Within Reach



June/July 2022



Reach Cricket Team – May 2022

Back row, left to right: John Gray, Tim Davies, Andrew Trump, Tony Fordham, Ewen Cameron, Phil Kingsmill, Rob Steed
Front row, left to right: Chris Bridgeman, Archie Fordham, Ben Cooke, Ross Clark, Hector Keutgen, Ed Spencer



Team tea lady Alice!



Big thanks go to the Posy Makers



Nick Webb selling his children's books



The new pub sign, beautifully redone by Hannah Webb, is unveiled by the Mayor

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From the Editor



So another two months have passed and gradually things are moving towards what we remember as “normality”. We now just need the dreadful war in Ukraine to be over, the Ukrainian people are suffering badly and now it is clear that the rest of the world is to be negatively impacted, albeit it to a significantly lesser degree than those on the front line.

In the village, very sadly, we lost Michael Aves, who died suddenly on Thursday 26th May, aged 72.



Michael was a lovely man who was Chairman of the Parish Council when I first took on the role of Parish Clerk and we worked closely together on village matters. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him and our condolences go to his family at this awful time.

Reach Fair 2022 was an excellent event, well attended and well organised. A report from the organisers can be found on page 4 with the financial results on page 5. Congratulations and thanks go to all who contributed.

And now we have the Platinum Jubilee celebrations – starting this Thursday with the **Beacon lighting** at 8.30pm and culminating with a **Village Tea party** on the Green from 12.30pm on Sunday 5th (see Events Team page 15). The **Dyke’s End** (page 3) has a **Royal Quiz** on the Friday and a **Barbecue** on the Saturday, so it should be a fun 4 days, please put the dates in your diaries.

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



Hurrah for some lovely weather!

We were camping this past weekend (in Isleham – exotic!) and it was like the South of France the weather was so glorious. Long may it continue (with some good spells of rain in between so that the plants grow!).

We're hugely behind with the allotment, but I'm seeing this in a good light – the allotment is getting less attention because we are out and about more – a welcome change to previous years!

East Cambs District Council have sent round some information to pass on to the community:

Council tax energy rebate

The Government has announced that a Council Tax rebate grant will be provided to households in England from April 2022 to help with some of the impact of rising energy costs. A rebate grant of £150 will be paid to households in Council Tax bands A-D in England. This includes those whose Council Tax bill is £0 owing to an existing award of Council Tax support, as well as certain exempt dwellings. If you pay your council tax by direct debit, this will automatically be transferred to you. If you do not pay your council tax by direct debit they need your bank account information to make the payment to you and there is a form available to complete online. Further information and a link to the forms can be found here: https://www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/services/counciltax/council-tax-rebate/index.cfm

New ECDC Youth Pages now live

The Council developed a Youth Strategy, using feedback from young people in the district. The strategy endeavours to ensure that young people in East Cambridgeshire are engaged and contributing to local decisions that may affect them so that they are connected, healthy, safe, respected and are aware of the support and resources available to them to maximise their potential.

The council have just launched the ECDC Youth pages which have been developed to signpost young people, families and anybody that works with or supports young people to youth services, resources and support in East Cambridgeshire. They cover information on engagement, travel, wellbeing, spaces and activities, safety, education and work. https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/youth-pages/welcome-ecdc-youth-webpages

Vaccinations

All children aged 5-11 are now eligible for two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. If you are the parent or carer of an eligible child you can quickly and easily book your child's vaccination appointments online via www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine or by calling 119. You must accompany your child to their vaccination. You can also choose to walk in at many of the venues, although check before you travel.

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.

Keep well and enjoy the sunshine!

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

The Dyke's End

Just to let you know about our **Jubilee Events**, which are detailed in the poster below. In addition, be assured the Dyke's End will be open during the village events, Beacon Lighting and Tea Party!



In addition, the **Dyke's End** has food trucks coming, the next one being:

Wednesday 15th June from 5pm, Steak & Honour

To see details of all village Platinum Jubilee events, please go to:

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

Reach Fair 2022

The weather was kind on Reach Fair day and with good weather, all the preparations fell into place and the Fair was much enjoyed – so says the positive feedback we received.

The planning of the Fair commenced in October 2021 and as ever, we tried to introduce positive changes, so we had card payment machines; the programme was available via the website prior to and on, Fair day; laminated Information Boards including a QR code were strategically placed around the Fair and we had a strong Facebook presence.



The mayor of Cambridge and his civic party made the conscious decision not to have a meal in the village hall (as in years past) but instead to be part of the Fair by meeting villagers and stallholders, enjoying the rides and partaking of the village BBQ, tea tent and salad stall. Foremost they were most keen to support this village event and following the Fair they donated to our funds. The freeing up of the village hall meant that it was available to serve cream teas and sell books for the benefit of the church.

To support the external contributors to the Fair through the impact of Covid we kept our charges at those set in 2019. Our external contributors are the Funfair, the inflatable games and the food and craft stalls and many have been attending the Fair for 5, 10, 30 years plus. Obviously, the charges we incurred for the support services, for example, the PA and St John Ambulance and logistical items like the loos and bins, did rise but not hugely. Things will likely be different for Reach Fair 2023!

Reach Fair is supported by many local clubs and groups and we are grateful for their contributions: Mildenhall & Newmarket Sea Cadets once again did a magnificent job assisting with the car park; likewise the village BBQ would be nothing without the input of the 1st Swaffham Prior & Reach Scouts; and the welcome input of the Air Cadets (Newmarket) ensured that the village game stall was a success. Notable and extremely popular performances were given by Performance Without Limits Dance, and Tang Soo Do Martial Arts (Burwell).

After a two-year gap due to Covid it was very pleasing to note that Reach villagers had not forgotten what is required of them and offers of help leading up to the Fair and on the day came streaming in and for this we are hugely grateful. We would like to thank the Team Leaders: Andrew Towers (BBQ); the Baileys (Bottle Stall); Hilary Fielding and Shaun Mayes (Car Park); Tony Jordan (Coconut Shy); Cliff Parr (Football Game); Andrew Hall and Tony Jordan (Marquees); Debbie Quilter (Posies and Reach Fair Photographs); Ross Clark (Quiz) and David Parr (Website).

Forgive us if we haven't named you but we sincerely thank everyone who made a contribution to Reach Fair 2022, however small. Every contribution was a welcome boost.

We thought that our report on Reach Fair 2022 would have to end on a tale of woe and foreboding. In October 2021 the three of us stepped forward to form a Sub Committee of the Parish Council and put on the Fair after a gap of two years, but this number of people is too small going forward. The multitude of tasks and the weight of responsibility need a broader base. We are happy to say that, in addition to ourselves staying on, three villagers have already come forward to say that they would like to be involved in the preparation of Reach Fair 2023. Happy days, but beware this does not let you off the hook! Do get in touch if you would also like to be involved and/or have any comments or suggestions for 2023.

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CentrePeace

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.



PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS 2022

Item		2022 Income	2022 Costs	2019 Income	2019 Costs	2018 Income	2018 Costs	2017 Income	2017 Costs
	Commercial Stalls								
1	Bars	£950		£950		£950		£850	
2	Charity Stalls	£0		£0		£0		£0	
3	Craft Stalls	£1,280		£1,560		£1,510		£1,530	
4	Entertainments	£280		£220		£220		£650	
5	Fairground	£2,700		£2,700		£2,568		£2,300	
6	Food Stalls	£2,090		£2,375		£2,715		£2,540	
7	Reach Residents Stalls	£40		£20		£20		£20	
8	Donation from Mayor for hospitalit	£350							
	TOTAL	**£7,690**	**£0**	**£7,825**	**£0**	**£7,983**	**£0**	**£7,890**	**£0**
	Village Activities								
9	BBQ	£3,550	£1,495	£3,123	£823	£1,971	£790	£2,842	£1,082
10	Bottle Stall	£594	£0	£675	£15	£299	£0	£459	£0
11	Car Park and Traffic Management	£5,508	£2,237	£3,334	£2,601	£3,356	£2,562	£4,608	£2,812
12	Coconut Shy	£258	£53	£136	£25	£98	£25	£181	£38
13	Football Game	£166	£17	£203	£25	£172	£25	£191	£38
14	Information/Charity Stalls	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£50
15	Other	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
16	Salad Stall	£1,198	£221	£872	£160	£1,213	£211	£719	£166
17	Smash the Crockery	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£473	£0
18	Tea Tent	£979	£309	£885	£109	£708	£305	£1,426	£244
19	Village Games	£177	£57	£174	£74	£204	£69	£222	£117
	TOTAL	**£12,430**	**£4,390**	**£9,402**	**£3,832**	**£8,021**	**£3,987**	**£11,121**	**£4,546**
	Other Costs								
20	Advertising/Programmes		£780		£367		£1,331		£658
21	Cadets/Scouts		£1,275		£550		£550		
22	Entertainments and PA System		£3,580		£3,434		£3,168		£2,640
23	First Aid		£360		£305		£305		£329
24	General Expenses		£543		£1,260		£408		£524
25	Police		£0		£0		£0		£415
26	Refuse Collection		£648		£760		£552		£552
27	Straw Bales		£152		£240		£420		£385
28	Toilets Hire		£948		£660		£600		£660
	TOTAL	**£0**	**£8,286**	**£0**	**£7,576**	**£0**	**£7,334**	**£0**	**£6,164**
29	**INCOME**		**£20,120**		**£17,227**		**£16,004**		**£19,011**
30	**COSTS**		**£12,676**		**£11,408**		**£11,321**		**£10,710**
31	**PROFIT**		**£7,444**		**£5,819**		**£4,683**		**£8,301**
32	**To Village Hall**		**£1,829**						
33	**To Grant Fund**		**£5,615**		**£5,269**		**£5,233**		**£8,301**
	Investments/Exceptional Items								
34	A-Frame						£57		
35	Signs - Road and Road Closed						£517		
36	Feather Flag Signs						£350		
37	Tarpaulins						£88		
38	Tables				£556				
39	Sumup machines		£320						
40	Signs (road, village, info)		£604						
41			**£924**		**£556**		**£1,012**		

Notes

1 Line 11 includes £426.92 refund on traffic management for poor service
2 Line 24 includes chair hire, sumup machine purchase, spray paint, pictures for village hall
2 Line 32 shows monies taken from BBQ profits for Village Hall fund

Huge thanks go to everyone who contributed during the preparations and on the day

9th May 2022

Rosanna's Ramblings



I'm looking through the window as I write and after some much needed rain, everything is looking absurdly extravagant in the garden. Florid even. The green of the grass is almost glowing in the bright sunlight (dramatically offset by the growing mass of slate grey clouds that are threatening a thunderstorm).

Dark crimson peonies are spreading like a rash in their rather bullying way causing the purplish-blue cornflowers to look a little concerned. Milo, the ever-growing pup is 'helping' Charles with his hoeing of the vegetable patch (my confident prediction is that he'll come in soon complaining that the rain has brought on the weeds – Charles, that is, not Milo). His almost apricot-coloured guard hairs (Milo's, not Charles's) are being ruffled by the breeze that's picking up. There are four blackbirds hopping round the garden in what appears to be a rather complicated *menage a quatre*. There is much swirling of tree branches, leaves now already past their springtime brightness (although the poorly silver birch's leaves are looking an unhealthy yellowy lime colour).



A few minutes ago, Charles looked up at the sky in delighted response to hearing the squealing swifts, a delight made keener because he's noticed that sometimes that high frequency sound eludes his detection. And it has all made me think how grateful I am for my senses – those infinitely varied colours, the dawn chorus, the heady scent of the May blossom, the taste of the abundant asparagus and the feel of the lacy cow parsley flowers as I trail my fingers through them along the edges of the droves.

Of all the senses, I'm grateful particularly at the moment for my sight. I'm not taking it for granted at all, because I'm currently recovering from laser and cryo treatment for 3 tears in my right retina that, if left unattended, could have led to a retinal detachment and possibly to loss of sight in that eye. I'm still feeling a bit nervous, in case my imminent follow-up with the wonderful eye clinic at Addenbrookes shows there are still issues. I do so want to make it up to Orkney for Milo's first northern beach holiday (plus some required archaeological tuition, of course). I do so want to bat away the growing feeling (shared by my sister and several of my friends as we trundle our way through our 60s) that bits and bobs are starting to go a bit … well … wrong; and the depressing reminders of "as you get older …" which seem to trip more and more frequently off the tongues of doctors, dentists, opticians, you name it, should just go off and bother someone else for a while!

Charles's recently published Reach-based book *To Everything a Season* (reviewed in the last issue by Joss Goodchild) has been very well received indeed and is apparently selling plenty of copies at Toppings bookshop in Ely. The publishers have been doing a great job of promoting it and he recently gave an interview to Cambridgeshire Live. It was with quite some consternation that he made the discovery that the headline read "Local legends: The octogenarian academic chronicling decades of change in Cambs" – he doesn't see himself as an octogenarian, you see and most other people are surprised to find that he is. I'm not sure whether he feels he's more my age, or that I'm more his, but that easy defining of people by their age becomes increasingly galling. My late mother, who was a biochemist with a particular interest in ageing, used to get utterly infuriated when forms asked you to fill in your date of birth or age – she'd defiantly write ADULT in the box. And mutter to herself with indignation.

And they say, don't they, that one of the best ways of staying young in heart and mind is to have contact with the people who Charles refers to generically as The Young. He has his undergraduates, I have Milo. And Milo, now approaching 7 months in age, is definitely a representative of The Young, as he is now in canine terms the equivalent of the hormone driven spotty teenager.

Rather alarmingly to us, on a recent walk, his encounter with a two-year-old chocolate Labrador bitch revealed to us that our little darling was no longer thinking of himself in primary school terms, but the girl in question behaved exactly as a sophisticated and leggy young woman might treat the unwanted attentions of a callow and presumptuous schoolboy with ideas greatly above his station. She stopped dead in her tracks and froze him out, or rather would have frozen him out had he not been so busy showing off to her in a, shall we say, bumptious way. His human parents apologised to her human dad, a weather-beaten farmer who'd seen it all before and as we dragged our unwilling dog away we heard him laughingly mentioning paternity suits averted. Oh dear, we thought, and he's getting bigger and stronger with every day. And Charles remembers his first yellow lab, Gunnar, who got so big he could jump the garden wall and would disappear off to Burwell to do his wooing, or courting, or whatever euphemism you cared to use – and come back after a few days grinning from tawny ear to tawny ear until he saw his frowning dad and he would switch instantly into Remorseful Dog Wrongly Accused mode. Have we got all that to come? I hope not, I don't think my nerves could stand it. But maybe I should be glad, if it keeps me in touch with the young generation and their concerns. Gulp!

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Reach Riders



All our members have been enjoying the glorious weather - the arena is faring well with the ground being in great condition

Lucy Tuck has kindly agreed to start up lessons again at the arena so please take up the opportunity

We have some new rope now that will replace the old

We are hoping to run some social and fundraising activities in the near future , so will keep you all posted

Sue Cameron

Village Hall Committee



Work on the VH web site continues and we are very grateful to Alice Trump who made many improvements with her limited time before revision for her exams. As none of us on our small committee is very experienced in marketing and IT we are struggling to make the site as professional and informative as possible, is there anyone who would be willing to look at the site and suggest ideas?

Thanks to Natasha Bridgeman, the bookings are going well and we have made small adjustments for a slightly cheaper rate to be in line with other village halls.

The running costs of the Village Hall are a major concern; to pay for heating oil, electricity and recently, urgent plumbing repairs. Craig Dunnett has given the Hall a very necessary facelift to maintain it in good shape and looking good for users. After the diseased cherry tree in the front was removed, new shrubs have been planted to improve the look of the entrance area.

Like many other smaller communities, it is going to be a struggle to pay the increasing high costs of heating and maintenance with limited income from bookings and somehow we need to improve that or we face the prospect of losing our hall as many communities have lost theirs.. We are going to investigate grants for improved insulation and alternative heating but these are major capital costs which take years to recover.

Please tell friends and family what the Hall has to offer for meetings and social gatherings and please use and support it, over the years many people have given so much effort and time and enjoyed lovely evenings from Curry Nights to Wine Tastings to Race Nights to bring the village together and can happen again if someone is willing to have a go at organising.

Sue Elliott Honorary Secretary 742268

Getting to Know . . . . Tash Bridgeman



Tash, husband Nathan with children, Lottie, Lucy and Lacey

What is your name and where were you born?

Natasha Pamela Bridgeman (better known as Tash). I was born in Newmarket hospital, living in Burwell my whole life until I met Nathan Bridgeman in 2006.



Tash as a child

Which Schools did you attend and did you enjoy them?

I attended Burwell Village College Primary followed by Soham Village College. I loved school and still love learning to this day. When I left school, I went to Cambridge Regional College and studied Beauty Therapy but came to the conclusion it wasn't for me as a career. I then worked in local Pubs in the area including The Red Lion, Swaffham Prior, gaining my personal license, which is where I met Nathan. Before we settled down and had our own family, I went back to college to study Childcare and Education.

How did you come to live in Reach and When?

I first lived in Reach when I met Nathan late 2006-early 2007 moving into the cottage at 8 Swaffham Road. From there we moved to Burwell renting the cottage out. In time we had Lucy and moved back to Reach in our current house, next to the village hall when she was 6 months old (August 2010). The house has changed a lot since we brought it, we added an extension to the rear, converted the garage and added a bedroom above what was the garage. We are very proud of how it has turned out and continue to change it as our needs change as a family.

Are you married?

Nathan and I got married in Reach Church, December 2010; I had hoped for snow but it managed to snow either side of our big day!





We went to Fuerteventura for a honeymoon, flying home 4 days before Christmas but while we were there it snowed in England meaning most airports closed. We then had a decision to make, stay abroad for Lucy's first Christmas or find any flight home… We decided getting home was more important, flying into Glasgow airport and having to find our way home, a coach with no heating, a last minute stay in a Travelodge and 2 different broken down trains later and we made it home to Reach in time for a family Christmas.

Do you have any children?

We have three daughters, Lucy is now 12, Lottie is 9 and Lacey is 7. Lucy is in her first year at Bottisham and Lottie and Lacey go to Swaffham Prior Primary School. All three keep us busy taking them to dance classes and keep us laughing with their funny characters, I love seeing how they are growing; and Nathan and I often look at each other and do a double take at the tiny and not so tiny humans we created making themselves something to eat or leaving shoes in the most random places.

Do you work?

Until Christmas 2021 I worked at the Spring Montessori Nursery in Burwell but during the Covid-19 lockdowns Nathan along with a colleague started a specialist pension business and now I work with Nathan as an administrator/office manager for his SSAS company SeaBridge SSAS Ltd and am quickly adding to my knowledge of pensions while surprising myself with what I already know from listening to Nathan over the years! We are Independent Pensioner Trustees and Scheme Administrators, helping business owners purchase commercial property and land through their pension funds or lending money from their pension funds to their business.

My real passion lies in hospitality although the hours can be challenging for family life and one day, I will return to that sector, but in the meantime I can help our business grow and be around for the girls.

Do you have any Pets?

We have a newly acquired Reach Fair Goldfish named Goldy.

What Hobbies do you have?

I love to read but don't find much time for it at the moment, at home you will often hear me singing, I love music, I've even been known to DJ a couple of parties with my mum's disco. We have a lot of family close by and there is nothing I love more than a family get together, BBQ or even cooking a huge roast dinner for everyone. I also like to bake but often have to hand the kitchen over to the girls to bake now!

What do you enjoy about living in Reach?

I love the community feel of Reach, I love that my children can play out with the other children in the Village and feel safe. I love getting out for a walk when time allows and enjoy walking to Burwell at the moment to run errands.

Growing up in Burwell with my mum working in pubs throughout my childhood I know a lot of people and love to socialise which I think is the main reason I've joined the Events Team in the village and also the Village Hall Committee. We are so lucky to have the Hall and the Green to hold village events in and on and hope to see many more of these occasions as we learn to live with Coronavirus.

What is your Philosophy in Life?

Be kind, no matter how together a person looks you never know what they are going through.

Content provided by **Tash** and compiled by **Karen Carpenter**.

Reach Community Cafe

Reach Community Cafe has now been running for 5 months and continues to be well supported - and so we plan to continue with the current formula of tea and cakes on a Friday afternoon, from 3.00pm to 4.30pm.

We would like to expand the "community" feel of the cafe however. So if anyone wants to have a pop up shop (eg beef, cards, crafts or similar) do just let us know!

Claire and Helen

Nature in Reach



Well, I think I've well and truly decided that late spring is the best time of year. Everything is lush and green, there is still blossoms in the hedgerows (thankyou hawthorn and elderflower) and the cow parsley softens the edges of roads and paths. Plus plus plus, those summer visitors have finally returned, the soaring swifts, swallows and house martins.

Though I do worry that these are returning in fewer and fewer numbers. The first few years we were here we had about 8 house martin nests under our eaves, but this had declined over the years and now we have none. When we extended our house 2 years ago we put in some special, 'pre-built' but aside from some sparrows, they've not seen any use.

So, I must confess to 'filing' this article from a rather lovely safari tent in the Maasai Mara where I've escaped for a solo adventure in between jobs. And whilst not super relevant to Reach, I can't help but talk about the spectacular wildlife here. In the river flowing past my tent there is a pod of around 30 hippos, watched over on the banks by a rather large crocodile. Every morning and afternoon we go out on game drives to the conservancy - which is not a national park but an area owned and farmed by the Maasai. Tourism helps provide additional income as well as compensation for the loss of livestock to predators. It really is a marvellous example of how farming and livelihoods can reconcile with nature.

The landscape remains a wonderful mosaic of savannah, bush and different types of grasses. Herds of zebra and wildebeest graze contentedly alongside the herds of cows overseen by Maasai shepherds. I would love to see such ecosystems replicated in the UK although Wicken Fen is not far off and (with a little imagination) often reminds me of the African savannahs, with the konik ponies and highland cows.











Closer to home we have had sighting of an exotic visitor. Spotted basking on a log on the pond at the junction between Burwell and Reach Lodes by David Thomas. I suspect, much like the Guinea pig of earlier articles, another abandoned pet….



Joss's list of sightings:

27.3. Rosie Almond's first attempt at paddleboarding on the Lode, she was accompanied by a pair of amorous frogs.

4.3 We saw a little owl early evening perched on the road direction sign near White Fen, later a cuckoo flew over.

20.4 First glimpse of swallows above our field off Great Lane. Fewer than in previous years, Hilary mentioned only half the usual number had returned to her stables.

Late Apr/May A green woodpecker could be heard constantly in Great Lane. When David (Thomas) returned from a work trip he discovered a sizeable pile of sawdust at the foot of a prized Bramley apple tree. Further up the trunk this determined bird had pecked deep into the tree's heartwood, in a number of places, in an effort to nest and breed.



10.5 Ron rang, they were thrilled to see swifts from their garden. Mentioned that on two occasions he had seen a cuckoo pass over the garden.

16.5 Found a beautiful pure white spotted ermine moth on our watering can. Their caterpillars cloak bushes in Reach Wood with a white web.



20.5 Holly blue, orange tip, brimstone, cabbage white butterflies in our Great Lane garden this morning. A much higher number of Jackdaws on the feeders than in previous years, noted they were nesting in Anita's disused chimney.

22.5 Sighted a group of 6 roe deer and 2 herons on Little Fen drove.

Nick's list of sightings:

The Whooper Swans that over-wintered on fields to the north-west of the village departed in mid April. My last sighting was on 23 April when just a handful remained despite the presence of a leek-picking gang nearby.

10 March - a Tawny Owl lies dead in the gutter on the B1102 on the entrance to Swaffham Prior and although probably struck by a car, is unmarked. The bird disappeared very quickly and I wonder if there is a taxidermist in the locality.

- a Peacock butterfly on the wing in our garden

14 March - a Barn Owl with beige plumage, probably the one I have seen before, hunts at length in broad daylight along the lode bank by the fishing pits.

29 March - a male Marsh Harrier hunting over Tubney Fen close to the cycle bridge.

30 March - four hares in a prolonged courtship procession on an arable field to the west of Straight Drove. I interpreted this as three males in pursuit of a female.

3 April - Claire saw four very young fox cubs with dark grey or black fur at the entrance to their den on Tubney Fen.

7 April - a brisk cold wind from the west creates a fen blow on fields beyond Split Drove, the first I have seen for many years. I go out with Steve Boreham to photograph it. It is a gritty and unpleasant experience and disturbing to see so much peat removed so quickly from our landscape.



In the thick of these harsh conditions, I see my first Swallow of the season.

13 April - Claire spots a Grass Snake on the lode bank close to the cycle bridge. It was about 2 feet long and, we think, male based on its prominent yellow collar.



15 April - a Buzzard is mobbed by a pair of Carrion Crows over Tubney Fen, so much so that it is forced to land.

17 April - Claire hears our first cuckoo of the season. Two Egyptian Geese fly over Tubney Fen calling raucously to each other.

26 April - a Grizzled Skipper butterfly in the 24 Acres woodland despite a harsh frost the night before. The Mute Swans nesting on the Hythe hatched 4 or 5 cygnets today. Sadly they were quickly predated and only one survives at present.

29 April - two cuckoos in flight together from Hurdle Hall onto Tubney Fen. One is calling continuously, the other is mute. At one point they come together in a flurry before carrying on until out of sight. I assume this was some form of courtship.

Throughout May, cuckoos are audible from our garden, calling from the droveway that links the Hythe to the 24 Acres. Whilst not unprecedented, the regularity and frequency of calls is noteworthy and perhaps positive sign.

Cath Tayleur
cathtayleur@gmail.com

Burwell and Reach Car Scheme



The Burwell and Reach Car Scheme is up and running again offering 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 30p per mile.

Just leave a message on 07399 154913 with your requirements and someone will get back to you. Or contact Pam King in Reach on 07484 852889.

If anyone in Reach would like to volunteer to drive we are always grateful for extra people. Just leave a message on the answerphone 07399 154913. DBS certificates are required but easy to obtain through the scheme.

Bat Walk Around Reach

The Bat Walk around Reach village was a fringe event to the main Reach 24 BioBlitz on Saturday 14th May 2022. A group of enthusiastic Reach residents, together with several outsiders, congregated at the new cricket pavilion at sunset (8.45 pm). Our aim was to identify and count our batty neighbours around the 24Acres and the village.

The weather was pretty much perfect. Night-flying insects should enjoy the warm and windless evening, which in turn should attract the insectivorous bats. Our route set off across the 24Acres community woodland (no bats), around the cricket pitch (no bats) and along the green lane towards the Hythe. Bingo! At around 9pm, as we walked through a short section of mature trees we saw and heard our first bat, a Common Pipistrelle, quickly followed by a Soprano Pipistrelle then another Common Pipistrelle, all within a few minutes of each other.

There were no more bats until we neared the kissing gate by the Lode where lots of Pipistrelles of both species were detected and observed flying low over our heads as we walked through the spinney behind the disused water treatment works. We hit a particular hotspot at the footbridge over the Lode, where we watched several Pipistrelles foraging close to the water under the bridge.



Serotine Bat

Turning north along the western Lode bank we detected a rare Serotine bat, before reaching a further hotspot of activity around the trees next to the kissing gate leading into Reach Pocket Park. Heading for Reach Lake, no bats were detected along this treeless section of Lode; perhaps the bats felt vulnerable to raptor predation in the bright light of the full moon.

Under the protection of the tree canopy, around Reach Lake however, bats foraged in numbers. A Noctule bat was detected here.



Noctule Bat

That made four species. We lingered for a while before heading back to Reach along Straight Drove, encountering the occasional Pipistrelle over the substantial hedgerow on our left.

Numbers increased markedly again when we reached the Hythe and significant activity continued until we reached Delver Bridge, where we were treated to the sight of bats flying across the face of the near full moon. We wandered through the houses to our finish-line at Reach Arch behind the church, but no more bats came out to play.

Processing the data on the computer gave the final results as: Common pipistrelle (106); Soprano pipistrelle (47), Serotine (1) and Noctule (1). On a previous reconnaissance walk I had also identified Daubenton's bats over the Lode, but perhaps the bright moonlight deterred them on the night of our walk. Whilst some bats don't mind moonlight, others – particularly Daubenton's – are known to be less active on brightly moonlit nights.

It should be noted that the group lingered at several hotspots to experience the foraging bats. This will have resulted in counting the same bat more than once. Nevertheless, the results show that Reach is endowed with excellent bat habitat and in future as the trees mature in the 24Acres community woodland they should provide holes and crevices in which bats may roost. In the meantime, carefully positioned artificial bat boxes could encourage the bats to move into the new woodland and its surroundings.

Thanks to all those who joined us on the walk and to Dr Steve Boreham for both organizing and participating in the event.

Richard Sewell

Wicken Fen

Reach24 BioBlitz – Saturday 14 May

Reach residents were able to enjoy wildflower, woodland, bat and bird walks, as well as talk to experts including the county moth recorder, as part of the recent BioBlitz. Thanks to everyone that came along and to the Parish Council for their support. BioBlitzes are a great way to record the nature in a specific area, to check its biodiversity and feed into data that scientists use to help support interventions to protect threatened species. Wildlife experts and the public work together to ensure that disturbance to wildlife is minimised, while recording as many species as possible. We're compiling the data collected from the BioBlitz and will include more information in a future issue. The image below is of a beautiful lime hawk-moth; one of the species recorded at the BioBlitz.



Wildlife News

We've been seeing lots of marsh harrier activity on Sedge Fen from the Visitor Centre so we're hoping it's going to be a good year for harriers and that their young will thrive. By the time you read this article, fen wildflowers will be blooming and butterflies, dragonflies and bees will be buzzing. The Summer Nature Trail opens on 1st June which is a great route for getting away from it all for a tranquil wander. It's a real treat to walk through the tall herb fen vegetation – it feels like you're immersed in nature.

National Nature Reserve Festival (May to Oct 2022)

Natural England is celebrating 70 years since the first NNR was designated. Wicken Fen was designated as a NNR in 1993. We'll be joining the celebrations by offering pop-up activities for visitors to enjoy, including the opportunity to interact with people recording wildlife on the Fen. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more information.

Summer holiday events

We'll be offering our usual programme of summer events for families, including a summer trail and fen favourites such as pond dipping and dragonfly safaris. Details of our events can be found on our website at https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on

Events

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Julia Hammond

Anglesey Abbey

Summer has well and truly arrived at Anglesey Abbey, the herbaceous boarder and the rose garden are beginning to bloom and the estate is looking lush. We will be running some exclusive tours in the garden throughout June and July, the tours will allow you to dig deeper into some of the significant design and conservation history in the garden and enjoy the seasonal highlights the summertime brings to Anglesey Abbey. You can pre-book a garden tour ticket on our website.

Whilst the garden is all abuzz, the house has been buzzing also. We opened our Constable Revealed exhibition in April and excitement around this incredible conservation project is still running high. Anglesey Abbey is home to a small yet significant collection of Constable's work. The works range from early oil paintings to local landscapes, to his largest ever canvas, *Embarkation of George IV from Whitehall: The Opening of Waterloo Bridge*, following conservation. Restored to its former glory, this remarkable painting is now back on show. You can discover the painting's story and explore the Constable collection at Anglesey Abbey with an exclusive object trail in the house from the 29th April- 31st October.

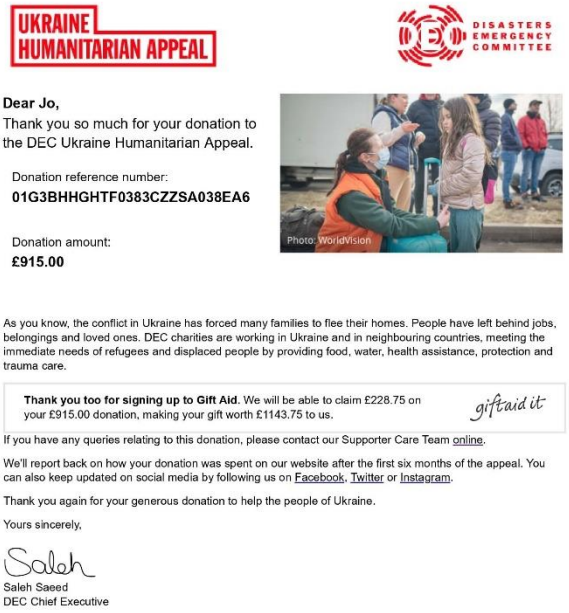
We have big plans for the summer holidays and will be running Come Out & Play from 23rd July-31st August. Families can join in and get active this summer and enjoy activities such as an egg and spoon race, a speed bounce challenge, a boot camp, and lots more. This is a free event (normal admission applies) and everyone is welcome.

You can find out more information about what's on at Anglesey Abbey by visiting our website or find out the latest by checking our social media pages.

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

Events Team

Firstly, a big thank you to **Sue Clifton** for all her hard work and efforts with the Car Boot Sale and Ukraine fundraiser. Together with the Fair Pennies donations and gift aid, the event raised a total of £1,143.75. A fantastic effort. We will look at repeating this event, perhaps for a different charity next year.



UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Dear Jo,
Thank you so much for your donation to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

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Donation amount:
£915.00

As you know, the conflict in Ukraine has forced many families to flee their homes. People have left behind jobs, belongings and loved ones. DEC charities are working in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries, meeting the immediate needs of refugees and displaced people by providing food, water, health assistance, protection and trauma care.

Thank you too for signing up to Gift Aid. We will be able to claim £228.75 on your £915.00 donation, making your gift worth £1143.75 to us. giftaid it

If you have any queries relating to this donation, please contact our Supporter Care Team online.

We'll report back on how your donation was spent on our website after the first six months of the appeal. You can also keep updated on social media by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Thank you again for your generous donation to help the people of Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,

Saleh
Saleh Saeed
DEC Chief Executive

Next up are the Jubilee Events. We look forward to seeing all!



The "Make the Queen a Crown" competition is going to be fun! So kids, get going! Prizes will be a family voucher to be used at **Xtreme360 Trampoline Park** and a free round of Mini Golf for the family at the **Outside Inn at the Quy Mill Hotel and Spa.**

Sunday 26th June 1pm

Reach sports day

Lots of fun traditional races for the children. Sack race, apple bobbing, long distance and don't forget to bring your bicycle for the slow bicycle race. All participants are welcome to stay for a barbecue afterwards.

If your child has a trophy from 2 years ago, please can you return it to me before the day.

9th-11th September

Scarecrow Festival



Get your creative brains whirring!

We are going to hold another scarecrow festival after a wonderful event in 2020, when the Farming Family won with an excellent display.

The theme this year will be 'Her Majesty'

We have lots of other ideas we are discussing as a team but if you have your own ideas do get in touch, we'd love to support you to make them happen.

Debbie Quilter



Jubilee Weekend Bellringing Experience at Swaffham Prior

Do you know what is in the church tower at St Cyriac's in Swaffham Prior? Maybe you've lived in the area for years and not known! Now is your chance to find out.

On offer 12:15-18:00 on Sat 4th and Sunday 5th June

- 5 tours each day of the historic bells and massive oak frame all dating from 1791
- Tower clock dating from 1670s
- See how the bells are rung from the ringing chamber using Sally and Bob
- Try your hand at handbells
- Test your sense of rhythm with a computer simulation of church bellringing
- View the 1991 film of the bell restoration showing many familiar (much younger) local faces!
- See how the tenor bell was re-hung in 2021 to make the bells easier to ring
- Tea/coffee and cakes will be available from 14:00 till 17:00

What the tours involve

This is an rare opportunity to see what's upstairs at St Cyriac and St Julitta's church tower. Find out about the bells, their heritage and spy on hidden corners of this lovely village!

The 45 minute guided tour will begin with a climb up the winding staircase to the Ringing Chamber where our expert volunteers will give you a fascinating insight into how the bells are rung and the background to the ancient art of change ringing. From there you will continue your ascent to the Clock Chamber where you can view the parts of the ancient church clock and mechanism that you never normally get to see. And then up to the Bell Chamber which houses a complete set of bells and oak frame put in the tower in 1791. Swaffham Prior is in the unique situation of having a set of bells in one church which chime out for services held in St Mary's church in the same churchyard! This is a rare opportunity to climb the tower with the help of knowledgeable guides. Sign up for the tours via Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/swaffham-prior-tower-tours-4th-and-5th-june-tickets-337251948657 or at the information table on the day (subject to availability).

During your visit you can sign up for later taster sessions so you can decide whether to join the friendly local team. You don't have to be clever, strong, musical or religious! Try something different, make new friends and keep your mind and body agile. Suitable for all ages from 10-70. Contact swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com if you would like any more information about bellringing generally or this event in particular.

Lesley Boyle

The Outside Inn at the Quy Mill Hotel and Spa



The Outside Inn is located in the beautiful grounds of Quy Mill Hotel and Spa and includes a marquee that holds events, conferences and dining facilities and a fantastic outdoor dining area where you can relax and unwind in the sun with some delicious food from our brand new menu – available to have in or takeaway.

Our events schedule is heating up (see below). We also offer plenty of family activities including Mini Golf, Croquet and Football. We are open Wed to Sun plus Bank Holidays, midday to 11pm. We also offer private hire. All of our tickets are available now via Skiddle, with the exception of external promoters who are contributing to our schedule with some fantastic summertime events.

Our June/July Events Schedule:

11th June – **Indietones**
Come and enjoy one of the hottest UK covers bands, tickets sold externally via Eventbrite

17th June – **Silent Disco**
Our Silent Discos offer a carefully selected multi-playlist disco experience, where you can switch between 3 different channels

18th June – **Funk Odyssey**
You can follow The Outside Inn on Instagram and Facebook where you will see full details for events, our special deals and how to book in for our restaurant.

7th, 8th,9th July – **Enchanted Cinema**
Enchanted Cinema is a unique event concepts in the Cambridgeshire region, providing fabulous décor, movie snacks and an excellent film schedule as the sun sets across our beautiful site. Tickets on sale soon.

Jake Hardingham

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Are all your ducks in a row?
We know it can be a bit overwhelming to think about the big question of practicalities when you die. But it can make life so much simpler for your loved ones if you spend a bit of time thinking about these important questions now. Of course, we all try our best to keep things simple… but over our lifetime we accumulate reams of documents and digital records and files.

At Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, we have seen the extra stress that occurs for people and their families when important documents or contact details need to be found, but no planning has been made for such a moment. The paperwork and digital records holding all the details of a full and active life are often stored in all sorts of places: files in draw, boxes in dusty attics, digital accounts… the list goes on!

How to prepare
Our best advice is to be prepared! To help with this, we have created a handy Ducks in a Row guide, as an aid to keeping all your important details in one safe and accessible place.
Getting your ducks in a row now will enable you to record and quickly find important information about your life, without you – or anyone else – having to sort through all that paperwork, when the time comes.

The process
The Arthur Rank Hospice Charity Ducks in a Row booklet will guide you through the process of recording your affairs, allowing you to collect information about your life in one place.

Store it in a safe place
It is a personal booklet to accompany your will. After you have filled it in it is important that you store it in a safe, secure place so that you can use it to its full potential, updating it as information changes over time. Remember to tell a loved one where you have stored it also.

If you would like a copy of the Ducks in a Row booklet please contact Rachael Brown, Future Gifts Officer on 01223 675881 or email r.brown@arhc.org.uk.

Tales from a Reach Garden



We've had a very dry and mild spring so far, barring a couple of damp days and the odd thundery shower, there has been little rainfall. However, the weather has been quite windy and combined with plentiful sunshine and low rainfall, causes problems for various plants, shrubs and trees.

We had just planted some four-year old yew trees to replace a long Leylandii hedge (that had been struggling for years), when we noticed that some of the freshly planted yew saplings looked dead. They had suffered from what is known as "spring scorch" which occurs when the immature roots of a young plant can't take up water fast enough to replace moisture loss from the leaves.



Spring scorch in newly planted yew

The yew saplings had been watered and mulched with bark chippings to help maintain moisture at the roots. The bark chippings came from the shredded branches of one of our trees that had been blown over in the storms of last winter. The hedge was quite long so the yews were planted in batches over several days.

Our mistake was in waiting until all the yew trees had been planted before protecting them with a wind break, which was too late for some of them. Each twig of yew, or any conifer, is covered in needle-like leaves and overall this provides a large surface area for evaporation by the dry spring winds. This is a particular problem for conifers because in early spring their leaves are unprotected, whereas deciduous trees are dormant and the leaf buds are protected better.



A flourishing yew

Cold drying winds are also a concern for freshly planted vegetables, especially the ones that have been sown and protected indoors which then need to be planted out as the weather warms up. We've acquired several rolls of wind break fabric over the years which we put up around the beds of vegetables as soon as they are planted. Tender vegetable plants of courgettes, pumpkins, cucumbers and aubergines are especially prone to some leaf-frazzling at this time of year so they need this protection. The plants do recover, but it takes time for them to replace the badly-damaged leaves, which then slows down vegetable yields. We also use black fabric as a mulch on some of the vegetable beds and cut holes to plant the seedlings through. The black fabric prevents moisture evaporation from the soil and prevents weed growth.

We also use black fabric as a mulch on some of the vegetable beds and cut holes to plant the seedlings through. The black fabric prevents moisture evaporation from the soil and prevents weed growth.



Courgettes with fabric mulch and wind protection

Vole activity is another problem. Voles tunnel everywhere in our garden loosening soil from around roots when they're not nibbling on woody stems. Some of our established plants may show signs that all is not well, usually we spot the problem when we water them and discover that the water disappears very quickly instead of soaking through the soil slowly. Further investigation reveals a rodent run near the roots of the plant. This even happens to tomato and cucumber plants in the polytunnel. I will add some soil and firm it down, knowing that it's a task that may have to be repeated. Richard doesn't bother – if you divert the tunnel, he says, the pesky creature will only damage another plant in its detour...

I am often pleasantly surprised by what will flourish in the flower beds with minimal attention; conversely, I'm saddened by those that turn out to be far more demanding and delicate than I had been led to believe. I expect bulbs to provide a good display of flowers and they do, including tulips, year after year. Some perennials, regardless of coaxing and lots of tender loving care, decide to die when I turn my back on them even if I was certain I had found the best spot for them and looked after them until they were established:

Full sun?.....yes;
Free-draining chalky soil?.....of course;
Winter temperature no less than -15ºC?.....rarely a problem.

The plant provides a gorgeous display for one summer, then I never see the "perennial" again.

Some flowers grown from seed will self-seed around the garden with very little attention from me often finding the best place for themselves which I also find pleasing. Honesty (*lunaria annua*) and Sweet Williams (*dianthus barbatus*) turn up year after year in the same spot after I'd planted them there, both are supposed to be biennial but behave like perennials.

One flower which was supposed to be an annual has made itself at home in our garden and never fails to turn up, although it tends to move around, its seeds scattered by the wind.

I first bought a packet of seeds of "*Cerinthe Major purpurascens*" (also known as purple honeywort) about ten years ago. I sowed the seeds in pots indoors and then planted the seedlings out in May that year. I've never had to do it again. Cerinthe is easy to pull up if it looks straggly, or if I don't appreciate where it has placed itself. Over the last couple of years, it has been growing by the base of a clematis montana, it started flowering when the clematis did in April and the Cerinthe is still in flower now and I know it will continue to flower for the rest of the summer. Its blue bracts and delicate purple-pink flowers are loved by bees which visit it regularly.



"Cerinthe major purpurascens" in flower today

Danuta Gibson



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

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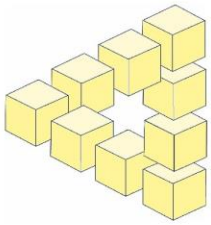

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Our Zumba sessions continue to flourish and provide a fun fitness opportunity on a Wednesday evening. We also run Judo classes for all ages and swimming lessons for pre-school up the age of 11.

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Food Focus



I had a eureka moment that this month's article could be the pudding recipe that won the national competition to commemorate the Queen's 70 year reign. Apparently some 5,000 people, aged 8 to 108 entered! The entries were whittled down to five finalists who subsequently competed before a panel of expert judges in a show on BBC One. The most important requirement was that the pud could be recreated by viewers at home and for thousands of street parties planned up and down the country on the jubilee….that's the bit I don't really get.



I was all ready to put in Jemma Melvins Lemon Swiss Roll & Amaretti Trifle and I scrolled down to preparation time….Over 2 hours! Maybe I underestimate Within Reachs' readers, but is anyone going to spend over 2 hours making a trifle (especially one with amaretti in in my opinion)? There are no less than 8, yes you read that right, 8 stages – whipping the cream at the end being the easiest! I then noticed that the recipe is actually for 20 people…so street party fit and that there are some quick fix/cheats come lazy cooks option….now I'm slightly more interested. So if you want the full recipe (and I do question your sanity – go to: https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/lemon_swiss_roll_and_42467), and if you more sensibly want the shortcut see below:

You can use ready-made versions for most of the components and just make the Swiss rolls and mandarin coulis from scratch. For the lemon curd, use 300g/10½oz ready-made lemon curd. Instead of the St Clement's jelly, use 1 packet of lemon-flavoured jelly and follow the packet instructions to make 568ml/1 pint. For the custard, use 500ml/18fl oz ready-made custard. For the biscuits, use 100g/3½oz ready-made amaretti biscuits. Instead of making the jewelled chocolate bark, you can finish this trifle by scattering over the reserved amaretti biscuits, mixed peel and 50g/1¾oz white chocolate chunks.

Ingredients

For the Swiss rolls:

4 large free-range eggs
100g/3½oz caster sugar, plus extra for dusting
100g/3½oz self-raising flour
Sieved butter, for greasing
1 tsp lemon extract

For the chunky mandarin coulis:

4x tins mandarins, around 300g each
45g/1¾oz caster sugar
16g/½oz arrowroot (2 sachets)
½ lemon, juice only
To assemble: 600ml/20fl oz double cream

Method

To make the Swiss rolls, preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease and line the 2 Swiss roll tins with baking paper. In a large bowl, beat the egg and sugar together with an electric hand whisk for approximately 5 minutes or until light and pale. Using a metal spoon, gently fold in the flour. Divide between the two tins and bake for 10–12 minutes or until the sponges are lightly golden and cooked through.

Sprinkle some extra caster sugar on two sheets of baking paper then turn the sponges out onto the sugared paper. Peel off the paper from the underside and while still warm, roll them both up from the short end into a tight spiral using the paper to help. Leave to cool.

To make the chunky mandarin coulis, strain two tins of mandarins. Discard the juice and put the fruit into a saucepan with the sugar and heat gently until broken down. Remove from the heat. In a small bowl, slake the arrowroot with 2 tablespoons cold water then add to the warm mandarins. Add the lemon juice and mix well before pouring into a large bowl. Strain the remaining two tins of mandarins and add the fruit to the bowl then leave to cool completely.

To assemble, unroll the cooled Swiss rolls and spread with the lemon curd. Roll back up again and slice one into 2.5cm/1in slices and place upright around the bottom edge of the trifle dish so the swirl is visible. Slice the other Swiss roll into thicker pieces and use these to fill the bottom of the dish, ensuring the top is roughly the same level as the slices that line the edge. Use off-cuts of sponge to fill any gaps.

Pour the St Clement's jelly over the Swiss roll layer and set aside in the fridge to completely set. This will take approximately 3 hours. Once set, pour over the custard then arrange a single layer of amaretti biscuits, keeping a few back for the top. Pour over the mandarin coulis. In a large bowl, whip the double cream until soft peaks form then spoon this over the coulis. Crumble over the reserved amaretti biscuits and decorate with the mixed peel and white chocolate chunks.

If this doesn't blow your hair back BBC Good Food have over 40 sweet and savoury recipes to celebrate this incredible event and I don't think many of them take more than 2 hours preparation time!

Catherine Gibson

Cricket Report

Wednesday 27 April - Reach (130-8) beat Ickleton 2nds (107-7) by 23 runs

To say that Reach's first competitive match since our 2014 triumph against Longstanton in the National Village Cup was played in the twilight would be to give twilight a bad name. Even a luminous pink ball could not relieve the gloom. Nevertheless, Chris Bridgeman alone seemed to be able to see it like a beach ball. His 66 gave Reach a total to defend. We groped and prodded around in the field, achieving victory just as the last lumen of the day faded into nothingness – helped on our way by Archie Fordham's 4 for 22.

Sunday 1 May - Reach (183-7) beat Teluga Association of Cambridge (182-6) by 3 wickets

The opening of the pavilion unusually brought an unusually large crowd. Putting themselves into bat, TAC notched up a competitive if nor insurmountable 182 off 32 overs. The familiar partnership of Chris Bridgeman (52 not out) and Tim Davies (51 not out) made all the difference, though thanks to their sporting retirements it was left to the minnows to grub around for the final few runs.

Wednesday 4 May - Reach (85-8) beat Linton (79-9) by 6 runs

The first rain for months out this fixture in doubt until the clouds suddenly parted, allowing a slightly shortened match of 16 overs a side. We only just about lasted that, but in the event 85 runs turned out to be ample on a damp track. Linton appeared to be marching to the target until Rob Steed put an end to their ambitions with 4 for 16. Bryan Pearson, fresh from the mango fields of Ghana, used his experience manhandling large fruits to contribute a fine catch.

Sunday 8 May - Extras CC (192 all out) beat Reach (189-8) by 3 runs

This turned into a Reach classic, to match memorably close encounters such as our one run defeat to Grantchester in 2013 and our last ball victory against Milton in 2019. Putting themselves into bat, the Extras were dismissed for 192 in 39 overs, leaving us the chance to amble our way to victory at just under five an over. Could we do it?

Our new boy, Lewis Jarman all but took us there with his 64 runs. However, the people of Reach will still be shaking their heads over the final, tragic moments in half a century's time. With just five required off seven balls, first Hector Keutgen was dismissed by a fine catch taken behind the fielder's head. Then, one run, leaving four required off the last over. On the second ball, Tony Fordham holed out at mid on, leaving Phil Kingsmill to try to knock four off the final four balls. Alas, each one thudded into the keeper's gloves, except the last which took off poor Phil's bails.

Sunday 15 May - Journeymen (204-6) beat Reach (91 all out) by 113 runs

The scorebook says that Reach lost this match, but the real loser was Met Office, which succeeded in producing a forecast that would have embarrassed even Michael Fish. It was supposed to rain in the early morning, leading to a dry and sunny afternoon. Instead, we had a dry morning and early afternoon with hard ground. We laboured in the field, with Phil Kingsmill taking three wickets and Hector two (plus two magnificent catches). But the usual beating heart of our bowling attack misfired owing to the younger members recovering from a riotous Eurovision party the night before. Then, just as the Reach innings was about to begin, it started to drizzle – not hard enough to give us an excuse to call the whole thing off, but enough to turn the pitch into a minefield, with the ball spitting and exploding. Was it a record number of Reach ducks? No-one seemed sure, but it was a miserable performance nonetheless, the pub becoming a mausoleum rather than the usual cheery drinking hole.

Wednesday 18 May - Reach (97-5) beat Haverhill CC (94-9) by 5 wickets

A quick glance at the demographic figures for Eastern England reveals Haverhill to be the largest settlement that Reach Cricket Club has ever challenged on the field of play. With 27,041 residents to select from, surely it could find a batsman capable of seeing off Tim's bouncers and a bowler capable of weaselling away around Chris's bat to the stumps. But if such people do reside in Haverhill, they didn't appear to be at the crease as the Suffolk town (reputed on Wikipedia to be the 'only town in the world with a laser-lit sculpture on a roundabout') collapsed to 94-9 off 20 overs – thanks not least to Ben Cooke ripping through the top order with 4-30. Reach – with not even a roundabout to its name, let alone a laser-lit sculpture to go on it – replied strongly, with a partnership between Tim Davies (30) and our exciting new signing Saheer Babu (25 not out) seeing us all but to the finishing line. With three wins out of three, Reach are now joint-top of the table with Fulbourn, our next target on Wednesday 1 June. This one's at home, so do come along at watch at 6.30 pm. Reservations at the picnic benches are already reported to be changing hands between hands between touts at a grand a time.

Ross Clark

Letter from the Vicarage



With St Etheldreda's closed for the building work, our Jubilee Celebrations will be focussed on St Mary's, Burwell. There are lots of events planned. At St Mary's we are delighted to be hosting the Butterfly Tower Community Project - a joyful sign of hope and celebration.



On Wednesday 1st June we have a Jubilee Craft Café for families and on Friday 3rd June we have a Family Activity Morning from 10am, including bug hunts in St Mary's churchyard and activities for all ages. Over the week the church will be open to view the butterflies outside and inside. The bell-ringers will be ringing on Sunday 5th in the afternoon, leading up to a service at 4.30pm, broadcast live on Burwell Radio, with hymns and prayers, interviews and thank yous to the Butterfly Tower team. Summer refreshments will be served - Hymns and Pimms! More details for all these events are on our website and Facebook pages. Free copies of a beautiful book, 'Our Faithful Queen' will be available at St Mary's over the Jubilee weekend and will also be given away by Churches Together in Burwell at the Carnival.

Carers Week is an annual awareness campaign to celebrate and recognise the vital contribution made by the UK's 6.5 million carers. For more information visit carersweek.org. We hold a Carers Service each year, which will be on Sunday 12th June at 3pm, as a way of thanking carers and offering our support. If you are a carer, or you know of someone who is a carer, please come along.

I'm conscious that we are living in very uncertain times, with the war in Ukraine, financial insecurity and anxieties for many. At times like these, perhaps you may find yourself turning to prayer. We have a new resource in St Mary's – a series of prayer cards, which are free for anyone to pick up and take away, with a link to a website to find out more about Christianity https://explorechristianity.info. Themes include Worried about Someone, Feeling Sad or Anxious, Finding Peace. Please do help yourself to these cards. There is also a prayer area set aside for praying for peace in Ukraine.



For updates about what's going on at St Mary's or St Etheldreda's in Reach, please see our Facebook pages and website. We now aim to livestream our weekly 10am Sunday service on Facebook. Refresh Café is in St Mary's every Friday morning from 10am, for babies and toddlers with their carers and we also have Messy Church events. Please get in touch if you would like more information about these or any of our events or services, including weddings, christenings and baby thanksgivings, in Burwell or Reach, or if you would value an opportunity to chat. If you find yourself in need of the support of the Foodbank, I do have emergency vouchers, or you can contact Ely Foodbank on 01353 468626.

Revd Dr Eleanor Williams

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Reach Church Development Update

The building work in Reach church continues to progress very well, things are really happening now!

During the builders' Easter break, the plaster and paint on the ceiling dried well, which meant that the scaffolding could be taken down. The insulation has been laid in the floor and boarded over. The final layer of flooring comes later. The wall insulation is now underway.



The electrician has done all the work he can do at this point and the exact position for the partitions for the kitchen and toilet have been agreed. When these are in place, we can complete the layout of the kitchen and order units, cooker, fridge etc. We are waiting for a date from Anglian Water for the connection to the drains and water supply. Groundwork on the site will then commence. This will mean that the road outside the church will have to be closed, hopefully for short periods, while the connections are made, but more details will be publicised as soon as we have it. We apologise for any inconvenience it may cause.

Details of the audio-visual system are being finalised. As well as microphones and a hearing loop for those who have hearing aids, it will include projection equipment.

We have had some initial thoughts about the design and wording of a memorial plaque for Maisie Whitehouse, whose generous legacy has made this development possible and we are seeking advice from the Diocese about what might be permitted. A plaque on the wall can only contain so much information, so we are considering compiling a longer document containing more details of Maisie's life, which could be stored permanently in the church.

We are very grateful to the builders and architect for all their hard work. The work is progressing according to schedule for completion in October and we look forward to beginning to plan for the re-opening when we have a clear idea of the date. If you have any suggestions about how we mark this very special occasion, please let us know.

Church Services in Reach

Sunday 5th June
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Sunday 3rd July
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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 in the Village Hall 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



After a slow start, the Council has generally been efficient and effective at passing the Government Covid grants through to local businesses. We have queried some of the decisions but on the whole, it appears the funds have been distributed effectively. And we supported a motion, passed by Council, which commended the behaviour of local residents during the lockdown.

The Council has demolished their popular Mepal Outdoor Centre, despite not yet having planning permission for the proposed Crematorium. After muddle and delay, the Council is due to decide the application by 13 June. In the public consultation the result was:

For: 13%, Against: 85%, No Further Comment: 2%

The calculation on the Council's 5 year land supply was reset and so they were able to show a 6.5 year land supply and the policies in the 2015 Local Plan, notably the development envelope, became enforceable again. However, the relief may be short-lived because a Planning Appeal was allowed in Soham, with the Inspector saying there had been a significant shortfall in development against the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan housing requirement to date and that the plan 'cannot be said to have been effective in delivering the anticipated housing need to date'. He further stated that even if the Council could currently demonstrate the housing land supply it said it had (more than 6.5 years), there had been significant under-delivery against the plan to date, and there was a 'persistent failure' to meet housing requirements.

'There can be no certainty that the strategy contained in the [Local Plan] will deliver sufficient housing in the long-term of the plan period,' he concluded. 'In fact, the evidence before me suggests that it will not.'

The 2015 Local Plan is becoming increasingly outdated, with insufficient policies to address climate change or air quality as well as issues which need to be reconsidered such as parking space provision. It's challenging to update the Plan with continuing Government delays in publishing their proposed changes to the planning process, so the Council is consulting on its Policy GROWTH 1 and housing numbers, with a deadline for responses of 13 June. - Local Plan Review | East Cambridgeshire District Council (eastcambs.gov.uk)

The Council's record in collecting residents' black bag waste and recyclables has plummeted. Difficulties recruiting and retaining drivers began in September and by November the local press was reporting allegations of low morale, bullying, stress and other staff concerns. These were denied by management. Green waste collections were cancelled from mid-December to the end of January, then it was announced that waste collection rounds were being permanently reconfigured from the end of March. The first few weeks of this change have not gone smoothly, with large numbers of uncollected bins, in some cases left for days or even weeks. We have struggled to get full information to understand the issues and will be attending a briefing to try to get a better understanding of the issues and press for rapid improvement to the service.

We supported a proposal to the Full Council that East Cambridgeshire should address the lack of 'Changing Places' toilets in the District for people with severe disabilities and to review disabled access to all public toilets. East Cambridgeshire was the only District in the County not to be awarded any money at all by the Government in its recent funding round to improve Changing Places toilet provision, because it did not request any funding. The Council's leadership delayed giving a response to this proposal by referring it to Finance & Assets Committee. However, this delay does give time for the public to express their views. If you support the call for improved toilet facilities for disabled people, please sign the petition at: https://tinyurl.com/yumzjywc.

Our next surgery will be on Monday 20 June at 6.00pm in the Committee Room at Bottisham Sports & Social Club. The following Councillors' surgery will be on Thursday 21 July at 6.00pm in the Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion.

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

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

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held at in the village hall on Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.00pm.

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence - Approved.

Forum for members of the public.
A member public attended to give details of the planned car boot sale.

1. Declaration of Interests
Councillor Fletcher declared an interest in the planning discussion.

12. Car Boot Sale in aid of Ukrainian Crisis Appeal
A car boot sale is planned for the 23rd April. The cost of a pitch money along with money from a village stall and donation buckets will go to the Ukrainian Crisis Appeal. The event will be advertised on social media in Reach, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell.

2. Planning - 22/00255/LBC Hill Farm Fair Green Reach, Replacement of an existing window with a door. Following discussion, it was concluded that the alteration was on the ground floor and would not overlook anyone. The PC would make no comment.

3. District Councillor Report
Operational Services Committee
1. The ECSS (the Council trading company that collects waste and cleans streets) Business Plan for the forthcoming year was approved. This included possible opportunities for further commercial operations, e.g. bin cleaning, even though there is still problems with waste operator staffing.
2. Adopted an Environment Policy and is seeking 'Investors in the Environment' (i.e.) accreditation; it believes that the Council can achieve 'Bronze' status this year, and 'Silver' potentially achievable in 2023.
3. A Community Sports Facility Grants Scheme was approved, in order for leisure providers to make improvements to their business. Unfortunately, only those facilities that are regularly open to the community for at least 30 hours per week are eligible, and this precludes many of the leisure facilities in our ward; John Trapp raised this point, and it was agreed that a similar scheme for smaller leisure centres should be considered.
4. A report on the progress of the Youth Action Plan was received.

Finance & Assets Committee
The main item was to approve the Eligibility Criteria for the CLT Pre-Development Grant Scheme (total £100,000) that was created in the budget for the forthcoming year. This is to fund existing CLTs (there is a separate start-up grant of £5000 for communities to set up a CLT) and bridge the gap between creation and commencement of development.

Some members felt that a minimum of five members in a CLT was not sufficient to represent the community, but a motion to increase the membership to at least 4% of the community was defeated, and so a CLT is eligible to bid for this fund even if it has only five members. The other point of contention was in specifying a minimum number of affordable houses in the scheme, and a motion to state a minimum of affordable housing was defeated; the current eligibility criterion is that 'The proposed project must contain an element of affordable housing.' It was also decided that a draft allocations policy should not be compulsory, even though there are many existing examples of allocations policy to use as exemplars as a draft.
In a separate item £543,400 was allocated to much-needed improvements, including refurbishment of the working environment, to the Portley Hill Depot. A further £282,550 was retained in reserve to meet the need to incorporate renewable energy on the site, including EV charging.
Bin Collection Changes.
Bin collections have been changed to Tuesdays, however in the coming weeks this will be changed due to bank holidays. The collection dates are as follows, 11th, 20th, 26th April, 4th May then back to Tuesdays.

4. County Councillor Report
None received.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

6.1 Reach Grant Fund
A request had been received from the new landlord of the pub for £150 for the installation of a light over the new pub sign. Following discussion, it was agreed that the request did not meet the requirements of the Grant Fund. That is that it is not a community activity. It was suggested that the Grant Fund criteria should be discussed at a later meeting. ***Clerk*** to write a response.

6.2 Finance
End or year account would be completed and go to the accountants this week.

6.3 Parish Council Members
The bench around the tree on the green had been reinstalled. There will be a short article in the parish magazine thanking those who assisted, notably Ron Greenhill and Manchetts Garage which funded manufacture of the steel boots required to replace the original lower legs of the bench as they had rotted.
The fair owners had been asked to ensure that all fair rides be kept at a distance from the tree.

Andrew Trump had resigned from the PC due to increased work commitments. The PC would like to thank him for all his work with the PC . ***Councillor Cane*** to ask if he is able to continue as the PC representative on the AtoB11102 group.

6.4 Play Spaces
Nothing to report.

6.5 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

6.6 24Acres Committee
The National Trust's plans for a BioBlitz on the site on Saturday 14 May are proceeding. The Trust is doing most of the work although several villagers are involved.

A licence had been received from CCC regarding the water pipe installation for the cricket pavilion. Approved. ***Clerk*** to sign and return.

6.7 Neighbourhood Plan
The Neighbourhood plans independent consultant is working to produce an updated, post-consultation Plan which the Group hopes to receive and review in a couple of weeks' time. This will then be submitted to the PC for further approval prior to submission to ECDC.

There are two outstanding invoices to pay to cover consultancy work to date and printing. The Group has funding to cover the invoices and the sums in question are as profiled and approved in our FY 22/23 Grant submission to Locality. It may be necessary to return some of the funding to Locality and reapply for it next financial year because of the way the grant works.
The Group plans to hold a drop in session later this year.

6.8 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

6.9 A to B1102 Group
Nothing to report.

7. Reach Fair
An invoice had been received from CCC for the use of the field for the car park. Approved for payment.
The PC requested a copy of the Health & Safety documentation from the fair ground rides company, ***fair committee*** to provide.

8. Cemetery
Three quotes had been obtained for the work required on the cemetery Lime trees. All understand the requirement(s) and have a good reputation. Therefore, the decision was based exclusively on price. ***Clerk*** to inform the contractor.

9. Insurance approval
It had been checked with the insurance company that cover would extend to Reach Fair. Cover of the new cricket pavilion had also been added. The additional premium would be paid for by the Cricket Club. Approved.

10. Wayleave approval
The PC had been asked for permission to do the fibre install to the playing field in order to ensure they are able to provide Wi-Fi in this area. Approved. ***Clerk*** to inform contactor that the PC is only able to give permission for the playing field area as the car park is CCC owned, and the PC is uncertain as to who owns the hedge line of the carpark.

11. The Hythe - Local Geological Site designation
Cambridgeshire Geological Society had contacted the PC. It has been considering which sites in the county could potentially be considered as Local Geological Sites (LGS). LGS is a local designation equivalent to a Local (County) Wildlife Site. The Hythe at Reach has been recognised as a site that potentially meets the criteria for becoming a LGS and it has, therefore, been identified as a 'candidate LGS.' LGS is a non-statutory designation and does not establish any legal rights such as access or management. However, we hope that site owners are willing to discuss the potential for maintaining and even enhancing the geological interest and, if relevant, promoting the geodiversity of the site. See the attached map showing the candidate LGS site boundary.
The PC supports this, and ***Councillor Acklam*** will follow up with the Society.

13. Funded Pond Conservation Project
The PC had been contacted by the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, regarding a funded pond conservation project being delivered on behalf of Natural England.
Funding is available for restoring old ponds and digging new ponds in certain parts of Cambridgeshire which fall into strategic areas for great crested newts. Your parish qualifies for this funding as some of the land around the village is deemed to be especially suitable habitat for bolstering and connecting existing populations of this endangered species. As such, we are seeking landowners who are prepared to dig or restore wildlife ponds on their land.
The PC suggest the area of the24Acres past the woodland would be ideal for this. ***Councillor Acklam*** to liaise with the NT regarding this funding.

14. Payments

S. Bailey – Clerk salary	Confidential
Places4People – Neighbourhood plan	£531.84
Groundworks – Neighbourhood plan grant repayment	£1554.56
CR Contracting – mowing contract	£49.50
Gallagher – Insurance premium	£1218.56

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held at Rach Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence
Accepted.

1. Election of Officers; Chairman, and Vice Chairman.
Councillor Cane resigned as Chair due to increased other commitments. No other Councillor agreed to be Chair. Councillor Cane nominated Councillor Acklam as Vice Chair. Councillor McMillan seconded. APPROVED

Councillor de Giorgio-Miller resigned from the Council.

2. Declaration of Interests
There were none.

3. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

4. Election of additional officers, Rights of Way & Play Spaces, any additional officers
Alex de Giorgio-Miller agreed to continue as Play spaces officer, Hilary Fielding agreed to continue as Rights of Way Officer and Councillor Acklam agreed to continue as Trees officer. Andrew Trump will represent the PC at the AtoB1102 group. Councillor Cane will represent the PC on the Village Hall Committee

5. Information Items
New Councillors are required and will be discussed at the next meeting.

GOBA had visited their mooring during Reach Fair and would like to put up some signs asking boaters not to empty their toilets into the Lode or onto the bank. They were disappointed with the lack of mowing and care of their mooring and asked that this be carried out as soon as possible to make accessing the bank easier rather than it being a piece of wild Lode bank to moor against. ***Councillor Acklam*** to contact them to discuss.

6. Payments

CR Contracting – mowing	£275.50
CAPALC- membership fees	£275.94
Npower – streetlights, 1st quarter	£459.53
N Acklam – Bench on Fair Green expenses	£14.50

Draft Minutes of Reach Annual Parish meeting held at Reach Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Attendance

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

No public attended the meeting.

1. Parish Council Chairman's Report- Charlotte Cane

The Council and the village have gradually been coming out of Covid restrictions and it is good to see people able to meet face-to-face again.
It was a delight to have Reach Fair happen again after a 2 year imposed break. Many thanks to everyone involved, especially Claire Halpin-MacDonald, Alex de Giorgio-Miller and Cris Fletcher.
We were sorry to say goodbye to Andrew Trump when he resigned from the Council. I would like to thank him for the work he did on the Council and for the work he has agreed to continue with as our representative on the AtoB1102 Group.
A great deal of our time has been spent on Planning Matters. Strategically, we have continued to develop the Neighbourhood Plan and put it out for formal consultation. The responses have been collated and the plan is being reviewed for any recommended changes to the consultation draft. We have lobbied local Councils and the MP for a strategic review of Solar Farms and associated infrastructure to make sure that green energy is delivered in a way which is sustainable for our communities and respects our natural and cultural heritage. And we have commented on many planning applications both within the village and outside, but likely to impact the village.
We supported the Cricket Club in its applications to instal a pavilion, and are pleased to see that this is now in use.
Nick Acklam, with the support of Steve Boreham and others has catalogued the Parish Trees and arranged for work to be carried out to make them safe and ensure their viability. The seat from the old Jubilee Tree on the Green has been replaced around the new tree.
With kind financial support from a local resident, the Parish has registered our ownership of a piece of land in the Clunch Pit. I would like to thank the resident for this financial support.
We are supporting the application to have the Hythe designated as a Local Geological Site. We hope that site owners are willing to discuss the potential for maintaining and even enhancing the geological interest and, if relevant, promoting the geodiversity of the site.
I would like to thank all the Councillors for their wok over the year and for their support to me as Chair of the Council. It has been an honour to serve as Chair and I look forward to supporting our new Chair over the coming years.

2. County Council Report – None supplied by Josh Schumann. Report supplied via Charlotte Cane District Councillor

The Council were again disappointed that the Cambridge County Councillor had not supplied a report when requested. ***Councillor McMillian*** to write requesting communication from Councillor Schumann.

Introduction
The County Council elections in May 2021 saw the Conservative Group lose its majority on Cambridgeshire County Council. The number of councillors elected for each political group was as follows.

Conservatives	28
Liberal Democrats	20
Labour	9
Independents	4

1 The Council

1.1 A new Joint Administration of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent councillors is now running the Council, and the three groups have signed an Agreement including a policy framework, protocols for working arrangements, and a new committee structure.

1.2 The County Council's move from Shire Hall in Cambridge to Alconbury finally took place in the autumn - but not for Full Council meetings, for which the 'Multi Function Room' at Alconbury is certainly too small for meetings with COVID social distancing, and possibly even permanently. The Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2021 was held amid the war planes of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

1.3 The new Joint Administration has been taking stock of the Council it has inherited. We invited in a 'peer challenge' panel of expert councillors and council officers from the Local Government Association to look at the operation of the Council and advise on priorities. They did so and came back in spring this year to update on how we were doing. We also convened an Independent Remuneration Panel, as we are required to do, to review councillor allowances. Unlike the previous administration we agreed their recommendations unaltered.

1.4 The Council's Chief Executive retired during the year, and we appointed a new Chief Executive Stephen Moir who started in post in February 2022. Unlike his predecessor, Stephen will serve Cambridgeshire County Council only, not Peterborough too. This is part of a process of disentangling many of the joint staffing structures set up by the previous administration, so that we and they can focus on Cambridgeshire priorities.

2 Strategy & Resources

2.1 The new Council inherited a budget gap of £22.2M for this year. We managed to balance the budget this time, but very significant financial challenges lie ahead. The budget gap we inherited was set to rise to £86M by 2027, and our 'peer challenge' team identified this as an issue 'of significant magnitude'.

2.2 The Council increased its portion of Council Tax in February, by 1.99 per cent for general services, and three per cent for adult social care. This was a difficult decision to take during the current cost of living crisis, but many people struggling most with increased bills and prices are those who are most likely to need council services, and likely to pay a lower council tax increase. The Conservative opposition proposed an increase of three percent instead, with no increase for general services.

2.3 The Council's budget for this year included a £14M 'Just Transition Fund' to tackle inequality, improve lives, and care for the environment.

2.4 The new Joint Administration commissioned an independent review of the Council's development company This Land. This found 'unusual' accounting practices and 'shortcomings [which] require immediate attention'. It said, 'Overall we do not consider that there is a full understanding within This Land of the level of risk exposure the business is under.' The review made a number of recommendations, most to be carried out within three months. The new administration also reviewed the financial model for the lease of the old Shire Hall building.

2.5 The County Council's Farms estate extends to 33,000 acres - the biggest public sector rural estate in England and Wales. The new Joint Administration is keen to reposition this asset not just as a source of rental income (important though that is) but also as a major part of our environmental and climate ambitions.

3 Adults & Health

3.1 One of the major changes the new administration made to the Council's committee system was to combine the former Adults Committee and Health Committee into a single committee, making the most of the close relationship between health provision and adult social care. The Committee has been working hard towards the introduction of the Government's Integrated Care System across health and care providers in Cambridgeshire. We also welcomed a new Director of Public Health, Jyoti Atri, into post.

3.2 The COVID pandemic has had a devastating effect in terms of loss of life, long-term health challenges, and the emotional impact on families. Workforce challenges in health and care are acute, as people are reassessing their careers and life choices. International recruitment has been adversely affected first by Brexit and then Covid. The Council has worked extensively with partner agencies to support the COVID effort, though with all precautions now removed in England case numbers have surged in recent months.

3.3 The Joint Administration has adopted a 'health in all policies' approach. We are investing in the development of 'Care Together', with Community Catalysts supporting local social care micro-enterprises as an alternative to large agency staff models, and rolling out the Real Living Wage to social care workers. We have established increased support for unpaid carers, and expanded the Direct Payment option to more people. And we have invested further in the Enhanced Response Service as an alternative to reliance on an over-stretched A&E.

3.4 The Council has invested afresh in public health programmes, including more NHS health checks, and local grants for community wellbeing activities. It has also started to assess the impact of government reforms on our social care responsibilities, in which it's clear there will be very significant new responsibilities and costs without new funding.

3.5 Work is progressing on the opportunity to build 80 flats on land at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely. 16 of these will be let out to Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust as a hospital rehabilitation ward enabling health and social care to be further integrated.

4 Children & Young People

4.1 A major focus of this committee during the year was to ensure funding of vouchers over school holidays for families eligible for free school meals. This happened throughout 2021/22 and is guaranteed throughout 2022/23. The Council has also worked with local providers on to establish the Holiday Activity & Food programme for the children of families on benefits-related free school meals. The numbers of children in Cambridgeshire eligible for free school meals has continued to increase significantly across the county - by one-third in East Cambridgeshire since March 2020.

4.2 The Council has carried out a high-profile drive to recruit more local foster carers and ensure more children and young people in care can remain within the county.

4.3 The national shortage of HGV drivers means the County Council has faced challenges in both home to school transport and school catering during the year, adding still more pressure for staff on top of Covid.

4.4 A motion from a Fenland councillor calling for a network of mental health hubs to meet the needs of young people received unanimous support from the Council. Work is beginning on putting this into practice.

4.5 A full and comprehensive review of admission arrangements for all own admission authority schools has been agreed, to include the published definitions of existing school catchment areas, and admission policies for schools with a sixth form. The Council is also proposing to commission new and additional places to meet rising demand for specialist placements for children with special educational needs.

5 COSMIC!

5.1 The former Communities & Partnership Committee was renamed Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee. In an attempt to remember the order of the words in this very long title, one of the Councillors used the initials to create the name CoSMIC, and it appears to have stuck!

5.2 The committee has been responsible for supporting communities through COVID, making provision for refugees from Afghanistan and now Ukraine, assisting EU citizens in obtaining settled status and voting rights, as well as a range of public services from libraries to mortuaries. It runs what was the Innovate & Cultivate Fund, now Cultivate Cambs, funding community support activities. It also drew up a Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy.

5.3 COSMIC makes decisions about the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. An increasing number of families is struggling financially at the moment.

5.4 The committee is also responsible for developing one of the Joint Administration's major commitments - decentralisation of Council services and decision-making, to bring the Council closer to communities and make it more locally accountable.

6 Environment

6.1 The new Environment & Green Investment Committee has been exceptionally busy this year, with a large number of practical projects as well as new strategies. The committee is responsible for climate change and renewable energy, strategic planning, flood and water, biodiversity, waste, antiquities, and surprisingly digital infrastructure and broadband.

6.2 Waste has been contentious, with unpopular commercial applications for incinerators at Wisbech and Woodhurst, very expensive odour control measures required to the Amey facility at Waterbeach, and uncertainty about the Government's intentions following several consultations on extended producer responsibility, deposit return schemes, and recycling. The Council's recycling centres at Milton and March are also in the early stages of plans for upgrades.

6.3 The Council's high-profile scheme to get the community of Swaffham Prior off oil and onto a new renewable energy community heating system continues to progress well, with a £3.2M Government grant awarded. Other energy schemes include the installation of solar panels on Park & Ride sites, small-scale solar farms with private wire connections to commercial customers, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council's own premises around the county. We have also run another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

6.4 Meanwhile commercial operation Sunnica has submitted a planning application to the Secretary of State for what is believed to be the largest solar farm in the country, stretching from Red Lodge in West Suffolk to Burwell in East Cambridgeshire. There is significant and highly-organised local opposition to this proposal. The County Council is a consultee in this process.

6.5 The committee developed two important strategies this year - a revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and an updated Climate Change & Environment Strategy. The Flood Risk strategy was accompanied by local initiatives to promote and fund community flood groups, visits by the Floodmobile to demonstrate options for fitting flood prevention measures in domestic properties, and clarification of the responsibilities of riparian owners for maintaining

their watercourses. The year saw local flood and water matters require attention in the Sutton division, in Sutton, Witchford, and a long-running issue of the nature of material dredged by the Environment Agency from the Hundred Foot at Welney. The Environment Agency's barrier bank works on the Ouse Washes are now in the sixth year of a four year programme.

6.6 The Climate Change & Environment Strategy sets a new and more ambitious target for a net-zero carbon Cambridgeshire by 2045, aiming to work with businesses and communities to bring this about. We are also working on a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and Local Area Energy Planning. Council Leader Lucy Nethsingha is leading plans for a 'Cambridgeshire COP' following the high-profile international COP26 climate negotiations in Glasgow.

6.7 As every year, the Council published its carbon footprint report. COVID meant 2020/21 was an unusual year, with not only less travel but also less construction, two of the biggest greenhouse gas contributors. The shrinkage in our carbon footprint is likely not to be sustained next year.

6.8 We invested an additional £109K over last winter to undertake urgent repairs to various biodiversity sites, as well as to begin a biodiversity audit of the Council's land to set a baseline for our commitment to increase biodiversity in Cambridgeshire. We have also promoted, and taken part in, the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

6.9 The County Council is involved in an interesting project by the Food Farming & Countryside Commission to design a Land Use Framework for Cambridgeshire, with the aim of developing a common vision for land and the potential for multiple land uses.

6.10 The County Council has responded to various strategic planning consultations including for North East Cambridge, the move of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant, and various phases of the development of Northstowe. It also adopted the revised Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

6.11 A new heritage website for Cambridgeshire is currently under construction. Meanwhile, a recent discovery in Fenstanton has turned out to be 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.

6.12 Connecting Cambridgeshire has produced a new digital connectivity strategy for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. We were concerned that the implications of the 2025 copper switch-off for many systems have not been fully recognised.

7 Constitution & Ethics

7.1 An issue dominating Cambridgeshire politics since the whistle was blown in 2018 is 'Farmgate'—the award to then County Council deputy leader Roger Hickford of the tenancy of a County Council-owned farm in Girton. The new Joint Administration took office committed to publishing the facts, and this has now happened. Mr Hickford was found by independent investigators to have broken the councillors' Code of Conduct in seven different ways, including bullying and improper use of position for personal advantage. Mr Hickford resigned from the Council before the election.

7.2 In less contentious news, the committee proposed a new Parental Leave Policy for councillors which was adopted by the Council.

7.3 The committee proposed, and the Council agreed, changes to the Council's standing orders which mean that councillors will no longer be able to propose to Full Council motions that relate to current planning applications that the Council is to decide or be consulted on. This does not prevent councillors speaking out, campaigning and supporting their residents in all sorts of ways on contentious local planning applications, of course. But its purpose is to stop councillors misusing Full Council meetings to set Council policy on applications which must be decided impartially by the Council's Planning Committee, or be responded to by council officers using their professional judgement.

8 Highways & Transport

8.1 The new Council is facing up to the many challenges left by its outgoing administration. Not least of these was the atrocious state of the county's 100,000 gullies, whose lack of maintenance contributed to the flooding of winter 2020/21. These are now being mapped and cleared, including one which was in such a bad state a metal detector was required to actually find it.

8.2 We have established a new funding pot for local communities to bid into for 20MPH zones, to make these more widespread and easier to obtain. A working group will publish a proposed new policy on heavy goods vehicles in villages, which will align with the Combined Authority's forthcoming Local Transport & Connectivity Plan.

8.3 The Council has been focusing on Active Travel, with the aim of improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. A new Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan is in progress. The Council has expressed interest in taking up the prospect of being able to enforce moving traffic offences such as breaching weight limits. This would be possible everywhere in the county except for East Cambridgeshire.

8.4 Network Rail consulted last year on its Ely Area Capacity Enhancement programme to allow more trains to run through Ely. Since then, it has all gone very quiet.

3. District Council Report

CLLR CHARLOTTE CANE, CLLR JOHN TRAPP, District councillors for the Bottisham ward
(including Bottisham, Brinkley, Lode with Longmeadow, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Westley Waterless)

1 COVID-19

1.1 This has been the third year of COVID-19, and following the Government's removal of all precautions early in 2022, the virus continues to run rampant. A limited programme of booster vaccinations began earlier this year.

1.2 The District Council administered various rounds of COVID grants to local businesses during the year. The Council got off to a slow start, and we have expressed concerns during the year at the way in which some of its spending decisions have been made.

1.3 We supported a motion to the Full Council contrasting the behaviour of local residents during lockdown with the law-breaking of the Prime Minister. The ruling group amended the motion with one change – deleting all expression of disappointment at the illegal events in Downing Street.

2 Mepal Outdoor Centre

2.1 The council's planning application to replace the popular Outdoor Centre with an unwanted crematorium was finally published in August 2021. The council's own survey showed only thirteen per cent of respondents wanted a crematorium at Mepal.

2.2 21/01216/F3M is an application for 'construction of a crematorium and associated service and administration building, function building, memorial garden, natural burial areas, pet cemetery, car parking, new vehicular access from the A142 north of the site and landscaping'. The original planning statement prepared by the applicant's agent, Nexus Planning, stated that the applicant was East Cambs Trading Co Ltd, the council's trading arm. A colleague questioned this and it was hastily changed to East Cambridgeshire District Council. Once again, the council leadership is blurring the boundaries between the Council and its commercial trading arm. We submitted objections to the proposal, on the grounds that the need for an additional crematorium has not been evidenced, and that the transport assessment significantly understates the likely traffic. The application has yet to be determined, with a new deadline of 6 May 2022.

2.3 Meanwhile 21/01054/DEM was an application to demolish all buildings at the Outdoor Centre. This took place just in time for Christmas 2021.

3 Planning

3.1 Last year the Government was poised to publish proposals for radical changes to the planning process. A year later, we are still waiting. Meanwhile, East Cambridgeshire's Local Plan is now seven years old, after an update in 2019 was discarded by the ruling group after three years of work and an Examination in Public. It is becoming increasingly outdated, with insufficient policies to address climate change or air quality as well as issues which need to be reconsidered such as parking space provision.

3.2 The Council's limited review of its current (2015) Local Plan is still ongoing. It concentrates only on policy GROWTH1 and housing numbers.

3.3 Although the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority decided to close down the previous Mayor's '£100K homes' scheme, East Cambridgeshire District Council has expressed its enthusiasm to proceed with it. Four '£100K homes' have been advertised in the development at the bottom of Forehill in Ely, and several on the site of the former Paradise Pool. Those promoting this scheme have never satisfactorily explained how those taking it up will avoid being trapped in properties they cannot afford to move out of if they find they no longer meet their needs. And these properties will make only a minute contribution to filling the huge gap in affordable housing in East Cambridgeshire.

3.4 Neighbourhood Plans are under way at Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck with Charlotte working with Reach and John with Swaffham Bulbeck.

3.5 The Council has approved changes to its list of projects eligible to receive funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers. This now includes the £1M the Council agreed to pay in 25 annual instalments towards the A14 redevelopment, but also health provision, community facilities, and water management and flood prevention across the district.

3.6 The Council's preferred 'Community Land Trusts' remain controversial, and any attempt to question any aspect of them is a red rag to a bull. We supported a motion on CLTs in October, asking the council to review issues arising from CLT proposals in Stretham, Little Thetford, and Wilburton. The meeting was handled appallingly, with the partner of a councillor permitted to make offensive and slanderous comments in the guise of a public question, in total contravention of council rules of procedure. No attempt was made by the Chair or senior officers to stop it.

3.7 In February the Council lost a significant planning appeal in Soham. It failed to defend three of its reasons for refusal of a major development by Persimmon. The Inspector said there had been a significant shortfall in development against the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan housing requirement to date, and that the plan 'cannot be

said to have been effective in delivering the anticipated housing need to date'. He further stated that even if the council could currently demonstrate the housing land supply it said it had (more than 6.5 years), there had been significant under-delivery against the plan to date, and there was a 'persistent failure' to meet housing requirements. 'There can be no certainty that the strategy contained in the [Local Plan] will deliver sufficient housing in the long-term of the plan period,' he concluded. 'In fact, the evidence before me suggests that it will not.'

3.8 In April the Council won the Appeal against its refusal of planning permission for a 'Retirement Village' in Bottisham. The Inspector did not agree with all the arguments raised by the Council or by the Parish Council and other interested parties. However, he upheld the refusal because:

- there would be harm to the permanence, openness and some of the purposes of Green Belt land;
- a robust Alternative Sites Assessment had not been provided, so he could not be sure that there are not suitable, available and deliverable non-Green Belt alternatives;
- there is also harm, albeit with only a low to moderate weighting, to the character and appearance of the area, the wider landscape, and the heritage assets of Bottisham Conservation Area and the Bottisham House Grade II Listed building.

3.9 Also in April the Council won the Appeal against their refusal of planning permission for a tennis court at Chalk Farm, Bottisham. He upheld the refusal because:
"The proposed development would be inappropriate development, which is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt. There would also be moderate harm to the openness of the Green Belt as well as encroachment on the countryside."
3.10 Again in April, the Council lost the Appeal against their refusal of prior approval to convert barns to residential dwellings at Anglesey Farm, Lode. This revolved around the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (the GPDO). The Council had argued that the barns could not be converted to dwellings under the GPDO, but the Inspector found that the conversion was allowed under the GPDO.
3.11 In September 2021 the Council won the Appeal against their refusal of Planning Permission for Heath Road, Swaffham Bubeck. The Inspector upheld the refusal because:
"the harm to the character and appearance of the area would be overriding and there would be conflict with the development plan taken as a whole. There are no material considerations of sufficient weight or importance that determine that the decision should be taken other than in accordance with the development plan and therefore, planning permission should be refused."

4 Finance and assets

4.1 The Council's budget was thrown into confusion in January, when an increase in Council Tax was recommended in the report presented to the Finance & Assets Committee. The Leader of the Council amended the budget at the meeting, to remove every recommendation, and refer the decision to the Full Council with no recommendations until the very last minute.
4.2 However, the Council once again froze its share of the Council Tax in its February budget. The plans in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for an increase of £5 per annum at Band D, the maximum allowed, were put off for a year.
4.3 We proposed an amendment to devolve the Rural Services Delivery Grant of £169,000 to Parish Councils, and to allocate £10,000 to investigate options for Civil Parking Enforcement, to address the problems caused by illegal parking around the district. This would have been funded by joining the Combined Authority's Community Led Housing Support service, saving the costs of providing it in-house and drawing on the extensive experience of ACRE in community engagement. We also proposed to cut the £25,000 (33 per cent) proposed increase to the Council's PR budget. This amendment was defeated.
4.4 The budget included setting up a £2M Growth & Infrastructure Fund, to be funded from money handed back to member councils by Cambridgeshire Horizons, a 'not-for-profit organisation responsible for driving forward the delivery of sustainable new communities'. We proposed that £0.5M of this fund should be used as a contribution to a safe pedestrian and cycle crossing at the A10 BP roundabout at Ely—a problem largely of the District Council leadership's making. This proposal was defeated by the council's leadership.
4.5 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has expressed concerns that the repayment profile of its loan of over £20M to East Cambs Trading Company for the MOD homes at Ely is slipping, and it may not be repaid by the due date of 31 March 2023. However, this has not stopped the District Council agreeing to lend the Company a further £7.5M, partly so that it can repay its current loan from the Council, and partly so that it can start new projects at MOD Phase 2 and 3, and at the Paradise Pool site which the Council is now proposing to sell to the Company.
4.6 The Council's Bus, Cycle, Walk working group continues to meet. In July it drafted a response to the County Council's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, and a letter to parish councils listing walking and cycling routes identified last year as being in disrepair, obstructed by street clutter, or insufficiently lit, and asking for an update on

their condition. The working group requested spending on feasibility studies from Sustrans for five priority cycling routes in the district:

· Fordham-Burwell
· Haddenham-A142
· Little Downham-Ely
· Littleport-Chettisham-Ely
· Swaffham Prior-Reach-Burwell

The Council also agreed a Cycling & Walking Strategy to be used in influencing County Council and Combined Authority plans for active travel.

5 Operational services

5.1 Having been pressed into declaring a Climate Emergency in October 2019, the Council approved its second Climate Change Action Plan in June. We have been pressing the Council to go further and faster in tackling climate change. At the meeting of the Combined Authority Board at the end of June, the Leader of the Council proposed an amendment to water down the Combined Authority's response to the Commission's recommendations, and abstained on the response itself when this amendment was defeated.

5.2 The Council remains one of the few left in the country which is refusing to take responsibility from the police and adopt Civil Parking Enforcement. The ruling group's preferred course of offering up its staff as police volunteers hit the buffers, as did its proposals to pay for PCSO staff or give police powers to its own staff. Instead it is now simply 'supporting' a police pilot scheme to target a few 'hot spots' using community volunteers. It rejected a call from us to investigate Civil Parking Enforcement, the system used by nearly every other council in England to tackle illegal on-street parking.

5.3 The Council's record in collecting residents' black bag waste and recyclables has plummeted. Difficulties recruiting and retaining drivers began in September, and by November the local press was reporting allegations of low morale, bullying, stress and other staff concerns. These were denied by management. Green waste collections were cancelled from mid-December to the end of January, then it was announced that waste collection rounds were being permanently reconfigured from the end of March.

(The new collection day for Bottisham, Brinkley, Lode, Long Meadow and Westley Waterless is Monday
The new collection day for Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior is Tuesday.)

The first few weeks of this change have not gone smoothly, with large numbers of uncollected bins, in some cases left for days or even weeks.

5.4 The Council's intention to purchase several new waste vehicles has been put on hold because of the lack of clarity about the Government's waste strategy intentions. Lead times between order and receipt are around twelve months, so this spending will need to be carried forward. This is not the first time this procurement has been delayed, and it risks existing vehicles being run beyond their planned working life and becoming more difficult to maintain.

6 Full Council

6.1 We supported a proposal to the Full Council that East Cambridgeshire should address the lack of 'Changing Places' toilets in the district for people with severe disabilities; and review disabled access to all public toilets and signage on them for invisible disabilities. East Cambridgeshire was the only district in the county not to be awarded any money at all by the Government in its recent funding round to improve Changing Places toilet provision, because it did not request any funding. The council's leadership delayed giving a response to this proposal by referring it to Finance & Assets Committee.

6.2 The council leadership passed a motion to rule our congestion charging in Cambridge. We opposed this motion, as it was premature because the consultation is still on-going and we think it is better to engage with the Greater Cambridge Partnership than to rule out one possible part of the solution. Traffic in Cambridge is set to grow by 30 per cent in the next ten years, and there is a serious lack of funding for public transport. Without this, many people who cannot drive, or cannot afford to buy, insure or fill up a car, are left with limited or no options for travel. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has been consulting for some time on ways to relieve traffic congestion in Cambridge and improve public transport into the city. These consultations are still ongoing. One of the options on the table is some form of congestion charging to pay for better public transport. There would need to be regular reliable and affordable public transport, provision for shift works, people with disabilities, community transport, volunteer drivers etc. But ***if*** congestion charging reduces the queues at the Quy roundabout and delivers better buses for our area it ***might*** be an acceptable option.

7 Administrative issues

7.1 The Council experienced several email outages during the year, in some cases lasting several days. A colleague asked searching questions and did not receive particularly full answers.

8 Combined Authority

8.1 A new Mayor was elected in May 2021. This resulted in the scrapping of the CAM Metro and the '£100K homes' project, the latter taken up by East Cambs District Council. A new Chief Executive was also appointed, and the Combined Authority has decided to make its permanent home in offices in Huntingdon.

8.2 During the year, the Combined Authority's Climate Commission published its ambitious report; the Government announced there would be no more money for affordable housing, and snubbed the Combined Authority's bus improvement plan.

8.3 In better news, the Combined Authority has recognised the need to develop further education provision in Ely. Ely and Soham have also received funding for a variety of 'Market Town Masterplan' schemes.

9 Finally

9.1 We continue to offer online Zoom surgeries, advertised in the village magazines and are holding our first face-to-face surgery since the lockdown on Wednesday 25 May at 6.00pm at Reach Village Centre.

It is a privilege to serve the residents of our parishes, and we thank them, the parish councils and their clerks, for the experience of the last year.

4. Village Centre Report

Bookings and finances

Bookings have not returned to their pre-pandemic level. Whilst some new regular bookings have been made (Tai Chi), other long-term users of the hall have gone elsewhere (Slimming World).

Work is in progress to re-fresh the village hall website to try to attract more custom. Associated with this, an on-line booking system has been set up.

In the last 24 months the village hall has benefitted from government grants for small businesses affected by Covid. These have been critical in keeping the VH solvent, and allowing essential repairs and maintenance (see below) to be carried out.

As these grants come to an end the future of the village hall must be considered uncertain unless bookings increase or some kind of core support is provided from other sources (e.g. Parish Council). Costs have risen significantly (especially energy – oil and electricity) but measures to raise hire fees in line with these increases led to the threat of lost bookings from regulars – prices were adjusted back down accordingly. At present income from bookings is well below costs (insurance, oil, electricity etc).

Use by the community

In the last year the hall has been put to good use by the community. The regular Community Café is held every Friday afternoon, and the church is using the hall whilst renovations are taking place. It should be noted that as community events neither of these regular uses are charged.

Repairs and maintenance

The village hall and its grounds have required significant investment in repairs and maintenance recently (with associated significant cost – total in excess of £13,000), some of which is ongoing. This includes:

- Repairs to the boundary wall to make it safe (work carried out by specialist clunch masons)
- Repairs to/replacement of doors and windows
- External decorating
- Repairs to the drain in the back yard
- Removal of the cherry tree which was badly diseased
- Repairs to the shed roof (some temporary repairs have been carried out but further work is needed)

The committee have carried out two maintenance/spring cleaning days. The removal of the cherry tree has created an opportunity to replant the front border – old shrubs have been removed and replacements will be installed soon.

Membership

Graeme Radford has retired after 18 years of service on the committee. He is thanked for his important contribution as a member and as chair. Jan Tabecki, also a long-time member of the committee, has also left.

Natasha Bridgeman has taken on the role of bookings manager (among other things). Other members are Andrew Trump (Treasurer), Sue Elliot (Secretary), David Thomas (Chair), Rebecca Fordham and Tony Fordham. The committee could do with a couple of additional members and volunteers are encouraged to come forward, and to speak to any of the existing members.

Councillors were concerned to read about the bookings and depleting funds of the Village Hall. The BBQ funds from Reach Fair will go directly to the Village Hall this year, a one time occurrence which will hopefully help with this years costs. The PC would like a more detailed financial analysis to allow discussion at the next PC meeting.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

No report supplied.

6. A.O.B

Discussion took place regarding Reach Fair which had taken place the previous day following two years of not holding a Fair due to the Covid pandemic. The Fair had been a great success, and this was entirely due to the hard work of Claire Halpin and her small team. ***Clerk*** to write and thank her.

Diary Dates

June 2022	Event	Location	Time
Fridays 3, 10, 17, 24	Reach Cafe	Village Hall	3pm to 4.30pm
Thursday 2	Beacon Lighting	Lower Green	8.30pm to 9.30pm
Friday 3	Quiz	Dyke's End	8.00pm
Saturday 4	Barbecue	Dyke's End	1pm to 7pm
Sunday 5	Tea Party	Lower Green	12.30pm onwards
Sunday 5	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's	8.30am
Tuesday 7	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday 8	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 14	Recycling Day (Green)		
Wednesday 15th	Steak & Honour Food Van	Dyke's End	5.00pm
Tuesday 21	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Sunday 26	Sports Day	Playing Field	1pm
Tuesday 28	Recycling Day (Green)		

July 2022	Event	Location	Time
Fridays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Reach Cafe	Village Hall	3pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday 2	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Sunday 3	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's	8.30am
Tuesday 5	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Tuesday 9	Recycling Day (Green)		
Tuesday 16	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 23	Recycling Day (Green)		
Wednesday 31	Recycling Day (Blue)		

Bus Timetable

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

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

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

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

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

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

* These are departure times - buses will arrive approximately 5 minutes earlier
A full timetable can be downloaded from www.reach-village.co.uk/bus_service.html

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

The mayoral procession approaching Hill Farm for the opening of the 1970 Reach Fair.

A slightly less attentive audience watches the procession at this year's well attended Fair.

The buildings in the background have changed dramatically and the house that was to become The Dyke's End pub some five years or so later was still, I believe, a farmhouse.

Practicality aside, I always preferred the village green edge without curb stones.

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
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







Salad stall people, courtesy of Helen



Bottle stallers!



View from the Big Wheel, courtesy of Cath



Barbie boys and girl, courtesy of Helen



Morris Men, courtesy of Derek



Busy day for the Dyke's End!