing facilities (£100).
Bookings. Good progress has been made with the bookings. 26 craft and produce stalls have booked. We have 45 pitches to fill. Thirty reminders have been sent out recently and these will likely generate more bookings.
3 Update (AdG)
Social media. AdG continues to make postings and Reach Fair FB has several hundred followers
Web site. David continues to add more information as completed Booking Forms are returned.

4 Posies for the mayoral party. AdG has spoken to Debbie Quilter and it was agreed that it would be very nice to continue the idea of making posies for the mayoral party. ACTION: CH is to remind DQ nearer the time and advise Anne of Anne's Floral Gifts.

5 Engaging with the Villagers (All)

At the October meeting the following was agreed: We will visit houses in the village on the weekends of Sat 8/Sun 9 and Sat 15/Sun 16 January in the afternoon. We will let people know in advance (by email) that we will be visiting, and we will have a leaflet which describes Reach Fair 2022 and describes the benefits derived from the Fair. It will also include the contact details of Committee Members and encourage people to assist with the Fair. CH to draft this leaflet. The latter will be posted if someone is not in and given to people for information.

6 AOB

Date of next meetings. There will be no Reach Fair meeting in December, and the meeting dates for 2022 are as set out below. All meetings will be on Thursday 8pm in the Village Hall 20 January; 17 February; 17 March and 14 April.

The PC discussed the liabilities should the Fair be cancelled. ***Councillor Fletcher*** to ask the committee to discuss and agree reduced payments following enforced cancellation.
Covid guidelines were also discussed, and it was agreed that all guidelines must be published at the time of the fair.

10. Clunch Pit

The registering of ownership of the Clunch Pit is progressing. The solicitor had raised several questions. ***Councillor Acklam*** to respond on behalf of the PC. Once the legal documents are completed it was agreed that the Clerk should be the PC representative to sign.
The PC wished to thank the resident who had arranged to cut the PC hedge at The Clunch pit. ***Clerk*** to write***.***

11. Fair Green/Great Lane corner update

Councillor McMillan had written to Mr Hurrell regarding the summer use of the corner. He had also left messages with the NFU but received no response. He would also be writing to the local police regarding the enforcement of the Highway restrictions. ***Councillor Trump*** to check whether CCC lorry route maps showed the corner restrictions.

12. Agree Cemetery & Mooring fees

A 5% increase to fees was proposed and agreed.

13. Precept/budget

A budget for Y/E 2023 was proposed and discussed. Adjustments to be made for approval at the January meeting.

12. Payments

There were none.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held at in the village hall on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.00pm

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence - Approved.

Forum for members of the public.
There were none.

1. Declaration of Interests
There were none.

2. Minutes of previous Meeting - approved as correct.

3. Clunch Pit
A statement of truth regarding the land at The Clutch pit had been drawn up by the Solicitor. As the records from the time are incomplete, the PC had given the information based on the best of their knowledge from information based on local history & memory. Councillor Cane proposed that the Clerk should sign the forms on behalf of the PC, seconded by Councillor Acklam, approved unanimously.

4. Precept/budget Approval
The budget for year end 2023 as agreed and approved.

5. Circular bench on the Green
A risk assessment had been supplied for the reinstatement of the circular bench around the Horse Chestnut tree on the Green. Accepted.

6. Change of February meeting date
The Clerk had requested that the February meeting date be change. Approved. The February meeting will take place Tuesday 8th February at 7pm

7. Payments

E. on - Power on the green	£19.84
123 Reg for email domain	£38.38
123 Reg for Reach Fair domain	£14.39
Royal British Legion poppy appeal	£17.00
E.on – streetlights	£561.59

Due to the Covid situation this was a short meeting held to discuss only those items which needed urgent attention. The reports below were supplied to the PC but not discussed at the meeting, and are included below for information.

District Councillor Report
Mepal Outdoor Centre demolished
The Council demolished Mepal Outdoor Centre just before Christmas, to make way for its proposed crematorium on the site.
The Council's Planning Department requested an extension of time to 17 December for consideration of the crematorium application. This date has come and gone. The application is currently subject to objections from the County Council in its roles as Waste & Minerals Planning Authority and as Local Lead Flood Authority.
Local Plan review
East Cambridgeshire District Council is undertaking a narrowly focused Single Issue Review of its adopted Local Plan. This review is to partially replace one part of the Local Plan adopted in April 2015, regarding the housing requirement for the district in Policy GROWTH 1.
The vast majority of the Plan should remain unaltered.
The review will not propose any new sites for housing development. The updated policy will have a housing requirement figure of 9,175 dwellings between 2011 and 2031, though this figure is likely to be adjusted slightly again before the Plan is submitted for examination, to reflect new data which will become available in 2022. The figure is calculated on a nationally specified basis, and there are enough dwellings already in the plan to meet the 9,175 requirement.

The review is now at its second round of consultation, and the closing date for comments is 23:59 on Monday 7 February.

The consultation document is at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-developmentframework/local-plan-review

Responses can be
• emailed to planningpolicy@eastcambs.gov.uk
• posted to - Strategic Planning Team
East Cambridgeshire District Council
The Grange
Ely CB7 4EE

East Cambridgeshire Community Fund Grant

The East Cambs Community Fund grant application window will be open between Monday 17 January and Monday 21 February.
Grants are intended to support the development of new or existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents of East Cambridgeshire. Details including eligibility criteria are at https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/finance/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund
If you have any questions or for more information, please contact stephanie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk or call Stephanie Jones on 01353 665555.

Green Waste - Green Waste collections are due to start again after 28 January.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Combined Authority has appointed Eastern Community Homes (hosted by Cambridgeshire ACRE) to support community homes groups everywhere across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with the exception of East Cambridgeshire which is now ploughing its own furrow.

Three of the four remaining loans across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on the Combined Authority's housing loans book are proceeding to schedule. The one that is not is the loan to East Cambridgeshire for the MOD housing at Ely, where the projected repayment profile continues to slip. This is due to the continuing delay in sale of the fifteen 'affordable' housing units, and a slower than projected rate of sale of the market price units. The Combined Authority is monitoring East Cambridgeshire Trading Company's performance closely.
The Combined Authority has confirmed that ECTC is not defaulting on the loan. However, it says, "there is an increasing likelihood that in order to repay the loan in March 2023 then the borrower may need to re-finance the remaining market units in the scheme that might be unsold in March 2023.
The Haddenham scheme is continuing to make repayments, and the Laragh scheme at Forehill Ely has seen many housing units reserved off plan.

Meet your councillors

We will be holding our virtual surgery via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30PM on Wednesday 19 January 2022
Please contact Charlotte at charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk to book your timeslot.

County Councillor Report

COVID-19 Overview

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Enhanced Response Area status was extended to Christmas Eve. The extra resource included a rapid response vaccination team on the ground locally, making direct contact with households in areas of low vaccination uptake, and extra national communications advising residents on protective measures to prevent infection spread.
"Pre-ERA we were considerably below both the England and East of England average for the numbers of 12–15 year-olds who were vaccinated. Now all areas in Cambridgeshire are above the England average and most are also above the East of England average too" Jyoti Atri, Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Case rates in Cambridgeshire

As of 30 December, there were 13,099 people in East Cambridgeshire who had tested positive, though there has been a shortage of testing capacity (see below). The daily rate of fresh cases was 149.

Covid in schools

All secondary pupils will be tested when they return to school and secondary schools will be allowed a staggered start for the first week of term. The impact of Omicron is likely to lead to further measures in schools and head teachers will be briefed early in the new term.

Vaccinations

A huge amount of effort went into a Christmas vaccination programme. Huge thanks are due to NHS staff and the volunteers who helped make this happen.

Testing

The end of December has seen many residents struggling to obtain lateral flow home testing kits, and shortage of PCR testing capacity across the whole of England. https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

General Covid information

• https://twitter.com/CambsCC
• https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview
• https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine

Household Support Fund

A reminder that the County Council's Household Support Fund is still open (to 31 March). It offers:

• Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families: residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
• Direct food vouchers: as in previous school holidays, supermarket vouchers will be issued to families meeting the low income criteria for free school meals, funded childcare for two-year-olds, early years pupil premium, or sixth form students eligible for free school meals. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund

Full Council meeting postponed

The Full Council meeting of the County Council on 14 December was postponed on the advice of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's Director of Public Health, in the light of rising covid numbers.

Hundred Foot de-silting

Following concerns raised by residents and the Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board about this year's desilting works on the Hundred Foot. With the consent of Natural England, the Environment Agency's contractor took representative samples on 2 December of the different types of materials removed from the river. The samples have been taken to a dedicated laboratory to establish their primary soil type, and testing results should be available in early January.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Last month I reported on the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire. The draft is now open online for public consultation to 23 January. https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cambridgeshire-flood-risk-management-strategy

Meanwhile the Council is continuing to address the huge backlog of gully clearing left by the previous administration, with a cyclical programme covering the whole county.

Climate Change & Environment Strategy

The Chair of the County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee has spent much time in the last few months working with colleagues and council officers on a major revision of the County Council's Climate Change & Environment Strategy.

The draft revised Strategy was approved unanimously by the Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on 16 December, for referral to the Full Council at its budget meeting in February. It sets a new target for a Net Zero Cambridgeshire—2045, five years sooner than the current 2050 target.

The strategy commits the Council to focusing its contribution in three key areas—reducing carbon emissions, supporting the development of resilient communities so that they can adapt to the impacts of climate change, and supporting nature and biodiversity to thrive.

As part of the Council's plan to achieve Net Zero for its own direct carbon emissions by 2030, the draft strategy sets out how the Council will meet that deadline including:

• Low carbon transport solutions for fleet vehicles
• Net zero carbon buildings and generation of renewable energy from Council assets
• Improving the management of the Council's open spaces to increase biodiversity.

The Strategy also commits to halving the Council's indirect emissions through its supply chains by 2030 and sets out how it will work in partnership with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority's Climate Commission and district partners to bring actions together to align work programmes. It also identifies how the Council will collaborate with businesses and communities and support all sectors to understand how they can reduce carbon emissions, benefit nature, and take positive climate action.

Building the team

At the same meeting, the Committee agreed a proposal to use £570,000 over four years of the capital spending set aside for environmental work, to increase the team to support the delivery and funding of the Council's low carbon and energy projects. The service generates income for the Council and has also successfully applied for grants. £6M of Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund money has been awarded by the Government to the Council's projects in the last eighteen months.

A10/A142 BP roundabout

At the December meeting of the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee, emerging proposals were discussed to make a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists at the A10/A142 BP roundabout at Ely. A report to the committee said: "The CPCA [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority] has indicated that work on a 'quick win' should be undertaken, developing solutions that would provide significantly enhanced active travel provision at the 10/A142 'BP' roundabout to the west of Ely that might be delivered early with their own funds. It is envisaged that a separate funding allocation for this work will be made."

There is no indication at the moment of the location or design of such a crossing, but the current expectation appears to be that it would need to be 'grade separated'—in other words, a bridge or underpass.

Roman crucifixion

One of the areas of responsibility for the Chair of the County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee is the county's antiquities. A recent discovery in Fenstanton is of international significance—a human skeleton with a nail through the foot, which experts believe to be the remains of a Roman crucifixion, probably of a slave.

Reach Wood.

Information ad been received from the Woodland Trust "*All the marked ash trees are showing some signs of dieback either in their crown or through bark lesions, they were inspected in the summer and autumn 2021.*
I would expect that these trees will die or significantly deteriorate over the next few years and before we next do a formal safety inspection.

Any felling work will be carried out to lower the risk to public. Dead ash trees within the body of the wood will remain, and we will not be removing any healthy ash trees."

Diary Dates

February 2022	Event	Location	Time
Fridays 4, 11, 18, 25	Reach Cafe	Village Hall	2pm to 4pm
Thursday 3	Recycling Day (Green)		
Tuesday 8	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Thursday 10	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 17	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 24	Recycling Day (Blue)		

March 2022	Event	Location	Time
Fridays 4, 11, 18, 25	Reach Cafe	Village Hall	2pm to 4pm
Tuesday 1	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Thursday 3	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 10	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 17	Recycling Day (Green)		
Thursday 24	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 31	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)*

The “Then” picture is Chapel Lane during the winter of 1962/63 (also known as the “Big Freeze of 1963”) since it was one of the coldest on record. Temperatures plummeted and lakes and rivers froze over.

Beyond the “Moon and Sixpence” with its corrugated iron roof, the Manor House can be seen but is nowadays obscured by the modern extension.

In the picture you can see that there was a nice signpost, which I preferred to what we have now - and some of the beautiful trees on the Hythe, covered in frost, have since disappeared.

Chris Patterson

Contact Information

Parish Council – see “Know Your Parish Council”			
Village Hall			
	Chair	David Thomas	01638 742676
	Finance	Andrew Trump	01638 743335
	Bookings	Grahame Radford	01638 742814
	Secretary	Sue Elliot	01638 742268
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	Jacqui Portman	01638 741058
Emergencies			
	Electricity (Eastern Electric)		0800 783 8838
	Police (Emergency) Police (Non-Emergency)		999 101
	Water (Anglian Water)		08457 145145
Doctors, Burwell			
	Contact Phone Numbers		01638 741234, out of hours dial 111
	Surgery Hours		Mon to Friday, 8.30am to 6.00pm
	Website		https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx

Then and Now pictures – see facing page






5.12.2021







