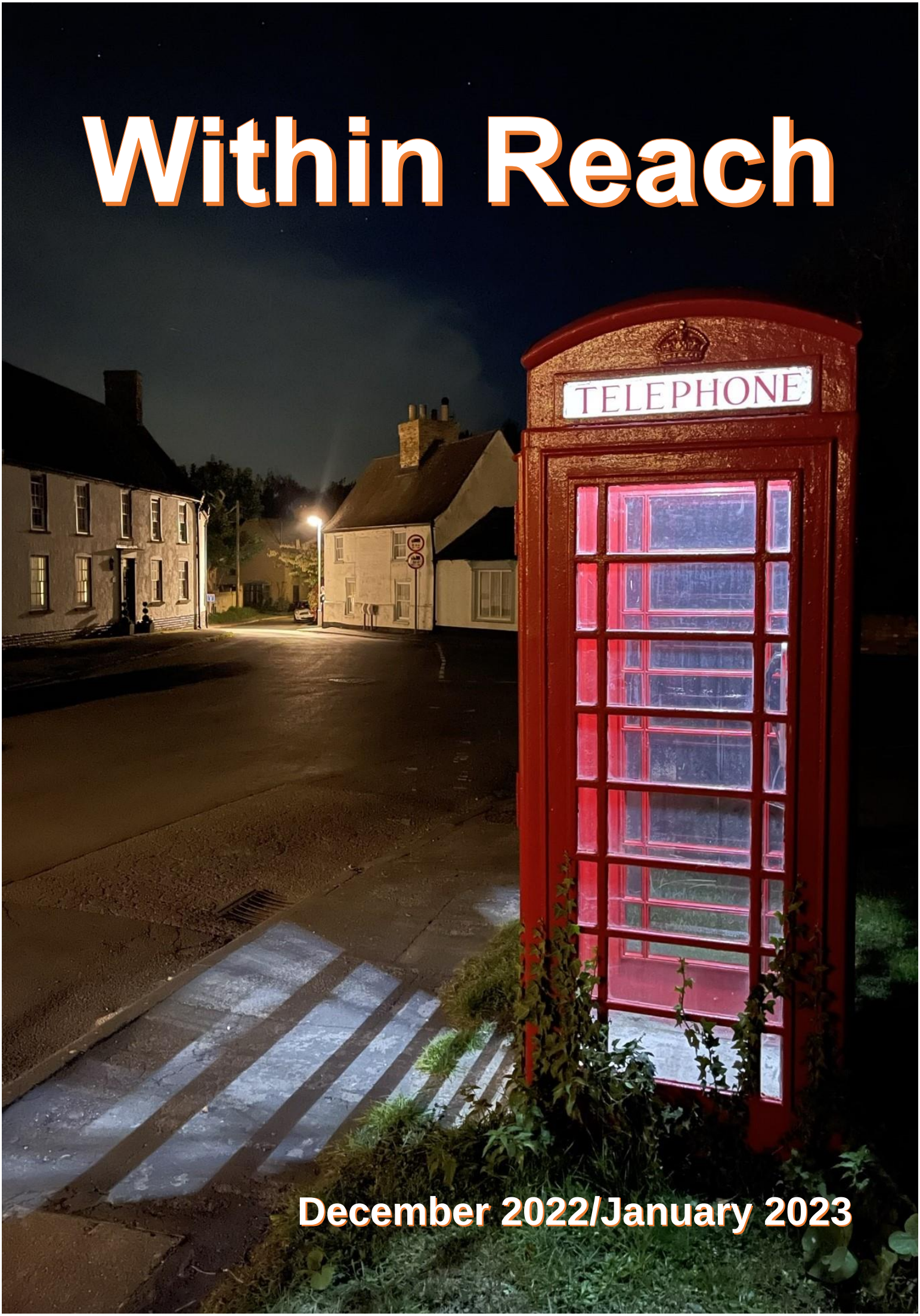
Within Reach



December 2022/January 2023









Contents

Title	Author	Page
Articles		
Crossing the Pyrenees	Ross Clark	4
Could You Foster?		21
Get to Know Robinson and Claydon Vehicle Services		16
Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities	Pam Waters	11
Anglesey Abbey	Meghan Curteis	14
Burwell Museum and Windmill	Sara Phipps	22
Burwell and Reach Car Scheme	Pam King	6
Bus Timetable		39
CentrePeace		9
Church		
Church Services		25
Letter from the Vicarage	Eleanor Williams	23
Reach Church Development Update	Pat Chalmers	23
Community Cafe	Claire and Helen	6
Contact Information		40
Diary Dates		38
Dyke's End	Dan and Ruth	19
Events Team	Debbie Quilter	7
Food Focus	Catherine Gibson	20
Getting to Know You	Karen Carpenter	10
Nature in Reach	Cath Tayleur	12
Parish Council		
Know your District Councillors		26
Know Your Parish Council		26
Meeting Minutes		27
Rosanna's Ramblings	Rosanna Moseley Gore	8
Snakehall Farm		24
Sport and Recreation		
Cricket Report	Ross Clark	16
Reach Riders	Sue Cameron	9
Tales from a Reach Garden	Danuta Gibson	18
Then and Now	Chris Patterson	40
Village Hall		9
Village Update	Alex de Giorgio-Miller	3
Wicken Fen	Julia Hammond	13

From the Editor



Its nearly the end of another year, where did that go?

Plenty of rain to compensate for the plenty of sun that we briefly became used to. The world is all a bit different nowadays but there's not a lot that we can ultimately do about it individually – governments need to act.

In this issue we get to hear about Ross's adventures in the Pyrenees (page 4). It's wonderful stuff but I feel a health warning is required regarding the selfie of Ross finishing his exploits – be careful, it's quite disturbing.

From the Events Team (page 7) you'll see just how successful the Macmillan Coffee morning was. Lovely venue, lovely day, lovely experience and plenty of money made. You'll also see on the Events Team page other upcoming events.

Finally – and so sadly, we have lost John Cole.



The picture was taken during his niece Hannah's wedding in 2011. He was a lovely man and whenever the village needed his help, he always said yes. He will be hugely missed.

His funeral takes place on Friday 9th December at 2.00pm in Reach Church. Dan and Ruth at the Dyke's End have happily agreed to open the pub at 1.00pm to accommodate visitors prior to and following the funeral.

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
Distribution	Freda Lloyd, Claire Halpin-McDonald and Grahame Radford
Photographer	Rosanna Moseley Gore
24Acres	David Thomas
Anglesey Abbey	Meghan Curteis
Church	Eleanor Williams
Cookery	Catherine Gibson
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



The beginning of November had me fooled with its crazy mild weather, but it's good to see that normal service has resumed – wet coats and muddy boots are strewn all over our utility room! At least we've got some great puddles for jumping now!

Cost of Living

The rising cost of living is having an impact on everyone and East Cambs District Council has measures in place to support residents who may feel they are struggling to cope. There are many forms of help available to residents, from benefits and grants, through to discounts, food vouchers and help with managing debt and staying healthy. The new 'Cost of Living' pages on their website: https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/cost-living/cost-living have suggestions and ideas on where to get help this winter. Specifically, they include advice on:

Government Payments

That help with the cost of living, for example, the one-off £650 'cost of living' payment to low-income households on Universal Credit, Tax Credits, Pension Credit and legacy benefits and a separate one-off payment of £300 to pensioner households.

Charities and Support schemes

Such as Cambridgeshire's Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) which supports people facing unexpected financial difficulties. CLAS can provide information, advice and practical support and assistance in times of exceptional pressure.

Support with Energy Costs

There are various grant schemes available to residents of East Cambs to increase the energy efficiency of your home, helping to bring down energy costs in the longer term. Visit the home energy efficiency grants webpage for more details go to: www.eastcambs.gov.uk/energy-efficiency/home-efficiency-grants)

Help with Food Costs

The Cambridgeshire Household Support Fund has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food and household energy bills. Ely Foodbank also operates six centres in the East Cambs district, distributing emergency food parcels and other assistance.

Community Groups

Such as The Baby Bank in Fordham, which collects baby goods to distribute to those in need, and Laptops4Learning, which supplies reconditioned laptops for educational purposes are just two organisations helping to lower costs for people locally.

Staying Healthy

The Council funds and partners with Healthy You, which offers a number of different health services to residents in East Cambs. These include programmes to stop smoking, boost your physical activity, eat more healthily, manage weight, prevent falls, and reduce alcohol consumption.

Debt and Money Advice

The Council offer advice at their weekday drop-in sessions at the council offices Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm. You can call them for advice on 01353 665555 or to book an appointment.

Flu and Covid vaccines

Information from the NHS on flu and Covid vaccinations this winter:

The flu vaccine is given free on the NHS to adults who: are 50 and over (including those who will be 50 by 31 March 2023); have certain health conditions; are pregnant; are in long-stay residential care; receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick; or live with someone who is more likely to get a severe infection due to a weakened immune system, such as someone living with HIV, someone who has had a transplant, or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis.

If you're eligible for the free flu vaccine, it's likely you can get the coronavirus (COVID-19) seasonal booster. Getting both vaccines is important because more people are likely to get flu this winter and you're more likely to be seriously ill if you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time. It's safe to have both vaccines at the same time, but you need to book them separately. If you're eligible for either vaccine, you do not need to wait to be contacted to get vaccinated. If you're eligible for a free flu vaccine, you can book an appointment at your GP surgery. You can also book online to get a flu vaccine from a pharmacy that offers it on the NHS.

Keep well, keep safe and wrap up warm!

Alex de Giorgio-Miller



Crossing of the Pyrenees

Channel Five viewers may have seen Michael Portillo recently pretending to walk the length of the Pyrenees, from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. In reality, he walked a few short sections and the only high mountain he ascended, the Pic du Midi de Bigorre, just happens to be the one with a cable car to the summit. But what would it really be like to walk the whole thing? The idea first crossed my mind when I was Inter-railing, aged 19 and walked a short section of the GR10, a long-distance footpath which follows the northern slopes of the Pyrenees. I wanted to do the lot, but there was always an even bigger obstacle than 11,000 foot mountains in the way: work. To take six weeks off is not really an option when you have hungry children who need feeding.

Last year, I reached the age where I could, if I wanted to, move into sheltered accommodation. I decided it couldn't wait any longer. I had to go for it. But it wasn't the GR10 I wanted to take on, nor the GR11, which follows the southern, Spanish slopes of the mountain range. Between them lies a third, unmarked path known as the Haute Route which, as its name suggests, follows the highest peaks. It measures 499 miles from Hendaye, on the French Atlantic coast, to Banyuls-sur-Mer on the Mediterranean. But it isn't the distance that is the real issue; there is 150,000 feet of ascent: more than five Mount Everest-worth's of climbing, much of it on rough paths, rock and scree. Some of it is snow and ice even in the middle of summer. Almost everyone seems to use the same guidebook, which breaks down the walk into 44 daily sections.

It is a province mostly of lone men with makeshift beards, who can be found ravenously tearing at barely edible bocadillos in the few cafes along the route as if it was their first meal in days. It probably was, the Haute Route is not exactly Oxford Street. You can go half a dozen days without coming across a shop and when you do you find that Spanish convenience stores are open for all of six hours a day. Conversation with other walkers tends to follow a pattern: where are you from, when did you start and how heavy is you sack? We all admitted lugging stuff around we wished we had left behind. I cut up my maps, dumped my 2.4kg tent for a 400gm bivvy bag, but I was hardly out of Hendaye when I realised that an 8kg backpack, which you can bounce up and down at home, turns into a burden when filled with several days' food and a couple of litres of water to get you through the long dry sections devoid of streams.

The Haute Route starts off gently enough through the Basque country. For the first three days it was like walking through Wales, down to the rack and pinion railway up the first real hill, 905 metre Rhune. The path wound, a little disconcertingly, between numerous shooting stalls which, as far as I could tell, weren't being used. Walking this section in a wild boar outfit would not be a good idea.

The next two days are more like the central highlands of Scotland: green, craggy hills rising to a maximum of 2,000 metres. At the end of day five, a line of grey, angular peaks appeared on the horizon. On day six I reached 2,500 metres and was up at that level for days afterwards, on bare rock or gritty paths which left through tufts of grass full of squealing marmots.



The train up La Rhune – I didn't take this, honest

On the second night I set up my bivvy bag in thick woodlands. In was midsummer night, but hardly felt like it. By five in the morning the thick mist had given way to a monstrous thunderstorm. As well as sensing that I was gently sliding downhill, I faced an uncomfortable choice. If I zipped up the bag I couldn't breathe. If I unzipped it and stuck my head out I could breathe, but then rainwater ran into the bag. I can't say I was too disappointed when the next day, having tied the bivvy bag to my rucksack to dry it out, I turned to find it gone. Going back to look for it wasn't an option: I had spent the previous two hours off the path in thick mist and couldn't be sure where I had been. It could have been worse.

Later along the route I met a Dutchman who, to save weight in his rucksack, had only taken with him a single pair of underpants. Then he lost them. All he could find, in a small store in a Spanish village, shortly before it closed for its eight hour siesta, was a pair of ladies' knickers.

I booked into a monastery and ordered another tent via Amazon, to be delivered to a gite four days down the line. In the meantime, I stayed in mountain refuges, which are plentiful. “Un refuge ce n’est pas un hotel,” read a notice in one of them. You can say that again. The dormitories are like Dotheboys’ Hall, the sanitation medieval (although most did have the luxury of loo paper) and the lights go out at 10. Yet the three course dinners can be surprisingly good, which is all the more remarkable given that in the higher huts everything has to be supplied by helicopter. It didn’t please one couple from Massachusetts, however, who had booked a package walking tour involving six nights in hotels and one night in the novelty of a mountain refuge, where they were not the least bit impressed to find themselves sleeping with strangers in a long row of bunks a bit like the Great Bed of Ware. “I bet you’ll enjoy your hotel this evening,” I said to them over breakfast. “Yes we will,” said the woman, fixing me with a look that was even dirtier than the dormitory shower. “Because you won’t be there, snoring.”



Walking up the glacier to the summit of Vigmale

On day nine the weather came good and I was able to bag my first 3,000 metre peaks in unbroken sunshine – pleasant, but not the best conditions for walking up the glacier to Vigmale, the highest point in the French Pyrenees.



The impressive north face of Vigmale

The ice was still overlain with snow; which is fine early in the morning but harder and harder to grip upon as it turns to slush, even with a pair of micro-crampons. A few days later I was higher still, at 3,369 metre Posets, the second highest peak in the Pyrenees, where the world’s most adventurous marmot came troubling me for crumbs. Two days later I crossed a boulder field and remnants of a once-extensive glacier to top out on the very peak of the Pyrenees, 3,404 metre Aneto. To get to the memorial cross at the very summit you have to cross a short but precipitous edge; where I found a young Spanish lad nearly hysterical, clutching his lucky mascot Tigger as he contemplated a 50 metre drop. Thankfully, I was able to help him across.



At the highest point in the Pyrenees, 3,404 metre Aneto

After Aneto it was tempting to think the walk would become a little less arduous, but not a bit of it. While the peaks were never quite so high again, the valleys seemed to become deeper and more numerous and the mountain refuges and shops scarcer. Numerous times I crossed from France to Spain and back again. Almost every day the much lusher French side would be covered with cloud, while the much more arid Spanish side would be in sunshine. The night after Aneto I tried out my new tent for the first time. Light rain had been forecast, but what I got was an even worse thunderstorm than I had encountered in the Basque country, with literally a flash of lightning every second for over an hour. When I got out in the morning the tent was covered in hailstones. The next morning was a deluge, but after that it never rained again along the route.



The aftermath of the thunderstorm

It took me four days to find out that Boris Johnson had resigned as Prime Minister. By the time I heard the news, from a Dutch hiker who had just called his wife, I had nearly finished my 12 hour traverse of Andorra (don't you just love a micro-nation?). From there was the most gorgeous stretch of all, over the isolated Pic du Carlit early in the morning, across the high plateau and up onto the long ridge leading to the Pic de Canigou, the last of the high mountains and a very special place in that it is the first point from which you can see the Mediterranean. I descended 2,500 metres in an afternoon to find myself in a heatwave. Two days earlier, I had awoken to frost on my tent; now it was 37 Celsius – not quite the 'heat apocalypse' that was apparently engulfing the South West of France according to the English newspaper, but pretty hot nonetheless. The landscape began to change markedly to Mediterranean vegetation and the streams which had been plentiful in the high mountains began to disappear.



The end, arriving at Banyuls-sur-Mer

With the heat came blisters and I pretty well had to tip-toe the 25 miles on the last day. The last ridge came to an abrupt end and I found myself on tracks through the vineyards to meet Mrs Clark at the coastal resort of Banyuls-sur-Mer, 28 days after I had left Hendaye.

Reader, I went straight in the bathwater-warm sea fully clothed. I would have run had the remarkably horrible beach not been like yet another boulder field. The journey was over, though not in my sub-conscious. For the next five nights I had the same dream: I kept coming to a path winding endlessly upwards into the hills, as if I was doomed to plod the Haute Route forever.

Ross Clark

Burwell and Reach Car Scheme

The Burwell and Reach Car Scheme offers 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.

Community Cafe

The café continues to be well supported. Textile sessions (mostly sewing in its multi various forms and knitting) now partially overlap with the café and the input of new personnel has created an extra buzz.

So, it is popular and enjoyed, but we would like a larger spectrum of villagers to use this facility, for example, the café coincides with the end of the school day so it would be nice if children and their guardians joined us. Also, if you're working from home what about a break from staring at the screen and wallpaper and paying us a visit?

See you there!

Helen and Claire

Events Team

Our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** took place at **Hill Farm Barn, 28 Fair Green** where it was hosted by the new owners, Helen and Andrew. It was the perfect day for it and was well attended, raising:

During the event for Macmillan	£616.20
Online donations for Macmillan	£400.00
Total raised for Macmillan	£1,016.20
During the event for Arthur Rank	£220.40
Total amount raised	**£1,236.60**

Now for Christmas, which for us starts on the **1st of December** with our **Advent Windows**, see below for the where's and the when's.

On **Sunday 4th of December** from 5pm to 6pm we will be switching our **Christmas Tree Lights** on, with mince pies, mulled wine and the City of Cambridge Brass Band to entertain us.

On **Thursday 15th of December**, from 12.30pm to 3pm we will be having our legendary **Senior's Christmas Lunch** in the Village Hall. It's always fun so if you'd like to come along (there is still time) please give David Parr a ring on 07887 563720 or email davidmparr@btinternet.com.

There will be the customary and always really lovely **Christingle service at our Church on Friday 23rd December at 6.00pm**.

And then from 6pm to 6.45pm on **Christmas Eve**, Lucy will again be leading us as we **sing carols around the Christmas Tree**, with the customary mince pies and mulled wine.

Finally, following the carol singing, if all you children have been good, **Father Christmas will be visiting us again**!

All these events, with full information, can be found on our website at http://www.reach-village.co.uk/news.html

Debbie Quilter



Rosanna's Ramblings



Every year, around this time, I find that I'm asking myself "Have we had Christmas yet?". It's been going on for about 10 years and I think it comes from feeling that I'm in the middle of some sort of transitional season and my brain gets confused and thinks it's spring rather than autumn.

This year it's not helped by the extraordinarily mild weather – 16 degrees C as I write – and bulbs spiking out of the ground all over the place. They certainly think it's spring and I do feel a bit worried about them. Will they stop growing and then catch up with themselves and flower appropriately next year? Or will they bud up and flower this winter and then find themselves confused for the whole of 2023? Or can they store enough energy back in their bulbs to flower again, wrongly, next winter? There's probably a metaphor for life in all of that – perhaps the residue of the pandemic stop-start-stop again-start again that we experienced?

I have to admit to feeling still transitional as far as Covid is concerned anyway. At work in my acupuncture clinic I still wear a mask, just as they do at the GP's and in hospitals – but I can't insist that my patients wear one even though I'd really be grateful if they all would. After all, I'm self-employed and also work to be of use to my patients, so would rather not have another bout of Covid, or get flu, and be out of action for a week. But I smile (behind my mask) and say it's fine not to wear one if they don't want to and heave a small sigh of relief with the patients who are grateful that precautions are still being taken.

We had the bizarre experience, in September, of travelling once again in Europe (hooray, how glad that made us!) on a German train travelling from Paris to Munich and being asked, as we approached the German border, to put on our FFP2 masks as they were obligatory in Germany. We already had ours on, but up and down the train people who had been contentedly sharing the same air unprotected obediently protected their neighbours from their exhalations. Then we went into Austria where masks weren't required, then into Italy where they were. It's all very bewildering … and Charles came back with Covid anyway, though my June bout obviously kept me immune. Was it worth it, the travelling even if it ended with infection? Emphatically yes, it's always good to be glad to return home from being elsewhere. Refreshed in mind and spirit, tired out in a different way from the usual hassle and daily grind with work and gardening and paperwork.

So we came back to a simply enormous glut of apples from the garden – Bramleys, so sweet they need no sugar and the freezer now full of dozens of containers of them stewed and sliced and half-stewed. The vegetable garden has nearly been put to bed and Milo the now very grown-up one-year old was enormously helpful to Charles in digging it all over (well, that's how he told the story to me – Charles wasn't quite so gratefully complimentary as one might have expected, but he did have a smile playing on the edge of his mouth when I got home late from work and heard his side of the tale. Freshly dug holes being immediately filled in behind his back. Nicely turned soil being flung about frantically by flailing canine legs. You get the picture…).

This season's sloe gin is brewing and I predict it will be rather too sweet if the super-sugariness of the blackberries that emerged from the drought and heatwave are anything to go by. So, inspired by Charles's reading of a book on foraging, we set off last week to harvest hawthorn berries from the wonderful row of trees along the Lode in Coleys Meadow (as Charles and his generation know it, but now apparently referred to as Reach Pocket Park). I didn't even know they were edible, but apparently they are and treated like sloes, brew up into a deliciously fragrant drink reminiscent of sherry in flavour but undoubtedly quite a lot stronger. They are sitting in a tub in the freezer, to replicate having been frosted outside (will we get any frosts this winter, I wonder?). They will emerge when I've bought some cheap vodka and the result will doubtless be reported back to you in due course.



Hawthorn

So, now that I've checked and double-checked the diary, I am acknowledging that Christmas is indeed on its way and look forward to some coziness by the fire and – dare I say it? – even some socialising! Family members will be gravitating our way, probably, possibly – they too are beset with vagueness and plans seem to be contingent on other things. But Milo is doubtless going to enjoy the waste products of some tasty cooking, which will be fine as long as he doesn't emulate the theft, some years back by my cousin's Flatcoat, of an entire bowl of vine fruit soaking in brandy ready for going into a Christmas cake. Now, dogs and vine fruit can be a dangerous combination. Probably dogs and a large quantity of brandy is a highly inadvisable combo too. Poor Evie (that's the dog, not my cousin) was hospitalised for quite some time as a result – so I think I'll play it safe and not make a cake this year. I can't quite guarantee that my training of the now large dog not to counter surf has been 100% effective, you see. But I'm sure he won't be short of treats as we huddle by the fire, saving the outrageously expensive heating oil for the really cold weather that might not even arrive!

Rosanna Moseley Gore

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.

Reach Riders



Our arena continues to be well used and lessons on a Saturday continue , though things may slow up a bit now during the winter months .

Thanks go to Sadie, Helen and Liz for repainting and treating the jumps which will now stand up to winters worst!

Membership continues to grow and we have had several brand new members join - so welcome to you and enjoy the facilities.

Sue Cameron

Village Hall



As the Conference of the Parties to the climate change convention met in Egypt, the village hall committee met to consider its own contribution to cutting carbon emissions (and of course reducing costs!). We have made good progress in planning for solar panels on the roof of the village hall as an alternative and renewable energy source. Energy efficiency measures are also being explored (we have discovered that the hall has no loft insulation). Permission to install panels has been sought and obtained from the Diocese of Ely (which owns the hall and from which it is leased). As the hall is in a Conservation Area the panels will need to go through the full ECDC planning permission process – a pre-application meeting is being arranged with the Planning Officer and the Conservation Officer. The panels will reduce the hall's annual electricity bill very significantly and might also help cut the cost of heating oil by providing an alternative source of energy for heating and hot water provision in certain situations.

There has been a lot in the news about small communities similar to Reach that have been unable to sustain their Village Halls. Estimates suggest that as many as 30% of Village Halls may not survive the huge hike in energy costs. The village hall committee is focused on doing its best to ensure our village hall doesn't meet a similar fate. Significant funding will be needed to cover the capital costs of installing the panels etc and the committee is starting to scope out possible grant-makers to which we could apply. We would be very happy to hear from anyone with suggestions, or who would be willing to help with the fundraising process.

It was agreed at the AGM that from January 2023 all groups and individuals would be charged for bookings with the relevant discounts available to villagers and for village events. We are pleased to say that for now hire rates will stay the same, with a review scheduled for early spring.

David Thomas

Getting to Know . . . . Catherine Gibson

What is your full name and where were you born?

Catherine Rebecca Gibson (nee Leach). I'm glad I took George's surname, otherwise I would have been Catherine Leach from Reach.



I was about 3 here outside the wooden cottage I grew up in, in Exbury

Which schools did you attend and did you enjoy them?

I went to Beaulieu Primary School in the New Forest and then The Godolphin School, Salisbury. I have very happy memories of school and lots of good friends including Thomasina who also lives in Reach.



Thomasina and I in our early twenties . . . .

How did you come to live in Reach and when?

George and I were looking for somewhere to live when we moved up to Exning in 2010. He used to drink in the Dyke's End when Simon and Frank owned it and in 2013 he heard in there that the owners of our house might be looking to sell. After hearing this I put a note through the door asking them to get in touch if they were interested …the rest is history. We bought the pub and started running that before we moved into the house.

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

George and I got married in Blisland, Cornwall (where we were living at the time) in 2007. The photo shows us at the start of the walk home from the church, on one of my favourite walks across the Lavethan valley. All our friends and family did the half mile walk with us in their finery.



Where do you work and what do you do?

I work part-time as a non-exec director for my family business which is a hotel company, based in the New Forest and North Wales. I also coach The Thrive Programme, which teaches people how to build strong stable mental health and learn to Thrive.

Do you have any pets?

We have 2 dogs, 6 chickens (at the time of writing), 2 ponies, one falabella (a miniature horse) and 2 tortoises.

Do you have any children?

We have two girls, Eleanor13 and Hannah 11. Both are increasingly into riding and we have their ponies at home in our paddock since the middle of the summer.



Us a few years ago when we were on the top of a church tower overlooking the Norfolk Broads

What if any hobbies do you have?

I enjoy reading, cooking and walking.

What do you enjoy about living in Reach?

There are so many things to enjoy about living in Reach and I feel very fortunate to live here. I think the Green creates a sociable atmosphere within the village – with lots centered around it. It's great having one of my best friends around the corner. I love the variety of walks/hacks/runs/landscapes that we have on our doorstep and having the luxury to take different routes each time I go out. I'm grateful that we still have a pub and so many people who are willing to contribute towards the active community which exists here.



Me with my brother Robert when I was 10 or so

What is your philosophy in life?

Enjoy the moment as much as you can...it's not coming back!

Content by **Catherine**, compiled by **Karen Carpenter**.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

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

The majority of our applications come from pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on the state pension.

This year, with the very difficult financial climate, help to others may be required.

So if you are in need of help or know someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance and we can confirm that all applications will be dealt with confidentially.

Applicants can apply to me or to any Trustee – one of whom is Reach resident Nick Acklam.

And we can also confirm that assistance is available at all times during the year, not just at Christmas.

Pam Waters

Clerk to the Trustees
01638 741035



Nature in Reach



The glorious autumn colours seem like a distant memory as I write this. With our Indian summer swiftly replaced with torrential rain. Morning dog walks have become more functional affairs with less time to admire the views. We did get out to Tubney Fen for a couple of viewings of the starling murmuration - always a lovely spectacle.



Sightings from **Nick Acklam**

5 October: Large flocks of Redwings (50 or so birds) moving south west along the hedges that bound the un-metalled stretch of Barston Drove. My first sighting of Redwings or Fieldfares this season.

6 October: It is a mast year for the large, squat oak by the entrance to the Pocket Park. On our morning walk we startle three Jays gathering acorns that have fallen from it.

11 October: Two Buzzards perched on adjacent electricity pylons to the west of Straight Drove. One calls at length, presumably to the other, before both fly off towards Swan Lake.

13 October: Three Kestrels circle above Fair Green riding a thermal on what is a bright autumn day. The black under-tail bar is very visible on one of the birds.

17 October: A mixed flock of a dozen Goldfinches and two Greenfinches perch noisily in the lime tree in our garden. The red and yellows of their plumage is caught by the late afternoon sun.

18 October: A slight grass frost on Tubney Fen. Several Green Woodpeckers are visible and audible in the neighbouring avenues of willows.

20 October: 28 Whooper Swans are present at the top of Straight Drove, occupying the same fen-soil field that hosted more than a hundred swans last winter. Their presence is brief and I have not seen them again. This year the field in question has been drilled with wheat whereas last winter it contained the remnants of a sugar beet crop. I suspect that the pickings are thinner this year and the birds have found better forage elsewhere.

Sightings from **Joss Goodchild**

Ron and Penny Greenhill saw a red kite in their garden, very close to, its plumage and beak clearly visible. A sparrowhawk also visits, it's not an entirely welcome bird of prey when resident garden birds become casualties. Penny noted the very obvious difference in feather colouring on a handsome pair of mallards on the Lode (24 Nov).

9.10. Jay in our garden, these colourful crows squirrel away as many as 5,000 acorns in Autumn.

20.10 Great spotted woodpecker on our peanut feeder.

Kestrels, several, in and around Great Lane.

Jaqui Lewis mentioned a sparrowhawk visits her Great Lane garden so frequently now that the every day birds have taken fright and disappeared. Her neighbour, Ali Kohlman, said their garden birds were also noticeably reduced.

Groups of roe deer in fields near High Cloud Stud, Burwell Road.

An adult hedgehog, Great Lane.

Finally, a lovely report from **Luke Mercer**

Since the birth of my daughter last month, I've been awake at some unusual times of the night and on Sunday the 16th October at about 1:30am I took my dog out for a few minutes before finally going to bed.

I often look into the Lode with my headtorch while out with the dog as there are usually fish to look at and just as I crossed the bridge from Great Lane onto Blackberry Droveway I saw some bright eyes reflecting back at me from the river. It was an otter, which I watched for a minute or so as it headed up towards Reach Port. I've seen signs of them in the area over the last year, but this is the first otter I've seen in Reach Lode. Since that night I've been taking my camera out with me on my evening dog walk.



Until Luke gets his photo, here's one [Ed]

Cath Tayleur

Wicken Fen

Winter wildlife

Water levels are starting to rise on the reserve following a long period of very dry weather. We're hoping that we'll soon start to see numbers of wildfowl increase on the wetter areas of Baker's, Burwell and Tubney Fens. Look out for whooper swans on Baker's Fen and winter thrushes feeding on the last of the autumn berries around the reserve.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Wicken Fen is open every day except Christmas Day. The Visitor Centre is open from 10am to 4:30pm, and the Docky Hut Café from 10am to 4pm.

Join us over the festive season for some peace and tranquillity, and to enjoy time with family and friends. There are lots of options for nature walks – our Visitor Centre team will be happy to help suggest the best route for your visit.



Stone chat at Wicken Fen by Richard Nicoll

Festive Winter Woodland Trail

You may remember our popular 12 Days of Christmas trail from a couple of years ago, which featured amazing displays created from natural materials by our volunteers. We're creating another trail this year featuring woodland wildlife, so do join us over the festive period to enjoy fun, family activities and quirky characters along the Woodland Walk route.

The trail is free (admission fees apply for non-National Trust members) and will be open from Saturday 26 November throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Volunteer opportunities

We are planning a volunteer recruitment day on Saturday 28 January – keep the date if you're interested in volunteering at Wicken Fen. We will be recruiting for roles including: cottage and fen workshop volunteers, family discovery guides, walk leaders and outreach talks volunteers. Keep an eye out for further information on our website and social media channels.

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen
Details of our events can be found on our website at https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on

Julia Hammond



Anglesey Abbey



Christmas has arrived at Anglesey Abbey. Visit us from the 1 December 2022- 2 January 2023, to see the ground floor of the house fully dressed for Christmas. Don't miss the showstopper tree in the Tapestry Hall, a perfect spot to stop and take photos. The dining table will be dressed with foliage and food, and the domestic wing will give a sense of everyone getting ready for Christmas. House entry is via pre-booked ticket only, head to our website to book your ticket and enjoy Christmas at Anglesey Abbey.

You can make the most of yuletide at Anglesey Abbey with festive performances by local bands and choirs in the turning circle to help you get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy festive treats and the Christmas lunch menu in Redwoods starting on 28 November. Start your Christmas shopping in the knowledge that every purchase helps us look after Anglesey Abbey, with hand-selected gifts, local jewellery and stocking fillers available in the Shop.

Out in the wider estate, the sensory delights of the Winter Garden are in full swing, delicate scents and vibrant colours are a season must-see at Anglesey Abbey. Families can enjoy a wintry adventure down to the Woodland Play area, spin the wheel to see what you'll get up to this winter!

Our annual fundraiser, Winter Lights, is launching on Friday 9 December, running for 13 consecutive nights. Alongside a variety of artists and performers we'll be continuing our partnership with local author Robert MacFarlane, and illustrator Jackie Morris. The Lost Words and The Lost Spells poems, music and illustrations will thread throughout the experience. Magical projections of Jackie's nature illustrations created by the award-winning projectionist team Ross Ashton and Karen Monid, as well as new versions of songs and poems from the books throughout the route. Talented independent street food vendors will be nestled in the Orchard area to refuel after your night-time adventures with the many tempting treats on offer. Limited tickets remain, so head to the website to book your ticket now and keep an eye on our social media pages for all the latest updates.

In January and February 2023, Snowdrop season begins! Our specialist collection tours will be available via pre-booked ticket, more information is available on our website, or speak to a member of the team to find out how you can learn more about the conservation and care of this incredible flower at Anglesey Abbey.

For all the latest news, visit our website and social media pages.

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

Twitter | Facebook | Instagram
nationaltrust.org.uk/AngleseyAbbey



GIVE THEM THE GIFT OF THE QUY MILL

step into A QUY MILL Spring...

Afternoon Tea



Our quintessentially English treats include a selection of handmade cakes and pastries, delicious sandwiches and homemade scones with clotted cream and jam – all served with a pot of tea or coffee.

Sunday Lunch



Sit back, relax and enjoy a Quy traditional Sunday lunch of locally sourced seasonal fayre. Served in our award winning 2 star Rosette, The Waterwheel restaurant.

V.I.P. (Valentine's Indulge Package)



Includes prosecco & chocolates in the room, rose petals on the bed, cooked breakfast, 4 course dinner for 2 with a glass of wine/bubbly/beer, aromatherapy bath for 2 or 30 minutes p/p spa treatment, and health club facilities.

Overnight Stays



Inclusive of breakfast, complimentary use of leisure facilities, free parking and free Wi-Fi, with easy access to Cambridge.

Spa two-night Indulge Package



Includes dinner on the first night, a full English breakfast each morning, leisure facilities, a 30 minute treatment per person and choice of mud serial or aromatherapy bath.

...with a gift voucher (or treat yourself?)

Your voucher has been beautifully designed, for you to print at home. Your voucher will be emailed to you, and can be presented on a smartphone to be redeemed.



Terms and conditions apply. Visit website for details.

quy mill hotel & spa

BOOK NOW AT: cambridgequymill.co.uk
01223 293383
Church Road, Stow-cum-Quy, Cambridge CB25 9AF

Cricket Report

Sunday 11 September Reach (143-2) beat Sharks (142-8) by 8 wickets

The Sharks may have given the Mayor of Amity Island a run for his money, but they were never really in this one. Much as they tried on a damp pudding of a pitch, they struggled to bare their teeth. To give them a chance, Reach deployed its full bowling line-up, but they merely nibbled away, reaching 142-8 off their 40 overs. Wickets were generously shared around, with Alex Rowell's 2 for 14 off six overs the top performance. Unusually, Reach failed to suffer a batting collapse and achieved the target with 10 overs to spare and with 8 wickets in hand -- Tim Davies notching up a customary half century.

Sunday 18 September Spartan CC (233 all out) beat Reach (149 all out) by 84 runs

With our planned opponents dropping out, we were forced to look around for another team at short notice. When they turned up and fixed a video camera at long on, some of the Reach team complained that it was all a set-up to embarrass them. Treacherously dusty ground conditions in the crease at the village end took its toll of Reach bowlers, although the video clip of one poor soul taking a tumble did generate some cruel entertainment for viewers of a Twitter feed by the same of That's So Village (an unexpected catch at gully by the same player was unfortunately caught just out of the frame of the camera). By the end, a bruised Reach side did at least achieve the moral victory of dismissing Spartan on the very last appointed ball of their innings. After a week's absence, the institution of the Reach batting collapse was restored – although Ben Cooke did restore some respect with a personal best of 35 runs.

Sunday 25 September White Walkers (227-7) beat Reach (147 all out) by 80 runs

Another week, another visiting team from the hinterland of the M25 -- and an almost identical scoreline to the last one. The only difference this time was that our opponents apparently had Alistair Cook on their side – though he wasn't the real one. In spite of 69 runs from Ewen Cameron, the Reach innings fizzled into nothingness.

Awards for the 2022 season . . . .

Player of the year **Tim Davies**

Gentleman of the Year **Phil Kingsmill**

Champagne moment **Ross Clark**

for his tumble while bowling against the Spartans

Ross Clark

Get to Know Robinson and Claydon Vehicle Services

Where are we?

We are based at Spring Hall Farm on Great Lane in Reach. This was my Grandparents farm who have been here for over 50 years. When I started on my own I was lucky enough to have a family who wanted to support me and helped me grow the old farm building into what is now our workshop



Darren Claydon, Harvey Robinson and Tom Rodbard

.

Who are we?

We are myself, Harvey Robinson and Darren Claydon who are the Directors of the company. We also have an apprentice called Tom who has been with us just over a year, gaining more experience and confidence each day. My wife, Lucy Robinson deals with all the admin and front office work.

How long have we been trading?

We opened our doors early 2020 which was probably the hardest 6 months, not knowing what our future would bring. Fortunately, our business has grown from strength to strength and we are now able to offer a wide range of services.

What services do we offer?

With two mechanics who have over 30 years' experience combined under their belts, there isn't much that the workshop can't handle. We work on a wide range of cars and light commercial vehicles. We offer routine services, MOT repairs, tyres, electric/hybrid repairs, diagnostics, air-con re-gasses and all other types of repairs. We can also offer local breakdown, diagnosis and repairs with our workshop service van. We offer free collection and delivery to surrounding villages and have courtesy vehicles available if needed.

We look forward to serving you in the future, for full contact details see our advert on the facing page.

Harvey Robinson


ROBINSON & CLAYDON
VEHICLE SERVICES
SPRING HALL FARM
GREAT LANE
REACH CB25 0JF
01638741426
randcvs@gmail.com
SERVICE•MOT
TYRES•REPAIRS
AIR-CON REGAS
www.robinsonsservicingandrepairs.co.uk

Tales from a Reach Garden



The mild autumn weather we enjoyed in September and October is becoming wetter, cooler and gloomier in November. Winter is coming. The grass which dried out in Summer is lush, tall and too damp to mow now. Areas which had been de-weeded in the spring are looking like wild meadows.

In spring we usually find that a lot of the weeds develop after the vegetable beds have been enriched with well-rotted manure or home-made compost. I have to say I'm amazed at the wide variety of plants that horses are willing to ingest! The seeds work their way through the horse's digestive tract and eventually germinate in our vegetable beds. Often, I'm pulling up "Fat Hen", "Good King Henry" and nettles (both dead and irritating) growing amid the vegetables, although if they are growing amid the spinach and chard, young plants of Fat Hen and Good King Henry will end up in the pot along with the spinach, to which they are closely related and used to be grown widely as leafy vegetables long before spinach was introduced to these shores.

The seeds that germinate from our home-made compost are different. Our home-made compost includes the remains of vegetables from our kitchen waste. I'm often pulling up small tomato plants that have germinated in summer from tomato seeds that have, somehow, survived the heat from the composting process. This year we had an oddity which developed at the end of a bed which had been set aside for growing-on kale and cabbages. I left half of the bed free so that the kale could be transplanted there to allow the thinned-out cabbages to have more space to grow. In May, I noticed a strange-looking plant growing in the unplanted side of the cabbage bed, a weed seedling from some who-knows-what looking like it may be a squash, possibly a courgette, a cucumber perhaps, or could even be a melon plant. We left it there to grow, went away for a holiday at the beginning of June and when we returned it was much bigger and putting out flowers which looked like a courgette or pumpkin…a weed squash. It continued to grow and flourished in the July heat.





Unexpected squash in the cabbage area, growing well in July

The fruits of this squash looked like courgettes, but they were very pale in colour, which wasn't anything we had grown before. We picked one and cooked it. It was very like courgette but paler and the skin was slightly thicker, closer to a pattypan in texture.

We left the other fruits on this plant to grow and through most of summer they remained very pale in colour but growing like ever-larger marrows. Richard called them the Zeppelins since they looked very much like the hydrogen-filled, lighter-than-air craft, developed during the first world war that we'd seen in pictures. Eventually in early September, the skins of our "Zeppelin" squash became creamier in colour and developed yellow and green markings and stripes.



We left them growing where they were, only harvesting them in October at the same time as all the other pumpkins and winter squash, and treated them as such. When harvested they weighed about 2 to 3 kg each, which is good enough for a few meals! When it was time to use one in cooking, we realised that the outer skin was much tougher than expected – not like a marrow at all.

However, the flesh was like a pale pumpkin and it held its shape in soups and vegetable stews. It wasn't as sweet as pumpkin or marrow for that matter.



It's definitely a squash and not a marrow!

I'm aware that courgettes, pumpkins, butternuts and other squash are very closely related and can be cross-fertilized by bees very easily. So I suspect our weed squash is a cross between a courgette and one of the "fiesta" squash we grew last year – we've grown them this year too. Fiesta squash are relatively smaller, but perfect for stuffing with a mix of vegetables, or cheese and leeks and baking whole, one stuffed squash per person.

Danuta Gibson



The Dyke's End

We have new Winter menus, below is our **Saturday Evening** offering. To see all our menus please go to our website at: www.dykesendreach.co.uk.

1 course £17.50 | 2 courses £23.50
3 courses £28.50

Starters

Roasted parsnip soup with crème fraîche

Dyke's End prawn cocktail

Goats cheese with beetroot, toasted walnuts, honey

Mains

Ribeye steak, fries, cherry tomatoes, bearnaise butter +£3 sup.

Turkey kyiv, cranberry sauce, fries, salad

Fish pie (cod, smoked salmon, prawns, brown shrimp), seasonal greens

Cassoulet with Blythburgh pork sausages or chestnuts, haricot beans, garlic bread

Dyke's End vegetable lasagne, fries, salad

Puddings

Apple, cinnamon and blackcurrant crumble, vanilla ice cream

Festive sticky toffee pudding, butterscotch sauce, vanilla ice cream

Christmas pudding with brandy butter or custard

Vanilla and chocolate ice cream with caramel sauce and toasted hazelnuts

Following a request from John Cole's family, we will happily be opening at 1.00am on Friday 9th of December.

And finally, we have a new attraction at the pub – a bar billiards table! It's gone down really well and nicely occupies the space off the back of the bar area. Why not come along and enjoy.

Dan and Ruth

743816 dykesendpub@gmail.com

Food Focus

Recipes for great metabolic health



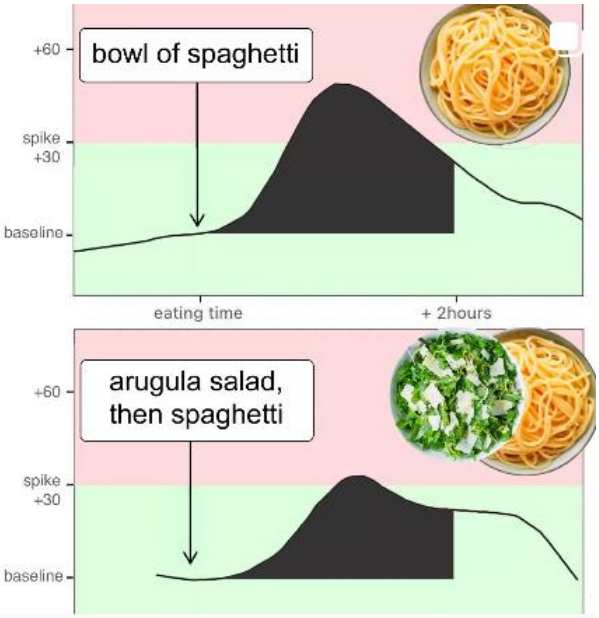
I write this late, as usual, but somewhat relevantly for a pre-Christmas article, from a metabolic health retreat near Bath that I have had the privilege of being invited to – for free. I am very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be a guinea pig at Combe Grove which is launching its metabolic health programmes in January 2023 and grateful to George that I have had the opportunity to come on this six day programme alone, leaving a logistical puzzle of drop offs, pick-ups and diabetes for him to juggle between drilling.

The gradient of my learning curve since Eleanor was diagnosed Type 1 two years ago has been steep, so I now have a far greater understanding of insulin and its properties than most, but it seems there is still a lot more to learn. One of the first things I've learnt more about is that we can all make a lot of difference to our post blood glucose levels/spikes by eating vegetables or salad before our meal. Because Eleanor wears a blood glucose monitor which reads her blood sugar every 5 minutes we have the opportunity to observe the difference. I've just started following the Glucose Goddess (on Instagram) for top tips and hers are shown below:

- Eat a savoury breakfast rather than a sweet one
- When you eat sugar have it as desert after a meal rather than on an empty stomach
- Add a vegetable starter to all of your meals
- When it's easy during a meal, eat the vegetables first, protein and fats second, starches and sugars last
- Go for a 10 minute walk (or use your muscles in another way) after meals
- Before eating, when you feel like it, drink a tablespoon of cider vinegar diluted in a glass of water.

To understand why this is the case – see her book The Glucose Revolution or her Instagram posts; there are lots of explanations and scientific evidence to back it up.

Something which occurred to me when I started thinking about all of this is that it seems the Mediterranean approach of crudités in France, anti-pasta in Italy and tapas in Spain pre meals may actually have a major function in improving blood sugar control…and maybe food order as well as content make an important contribution to the Mediterranean diets position at the top of the charts for healthiest diets.



To see an example of what happens to blood sugar after a meal when eating a salad, first see the curves above.

Below are a few examples of salads that you could try pre meals from the Glucose Goddess' page.

1. Greens, baked pumpkin + pesto + camembert cheese by @long.live.ann

2. Greens, radishes, cherry tomatoes, bell pepper, soybean sprouts, spring onion, cilantro, eggplant + nuts + sesame dressing by @gatoenlacocina

3. Greens, roasted beetroot + feta + walnuts by @cookingwithcoit

4. Baby spinach, bell pepper, red onion + avocado + flaked salmon + feta + oil & balsamic vinegar by @downshiftology

5. Bell peppers, cucumbers, grated carrots, greens + Olive Tapenade + tahini/balsamic dressing by @pickuplimes

6. Lettuce, peppers, cucumbers, carrots + avocado + eggs + pine nuts by @corinna.on.the.run

7. Mozzarella, sliced & balls + tomatoes, arugula + oil & balsamic vinegar by @thehealthyphilosophy

8. Spinach, cherry tomatoes + eggs + bacon bites + blue cheese + red wine vinegar by @collegenutritionist

9. Carrot + avocado + dill + lemon by @biancapeyvan

Catherine Gibson

Advertisers List

CATEGORY	Page
Accommodation	
Hilary's Cottage, Swaffham Prior	5
The Meadow House, Burwell	5
Architectural Drawings	
Ely Design Group	6
Cars	
Manchetts Service and Repair	6
Robinson and Claydon Vehicle Services	Mag
Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning	
Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning	15
Chimney Sweep	
Brush Electric Sweep	7
NCS	3
Chiropodist	
Stepwise Footcare	11
Cleaning	
Hazel's Cleaning Services	10
Computing	
Burwell Computers	10
Dental Services	
Chapel Dental	4
Dry Cleaners	
Tina's, Burwell	11
Electricians	
Cartwright Brothers	2
Engineering Services	
N & G Marsh of Burwell	5
Financial Services	
Independent Financial Solutions	7
Food and Drink	
The Dyke's End	
The Quy Mill Hotel and Spa	Mag
Funeral Directors	
Southgates	13
Gardens and Gardening	
AJJ Gardening Services	4
C.R. Contracting	6
C W Kirk Lawnmowers	15
D-Branch	14
Four Seasons Tree Services	3
John Reed Landscape Gardener	8
Summit Landscaping	12
Gifts and Interiors	
Honeysuckle and Hawthorn	8
Tina's, Burwell	11

CATEGORY	Page
Haberdashery and Mending	
Tina's, Burwell	11
Leisure	
Bottisham Sports Centre	16
T'ai Chi Chuan Classes	2
Oil	
Browns of Burwell	10
East Cambs Services	12
Paul Braybrooke Oil Boiler Service	16
Painting and Decorating	
Andy Pumfrey Painter and Decorator	11
Pest Control	
D-Branch	14
Plumbing and Heating	
Drain-Plumb Plumbing, Heating and Drain Services	9
East Cambs Services	12
Harrison Plumbing and Heating	9
NCS	8
Saniclean Drain and Plumbing Services	7
Pharmacy	
Pharmacy2Go	2
Pre-School	
Red House Day Nursery, Burwell	16
Roller Shutter Doors	
Garolla	2
Roofing	
Kennedy Roofing	12
Taxis	
Burwell Private Hire	14
Window Cleaners	
K. Wells and Son	15
Woodwork	
Paul Waldmann Woodwork	14

Advertising Rates

£38 for a quarter page (w 90mm, h 120mm), **£68** for a half page (w 180mm, h 120mm) or £128 for a full page, per year (6 issues)

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

COLLECT YOUR MEDICATION

ANYTIME IN 20 SECONDS!

or FREE delivery to your home

NHS Providing NHS services



Pharmacy2Go have recently installed one of the first free standing Prescription Collection Machines in England, which allows customers to pick up their medication 24 hours a day 7 days a week in Newmarket

ALL GP SURGERIES INCLUDED

See what our customers say about us.....

"This is probably the best and most reliable service I have ever used. I'm absolutely blown away by how efficient they've been. I've since recommended them to my friends and family who've had the same experience."

Don't miss out

Join NHS approved Pharmacy2Go

The highest-ranking local pharmacy, based in Newmarket, achieving a 96% satisfaction rating on Google

Telephone our friendly staff on 01638 661 449 or
Email us at: Pharmacy2go@hotmail.com or
Register at: Pharmacy2go.co.uk

Suite 6 Lyndon House, King's Court, Newmarket CB8 7SG



From £895* for a fully fitted electric garage door.
WAS £1,354 INCLUDING VAT.
Gotta get a Garolla.

Trustpilot 4.8 out of 5 | Over 3,500+ reviews

WHAT'S INCLUDED WITH EVERY DOOR:
- EXPERT MEASURING & FITTING
- 2 REMOTE CONTROLS
- ACOUSTIC & THERMAL INSULATION
- FREE DISPOSAL OF YOUR OLD DOOR
- AVAILABLE IN 21 COLOURS

Garolla garage doors are expertly made to measure in our own UK factories, they're strong and solidly built. The electric Garolla door rolls up vertically, taking up only 8 inches inside your garage, maximising valuable space.

Give us a call today and we'll come and measure up completely FREE of charge.

GAROLLA ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS
www.garolla.co.uk

CALL US TODAY ON:
01638 280 047
MOBILE:
07537 149 128

LINES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

*Offer valid for openings up to 2.4m wide & including 2 remote controls, 55mm white slats, internal manual override.

T'ai Chi Chuan Classes

Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Prior and Ely



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

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

Monday: Swaffham Prior Village Hall
10am - 11am Forever Active Chen Style (£5)
11am - 12pm T'ai Chi Health (£5)
5pm - 6.30pm Beijing 24 Step T'ai Chi Chuan (£8)

Wednesday Morning: Burwell Sports Centre
9.45am - 10.45am Improvers 24 Step (£3.50)
11 am - 12pm Beginners T'ai Chi Health (£3.50)

Wednesday Afternoon: Reach Village Hall
12.30pm - 1.30pm Chen Style and Yiquan (£5)

Thursday: Paradise Sports Centre Ely
10am – 11am Beijing 24 Step T'ai Chi Chuan (£4)
(Part of the Keep Active Ely sessions)

Contact Instructor Faradena Afifi (Fara) for more information
Phone: 07919857617 Email: faradena@yahoo.co.uk

www.grey-heron.com


T'ai Chi Health


Beijing 24 Step


Yiquan


Chen Style

NEWMARKET Cartwright BROTHERS est:1929

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

- *Consumer Unit Repairs & Replacement*
- *Electric Sockets and Lights*
- *Electrical Installation Condition Reports*
- *Electric Vehicle Charging Point Installers*
- *NICIEC registered*

CARTWRIGHT BROTHERS
40 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8LB
01638 662436 cartwright.bros@icloud.com
www.cartwrightbrothers.co.uk

FOUR SEASONS TREE SERVICES

Qualified and Professional Tree and Client Care

Pruning
Lopping
Felling
Overgrown Gardens fixed
Planting
Reducing and Reshaping
Crown Raising

Pollarding
Stump Removals
Thinning
Fruit Trees Treated
Hedge Trimming
Log and Sales
Woodchip Sales

Free Estimates and Advice

01353 721665 or **07771 707921**

All work is carried out to BS 3998 Standard

CHIMNEY SWEEP

- Full Clean and Sweep
- All Stoves Fitted
- Clean and Safe
- High Quality Cleaning Tools
- Removal of Birds Nests
- Bird Guards Fitted
- Insect Mesh, Pots & Cowls
- Smoke Pressure Test

WITH 7 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



N.C.S
CHIMNEY SWEEP & PLUMBING SERVCES



PLUMBING SERVICES

- Full Kitchen & Bathroom Installations
- Plumbing Repairs & Installations
- Leaking Taps
- Showers, Electric & Power
- Radiators
- Gutters cleaning
- Manhole Covers
- Outside Water Taps
- Appliance Installation

All General Plumbing Work Undertaken ALWAYS A GREAT PRICE

fill in our online form for **10% OFF YOUR NEXT VISIT**

Your local Chimney Sweep and Plumbing Services; **8 Highclere Close, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7RR**

For further information please visit our website
ncsnewmarket.co.uk

GET IN TOUCH

t. 01638 662760 m. 078 24 72 72 77
or email ncs.newmarket@yahoo.co.uk

AJJ GARDENING SERVICES

07800 838276

ANDREW JUDD

General Garden Maintenance

Grass Cutting

Hedge Trimming

Rotavating

Planting

Fencing

Based in Reach, Cambridgeshire 07800 838276
ajjgardenservices@gmail.com

CHAPEL DENTAL

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

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

We are currently accepting Denplan/Private patients.

Our opening hours are Monday-Friday 09:00-17:00 plus Saturday 09.00-15:00 for our Denplan/Private patients.



Chapel Dental 84 Angle End, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge CB21 5JG
Tel: 01223 881611 **Web:** www.chapel.dental **Email:** chapeldental2017@gmail.com



The Meadow House

Superior Bed & Breakfast Accommodation

- En-suite rooms available
- Colour TV and tea-making facilities
- Large car park and grounds
- Family rooms, children welcomed
- Open all year
- Fire certificate/no smoking
- English Tourist Board 4 Diamonds



Brian and Hilary Marsh
Tel: 01638 741926 **Web:** www.themeadowhouse.co.uk **Email:** hilary@themeadowhouse.co.uk

Hilary's Cottage

Swaffham Prior, near Cambridge



- Detached holiday cottage
- Located in the lovely village of Swaffham Prior
- Sleeps up to six people in three bedrooms
- Two bathrooms, one en-suite
- Small secluded garden
- Car parking
- Available for short breaks or longer lets

Brian and Hilary Marsh
Tel: 01638 741926 **Web:** www.themeadowhouse.co.uk (and follow the link) **Email:** hilary@themeadowhouse.co.uk

N and G Marsh

For all your metalwork requirements

- Welding Services
- Mower Repairs
- Handrails
- Tow Bars
- Security Bars
- Metal Railings
- Gates
- RSJs Supplied

Services to the Building Industry
Tractors and Agricultural Machinery Repaired

N and G Marsh of Burwell **Tel:** 01638 741354 or 741926 Mob: 07519 493664 Web: www.neg-marsh.co.uk

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

FOR

PLANNING & BUILDING REGULATION APPLICATIONS

EXTENSIONS, ALTERATIONS, LOFT CONVERSIONS ETC

CONTACT US now to arrange a **FREE** on-site meeting at your convenience to discuss your project

01353 649649
mail@elydesigngroup.co.uk

ELY DESIGN GROUP
www.elydesigngroup.co.uk

C.R. Contracting

Landscaping Services



- *Grass Cutting*
- *Hedge Trimming*
- *Paving and Turfing*
- *Scrub Clearance*

Craig Reader
01638 742588 or 07801 415509
crcontracting@btinternet.com

MANCHETTS Burwell

BMW · Mercedes · Audi · Fiat · Skoda · Land Rover · Vauxhall · Chrysler · Ford · KIA · Renault · Peugeot · Citroën · Nissan · Toyota · Volkswagen

Service & repair centre for all makes & models.
Exhausts, clutches, cambelts, diagnostics,
courtesy cars available.
Local collection & delivery for MOT's

01638 744581
1 Ness Road Burwell Cambs CB25 0AA
www.manchetts.co.uk

R. Bristley
9 Collings Place Newmarket

SANICLEAN DRAIN AND PLUMBING SERVICE

Drains unblocked fast
Toilets, baths and sinks
Guttering and downpipes
High pressure water jetting
Domestic and industrial
All work guaranteed
Drain repairs and CCTV surveys



Tel: 01638 662439

Mobile: 07970 038404

R. Bristley
9 Collings Place Newmarket

BRUSH ELECTRIC SWEEP

All chimneys swept
Solid fuel, oil and gas
Stoves repaired
Carpets cleaned
Competitive prices
Very clean
Family business
Cowls, nets and pots fitted



Classic Wedding Car Hire
White 1972 Citroen DS21

Tel: 01638 662439

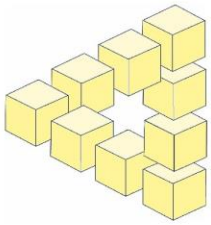
Mobile: 07970 038404

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

You know that the State Pension is not enough, but you don't know what it will provide!
You want to save for your retirement, but you don't know what you will need!
You wish to protect your family against financial disaster, but don't know what cover you require!
You need to make your money work hard, but don't know which option is best for you!
You would like to reduce your tax bill, but you don't know how! *

Whether you own a company, are self employed, employed or retired, we can help!
We don't believe in adding to your problems.
We believe in clear and simple solutions.
Let us provide you with an **INDEPENDENT** review of your financial situation.

The value of investments and income from them may go down. You may not get back the original amount invested.



*** Tax treatment is based on individual circumstances and may be subject to change in the future.**

Tel: 01638 615343 or Fax: 01638 615342
E-Mail: qc@independent-financialsolutions.co.uk
Website: www.independent-financialsolutions.co.uk

Newnham Farmhouse, 16 Low Road, Burwell, Cambs. CB25 0EJ
Partners: Quentin Cooke (authorised Independent Financial Adviser) & Alison Cooke

HONEYSUCKLE & HAWTHORN

Bespoke Interiors & Gifts



HONEYSUCKLE AND HAWTHORN
Bespoke Interiors and Gifts

Stockists for:

- *Tweedmill Textiles*
- *St Eval Candle Company of Cornwall*
- *Bree Merryn (Yorkshire artist)*
- *DCUK – the original wooden duck company*
- *Paper Creations by Di*
- *East of India*
- *And many more . . . .*

07855 683926 info@honeysuckleandhawthorn
www.honeysuckleandhawthorn.co.uk **Instagram:** #honeysuckleandhawthorn

John Reed

Landscape Gardener

- Fencing
- Garden Maintenance
- Lawns
- Patios
- Pruning



Estimates Given

12 Swaffham Road, Reach CB25 0HZ **Tel:** 01638 742140 or 07778 406366

HARRISON PLUMBING AND HEATING

GAS SAFETY REGISTERED

All Plumbing, Heating and Drain Services

7 Ness Road, Burwell, Cambridge CB25 0AA

Tel: *01638 742873*
Mobile: *07932 773515*
Email: *harrisonsofburwell@gmail.com*

Nigel Harrison



DRAIN-PLUMB

Plumbing Heating & Drain Services

BLOCKED DRAINS CLEARED

- Home Buyers CCTV Drain & Plumbing Surveys
- All Plumbing & Heating Repairs/Alterations
- All work Guaranteed

TEL: 01638 742873
MOBILE: 07932 773515

7 NESS ROAD.
BURWELL
CAMBRIDGE. CB25 0AA

BURWELL COMPUTERS

SUPPORT • SALES • REPAIRS

01638 505930

07901 556895

support@burwellcomputers.co.uk

www.burwellcomputers.co.uk

HAZEL'S CLEANING SERVICES

Office and Domestic Cleaning

Prompt and Reliable Service

References Available

Tel: 01353 727772

Mobile: 07786 972475

BROWNS OF BURWELL

Tel: 01638 741306
Email: sales@brownsofburwell.co.uk
Web: www.brownsofburwell.co.uk

OFTEC Registered Technician

Fuel Oil Suppliers for the Home, Farm and Industry
Lubricants, Bottled Gas and Pre-Packed Coal

Oftec Registered tank suppliers and installers
Compliant with all the new rules and regulations

Better service and better prices
Its what you deserve from your local supplier

STEPWISE FOOTCARE

Vivien Honeyborne-Martins

MA(Cantab) BSc(Hons) MChS HPC Registered

Clinic-based Chiropody/Podiatry

- *Chiropody*
- *Children's foot problems*
- **Lunula Laser™** *fungal nail treatment*
- **Swift Microwave** *for verrucas*
- *Biomechanical assessment*
- **MotionMetrix** *clinical gait analysis*
- **MotionMetrix 3D Running Analysis**
- **SIDAS** *bespoke orthotic insoles*

The Burwellness Centre

10 Ness Road, Burwell, Cambridge, CB25 0AA

Tel: 01638 741973 stepwise-footcare.co.uk

TINA'S

01638 742785

Email: tinasburwell@hotmail.co.uk

Helium Balloons, Crafts and Gifts.

Knitting yarns,

Haberdashery,

Agent for: Dry Cleaning,

Clothing Alterations,

And MORE!

Mon - Fri. 08:30-17:00

Sat. 09:00-16:00

Sun. Closed

1, North Street

Burwell

Cambridge CB25 OBA

Andy Pumfrey

Painter and Decorator

A courteous, polite and considerate service at all times.
Please call to discuss your requirements

Tel: 01638 741376

Mobile: 07880 625159

Email: andypumfrey99@gmail.com

10 High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD

East Cambs Services

PLUMBING AND HEATING, OIL BOILER SERVICING

BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS, POWER FLUSHING

NEW BOILER INSTALLATIONS BOILER BREAKDOWNS

OIL TANK CHANGES, MAINTENANCE

ENQUIRIES and EMAIL
eastcambsservices@gmail.com

TEL: 01353 725171
MOB: 07813 536772
East Cambs Services

SUMMIT

LANDSCAPES

PAVING - DRIVEWAYS - BRICKWORK
CARPENTRY - GROUNDWORKS



www.landscapingpaving.co.uk
PHONE: 01223-929394

KENNEDY

ROOFING

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

Free Estimates and Advice
Tel: 01638 745464 or 741921
Mobile: 07737 368991

NATIONAL SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

SOUTHGATE OF NEWMARKET

A local family owned business offering personal attention and understanding

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

J.A. Fuller, T.D. Fuller, P.S. Fuller DipFD.

25 Duchess Drive
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 8AG
01638 662480 (24Hour Service)

Private Chapels of Rest
Floral Tributes and Memorial Masonry arranged
Golden Charter Pre-Payment Plans available
Traditional Horse Drawn Hearse a dignified alternative









D-Branch
Rodent Control Services

Professional control of rats and mice in domestic premises.

- BASIS/BPCA Certified
- CRRU UK Code of Best Practice for Rodent Control and the Safe Use of Rodenticides

We provide the following services:

- Surveys
- Control, eradication and removal
- Proofing

Honest, trustworthy and reliable service.

Call to arrange a visit with an onsite inspection and assessment.

Let us protect your home

telephone: 07879 308822
email: d_branch.services@btinternet.com

D-Branch
Garden & Home Maintenance Service

Professional care and maintenance of your garden and home.

For your garden our service includes:

- Weeding, digging and garden clearance
- Lawn & hedge cutting, pruning
- Drives and paths cleared
- Borders & planting
- Furniture, decking and fencing maintained

For your home we take care of:

- Interior and exterior decorating
- Tiling, joinery and plumbing
- Traditional lime repairs
- Kitchen fitting
- Bathroom installations
- Small building works

Honest, trustworthy and reliable service.

All jobs undertaken. Contact us for a quote and to discuss your requirements.

Let us take care of your home

telephone: 07879 308822
email: d_branch.services@btinternet.com



Sales, servicing, repairs and sharpening of all types of garden machinery.

Collection and delivery available.

Friendly, local and professional service.

C.W.KIRK LAWNMOWERS

01638 744 349

CWKIRKLAWNMOWERS.CO.UK

44 NEWMARKET ROAD BURWELL CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB25 0AE

WINDOW CLEANERS



K. Wells & Son

Give us a call for beautifully clean windows at affordable prices

Mobile: 07771 908461
Email: kevwells6@aol.com

Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning

01223 832 928
www.Rothwells.biz

Carpet Cleaning

Stone Floor, Upholstery & Rug Cleaning.

A few points that make us stand out from the others,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.
We're an honest local family firm.
Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.
Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.
We will move the furniture for a thorough clean.
100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver or Max Campbell for expert help today.

Rothwell's, Malting End, Kirtling, Newmarket, CB8 9HH

The Red House Day Nursery

Quality day care for pre-school children from 3 months to 5 years

Learning through creative play

Open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday

For more information ring **01638 741174**

90 High Street, Burwell CB25 0HD
Tel: 01638 741174
Email: info@redhousedaynursery.co.uk
Web: redhousedaynursery.co.uk

PAUL BRAYBROOKE

Oil Fired Boiler Engineer

- Boiler Servicing
- Breakdown Repair
- Commissions
- Tank Replacements

Paul Braybrooke – Oil Fired Boiler Engineer
1 Steward's Lane, Sutton, Ely CB6 2NG
***Tel**: 01353 777788 **or** 07946 735691*
www.paulbraybrooke-oilboilerservices.co.uk

ANGLIAN LEISURE BOTTISHAM

Anglian Leisure Bottisham would like to welcome our 3 new Duty Managers, Finn, Charlie and Matt!

Plus - we have plenty of new and continuing activities on offer:

- Car Boot Sale on the last Sunday of every month.
- Hardcourts open for block booking enquiries and casual use.
- More swimming lessons.
- More Judo lessons.
- Aqua Zumba, Yoga and Zumba on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday respectively.
- Party facilities hire.
- Limited 3G, gymnasium and sports hall slots left for block bookers.

Create an account or membership:
anglianleisure.leisurecloud.net/joinathome/MemberRegistration.aspx?refresh=637955739093968216

Book an activity: https://anglianleisure.leisurecloud.net/Connect/mrmLogin.aspx

bottisham@anglianleisure.co.uk 01223 811121 bottishamvc.org/sports-centre/

Could You Foster?

Nexus Fostering, based in Lolworth Cambridge, has been making a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in care since 2002. We currently have 1,500 children referred to us each month from the local authorities who are unable to find families, so we are looking to recruit more foster carers in Cambridgeshire and the surrounding area.

Would you like to find out how you can provide a family home to children in your area? Nexus Fostering is a well-established and highly regarded fostering agency, based in Lolworth Cambridge, who are urgently seeking new foster carers. The agency is rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' in all areas and place a high level of support and care that they provide to every one of the foster carers and, in turn, the children and young people placed with them. To find out more about becoming a foster carer in and around Cambridgeshire please call 0800 389 0143 or email foster@nexusfostering.co.uk.

Leanne Austin Nexus Fostering - Recruitment 0208 864 6040 0777 6965181 www.nexusfostering.co.uk



Burwell Museum and Windmill

On Sunday 30th October 2022 we held our Autumn Miscellany Fair. This was the last day of our 2022 season sadly. Much as the weather was cruel to us on the day, the rain did not dampen the spirits of volunteers and visitors alike. Miscellany means a collection of, a mixture of everything and the stalls we had certainly reflected the diversity of local talent and craftsmanship, as well as affordable gifting or self-treating. Thank you so very much to the stallholders for joining us at our crescendo of our year, it was a pleasure to work with each and every one of you.



Purple Pepper have become our champion street food and Kathryn and her team did not disappoint, creating a cosy warming autumnal menu especially for us. History Needs performed a Villains and Hero's enactment, Jancis Harvey songwriter and singer sang her miscellany of folk inspired songs and The Herb Birds (a twist of the spice girls) brought our entertainment to a close for the day. Thank you to Sandra Bartoszek for her event management support which was a huge contribution to the success of the day.

What a year this year has been, a really successful one! Our classic car show, celebrating the 30 years since the museum opened, the commemoration of the Burwell Barn Fire working with Jane Parker, the expansion of our opening hours for the Tea Room (and the expansion of such lovely loyal regular customers), the creation of the wheat and wildflower area surrounding our windmill, we have embarked on a new and exciting programme of events and projects. We hope you have enjoyed this year as much as we have, any ideas you have, please let us know.



On behalf of the Burwell Museum and Windmill Trustees, sincere and heartfelt thanks go to all the wonderfully motivated and truly inspiring volunteers who work so hard to ensure the museum and windmill provides the very best service and visitor experience. What a team we have within the museum and mill teams. Thank you so very much to you all.

We do need more volunteers as we embark upon our winter schedule to create new exhibitions and bring to life the artefacts we house. If you have a love and interest of history, in particular local history, if you have traced your family tree and would like to help others to do so, if you have practical skills such as wood work, painting and decorating, gardening, if you love to bake cakes and would love to work in our Tea Room, then your museum and windmill, indeed your country, needs you!

Volunteers work throughout the year, some front of house on days we are open to visitors , some behind the scenes tending to work during the day on Tuesdays maintaining and developing the museum and mill. Volunteers work as much as they can give and within timings which are convenient to them. Please watch our social media and website for details of the recruitment open day we intend to hold in January, we look forward to meeting you or come and introduce yourself to us on Tuesdays.

We reopen Easter Sunday 9th April 2023, until then we will be working hard to ensure we present to our visitors an informative, inspiring, thought-provoking representation of life in a fen edge village across the past, present and future. Come and see our working telephone exchange, our replica of Burwell Railway station, see Henrietta 2 our most recent beautiful acquisition in our Vintage Vehicle Gallery and discover the agricultural heritage of Burwell and local building materials such as the history of clunch. If you purchase a season ticket then you can visit the museum and enjoy windmill tours all year for every event and every open day, check our website for details, it's well worth it.

See you at Easter 2023 and thank you again for your support throughout 2022.

Sara Phipps

On behalf of Burwell Museum and Windmill Trustees .

Letter from the Vicarage

You're invited!



We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to any of our Advent and Christmas services and events, with this year's theme of 'Follow the Star – the Great Invitation'. All are invited to share in celebrating with us as we explore the meaning of Christmas together.

As Pat says in her article, we are very pleased that the church will be finished enough to be open to use and we are very much looking forward to being back in the church again. In the New Year, when everything is finally in place, there will be celebratory events. We will have a Reach Christingle service on Friday 23rd December at 6.00pm, as well as an 8.30am Communion on Christmas Day. Events in Burwell will include St Mary's Christingle service on Sunday 4th December, Create for Christmas on Wednesday 14th December, Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 18th December, Crib Service on Christmas Eve, and our Midnight Communion and Christmas Day services.

In St Mary's, we'll have our Remembering Tree again in the weeks leading up to Christmas, to place stars on, to remember loved ones. We would love to have your help in decorating St Mary's churchyard and the church, with groups and individuals being invited to make star decorations. Continuing the star theme and to celebrate our amazing community, we are partnering with the Co-op and others to launch Community Star Awards. Please send your nominations to Stephen.smith@coop.co.uk or PM Steve on Facebook. You can nominate anyone who has made a difference to you, anyone you know, or in the community. All nominations please by the 10th December with the Award Ceremony in St Mary's Churchyard at 12pm on Saturday 10th December, hosted by the Co-op, St Mary's and others.

If you'd like to find out more about who we are and what we do or get more involved in the life of St Mary's and St Etheldreda's, please get in touch. Also, contact us if you would like to chat or if we can pray for you, if you are struggling financially, or know someone who is, or need help accessing Ely foodbank. We're also joining in with the Burwell Community Matters Christmas Dinner Fundraiser.

This Advent and Christmas, as we hear once more the story and message of the coming of Christ, may each of us know hope, peace and joy through him, who came to bring light into our darkness.

God bless you

Eleanor Williams Vicar of Burwell with Reach

01638 741262 vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk
www.stmarysburwell.org.uk
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell/

Reach Church Development Update

When I wrote the last building update for Within Reach at the end of September, I expected the building to be finished by end of October but unfortunately that wasn't to be. The crucial roadworks, needed to connect to power and sewage, were delayed for a further 2 weeks because of road works elsewhere in the village and that, of course had a knock-on effect on everything else. I hardly dare to say it, but I am now informed that the church will be useable from early December, if not completely finished. This will allow us to hold funerals and also the Christmas services, for which we will be extremely grateful.

So, what is done and what isn't?



Main church showing candelabra with pulley



Servery

All the building work inside has now been done, with the final protective coat being applied to the floor this week. The servery, toilet and audio-visual system are all finished and final coats of paint applied. The candelabra has been returned, complete with its pulley to raise and lower it and the steps to the front door are in place. Outside, the handrail to the steps needs to be added and the curved path needs to be finished. What we won't have in place by December is the additional furniture that we have to buy separately, like chairs and the digital piano. Unfortunately, there is quite a long lead time for these items, but we can borrow and improvise and it will be great to be able to celebrate Christmas again in the church.

It is very encouraging to begin to imagine how we will use the building, which we hope will be formally opened by one of the Bishops early next year and we do hope it will fulfil our vision of a warm, welcoming and flexible building that we can all enjoy.

Reach Church Development Group



Snakehall Farm

Smiliest Server Award scooped by Prospects Trust Unwrapped Staff on behalf of the Co-workers

In Ely's beautiful riverside Maltings at what is now the East Cambs annual glitterati calendar event of the year, The Ely Heroes Awards, our very sun shiny smiley Gem (back left in the pic below) represented the whole team of Unwrapped and won the prestigious Smiliest Server of the Year award. Supported by Shop Manager Clare and fellow Retail Support Worker Mandy, Gem shone like the absolute gem she is (and maybe shook with nerves) as she was presented with the Ely Hero award.

Gem accepted the award on behalf of all of the amazing Co-workers she works alongside at Prospects Trust Unwrapped, in the heart of Ely. Gem works Monday to Wednesday, helping Co-workers serve customers the doorstep wedged toasties, flaky vegan sausage rolls and cappuccino smiles. Gem is also known to belt into song, get Co-workers dancing on the shop floor and always brings a bit of pizzazz to a Monday morning. If you haven't seen Ely's Smiliest Server in action we suggest you go and see her at Prospects Unwrapped today!



Farmer Mark formally represented The Prospects Trust at the event from turning Hero to Judge for this year's awards. Back in 2019 Mark scooped Colleague of the Year and this year he had the humbling task of interviewing all the candidates in the Caring Companion category. Mark has been a dedicated member of social care for most of his working life and he was delighted to meet inspirational figures making the care sector even more caring.

The Prospects Trust wishes to thank all of the people, organisations and businesses who continue to make Ely Heroes Awards the most beautiful experience for our local super people and a huge congratulations to everyone nominated in this year's awards.

Maz Baker

Church Services

Please note that these service arrangements may alter when St Etheldreda's re-opens.
Please check our website or the weekly news sheet for up to date information.

December 2022	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda's Reach (Village Hall or Church, when open)
Sunday 4th 2nd Sunday of Advent	10.00am Holy Communion 4.30pm Christingle Service	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 7th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 11th 3rd Sunday of Advent	8.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 14th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 18th 4th Sunday of Advent	10.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	
Wednesday 21st	10.30am Holy Communion	
Friday 23rd		6.00pm Christingle Service
Saturday 24th Christmas Eve	3.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion	
Sunday 25th Christmas Day	10.00am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 28th	**No service**	
January 2023	**St Mary's Burwell**	**St Etheldreda's, Reach (Village Hall or Church, when open)**
Sunday 1st January Christmas 2	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 4th January	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 8th Epiphany 1	10.00am Café Church	8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 11th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 15th Epiphany 2	10.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 18th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 22nd Epiphany 3	8.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Joint Service at Burwell Baptist Church	
Wednesday 25th	10.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 29th Epiphany 4	4.00pm Messy Church	10.00am Holy Communion TBC

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

Scan QR code to go to our website for more details and links watch Sunday morning livestream on Facebook
https://stmarysburwell.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell

Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Nick Acklam	Vice Chair	743749
Charlotte Cane	Chair	741064
Cristine Fletcher	Councillor	07763 529886
David McMillan	Councillor	741259
Matt Newman	Councillor	07786 988175
Vacancy	Councillor	
Vacancy	Councillor	

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

Should there be a vacancy and you are interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council, please get in touch with the Clerk whose contact details are below.

Meetings take place in the **Village Hall** on the first **Tuesday** of each month. They start at **7.00pm** and all Reach villagers are welcome to attend.

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

Know Your District Councillors

Transport
Thanks to a lot of local people and the AtoB1102 group the number 11 and 12 buses have been 'saved' at least until the end of March. However, we still need to persuade Stephensons and the Combined Authority to reinstate Bottisham on the number 11 route. We also need to address ticket charging and some other matters. But at least we have the buses. We are aware that they have not always run and have sometimes not kept to timetable – indeed the timetables are not yet displayed at all stops. That must be incredibly frustrating for people who need to get to work etc, but we must give Stephensons time to get used to running the new routes.

Public transport should be reliable and affordable so that all of us can get to work, visit friends, attend appointments and enjoy our leisure time. Unfortunately, there is a confusing structure of responsibility – the Combined Authority is meant to be responsible, but the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership and the County Council also have a major say and none of them have adequate funds for the investment needed, nor are their combined funds sufficient. Earlier this year the Government rejected a bus improvement funding bid from the Combined Authority. Two causes of this rejection have been identified.

The first was that the Department for Transport had applied a deprivation score, which did not help our cause as a high growth area. We agree that deprivation has to be tackled, but so does the increasing pressure on our transport system caused by our high growth. The second was the Government's view that the application had shown insufficient commitment to bus priority schemes, active travel and road charging. Bus priority schemes and cycle paths are expensive to deliver on rural roads. So, to achieve what everyone wants, we need significant investment from central Government.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership's consultation is open and closes at midday on 23 December - GCP Making Connections 2022 | Consult Cambridgeshire (engagementhq.com). It is offering significantly improved services for most of us, paid for through a road charge for driving in Cambridge. It will have a major impact on these villages, especially on those who commute in Cambridge for work or study. We have some hard copies of the document which we have asked local shops etc to display for those without web access. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

Cost of Living Help
The cost-of-living crisis seems to get worse. Gas and Electricity prices have been capped but we await details of the promised help for those of us on oil, lpg etc. Food prices keep going up and mortgages and rent are increasing. The County Council is collating information about the various sources of help for individuals and households struggling with the cost of living crisis. https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living
We know not everyone has access to on-line information and recommend that they contact Newmarket Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) on 0808 278 7868, Cambridge CAB on 0808 278 7808.

The East Cambs Housing and Community Advice Team will be visiting our area regularly to advise on Housing, Welfare Benefits, Energy, Debt and Money. Bottisham was recently added to the regular schedule and we are pressing for the Advice Bus to visit Reach. In the meantime, please either go to Burwell or Bottisham or call the team on 01353 665555. **Burwell**, Mandeville Hall Thursdays from 10.00am-12 noon. **Bottisham**, Sports & Social Club Thursdays from 1.00pm-3.00pm

Councillors' Surgery
For Jan and Feb, we will be holding our Councillors' Surgeries by zoom, to save people coming out in the cold and the dark. Our next Surgery Zoom will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 January – Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196. Our February Surgery will be at 6.30 on Wednesday 15 February, using the same link. Or you can contact us directly at any time – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, 07976 607512; john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01223 812120

And finally **Seasons Greetings to all readers**.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held at in the village hall on Thursday 4th October 2022 at 7.00pm.

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence - Approved.

Forum for members of the public.
There were none.

Declaration of Interests
Councillor Cane declared an interest in the village hall discussion as she is on the village hall committee, as a representative of this Council.

1. Reach Fair
Councillor Cane started the discussion by stating how grateful the PC were for the hard work the small committee did this year to create such a successful Fair. And that the PC is very grateful that they and others are willing to do it again next year.
Following a long discussion regarding the setting up of a subcommittee of the PC and the ability of the committee to work and make decisions quickly enough to organise the Fair it was concluded that it would be very difficult for the Committee to operate successfully as a subcommittee of the Parish Council. Organising the Fair needs rapid decision making, but Parish Council's and their Committees can only take decisions at meetings where those decisions are included on an Agenda which was published at least 5 working days before the meeting. The PC rehearsed the vulnerabilities of running the Fair as a subcommittee and reaffirmed that these could only be mitigated by the PC approving in a public meeting all Fair Committee requests for action before any action is taken. The PC judged this unworkable certainly for all concerned. The considered view of the PC was that a CIO or CIC would limit the personal liabilities of those ultimately responsible for the Fair whereas the provisions of a subcommittee of the Parish Council could not. It was understood that the village hall committee were unable to take on the running of the fair or the subcommittee. ***Councillor Fletcher*** would go back to the Fair Committee with this conclusion. A grant was approved of up to £200 to cover the costs of setting up a legal entity to run the Fair, such as a Community Interest Company or a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, should the Fair Group want to do this. Should the group be unprepared to set up a limited liability entity a village meeting would be called to see if there was anyone who would take this on and secure the future of Reach Fair.

Councillor Fletcher left the meeting after this discussion.

2. Funding of Reach Village Hall
Due to the uncertainty of Reach Fair and the unknown financial requirements of the village hall this discussion will be continued at a later meeting.

3. The no.11 bus service
Stagecoach have announced plans to axe 21 bus routes in Cambridgeshire. Under this new timetable the number 11 between Bury St Edmunds and Cambridge, which stops in Reach, will no longer run from the 30th October. This was announced at very short notice, creating significant uncertainty and worry.
The Mayor, and the Combined Authority, are responsible for the transport budget locally. Their committee are working to ensure the service will continue after the 1st November. The service to the village may change but CCC, The Combined Authority and The Greater Cambridge Partnership are all in favour of the service continuing.

The AtoB1102 group has met to discuss how to save the number 11 bus route, see report below.
Councillor Cane to write to the Mayor and to Lucy Frazer MP.

4. Planning
There was none.

5. District Councillor Report
As a mark of respect following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth ll, meetings planned for September were largely moved to October, with only the Planning Committee meeting at the start of the month and Licensing on 28 September.
Licensing agreed increases to maximum taxi fares ranging from 8% for journeys over 5 miles to up to 15% for the first mile. The majority of journeys will see increases of no more than £1.
Performance for waste collection and street cleansing at East Cambridgeshire District Council has been the lowest since the service was transferred to East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS) in 2018, figures issued to Councillors reveal. The performance of the service was due to be debated at a meeting of the Council's Operational Services Committee on Monday 12 September, but this was cancelled following the death of HM The Queen.

- The Council's target for 'bin deliveries within 10 working days' was 92%—but the Council managed just 38%.
- Similarly, the Council's target for 'overall performance' of the street cleansing service was 90%—but the Council achieved just 21% in the first quarter of the financial year.

Staff shortages, sickness and the recent reconfiguration of waste rounds are being blamed for the performance downturn. Street sweeping services have suffered as drivers have been diverted to the waste collections which was considered a higher priority.
There are still instances of collections not happening on the scheduled day and residents have been informed that the distribution of black sacks has been delayed – the Council claims this is due to 'global supply issues.'
Despite the service failing to meet its targets, the Council is still budgeting to pay the refuse and street cleansing service fees in full.
The Finance & Assets Committee is meeting on 4 October. Many of the published papers will need significant updating for the recent turmoil in the Financial Markets. John is on the Committee and will seek to get clarity on how the Council and its Trading Companies are managing this uncertainty. There is an extra Planning Committee meeting in October, because of the volume of applications.
There is also an extra Planning Committee meeting in November to consider the Council's response to the Sunnica application. This will be held at the Mandeville Hall in Burwell on Thursday 3rd November, starting at 10:30am, and is expected to be a full day meeting.
The Audit Committee meets on 17 October and there is a Full Council meeting on 20 October.
We sent a separate note about the proposed axing of the 11 & 12 bus routes. These routes (and the 19 others) are out to tender and the Combined Authority hopes to find ways to keep the services operating until 31 March 2023. There are several consultations on plans to deliver travel services from 1 April 2023. The AtoB1102 Group continues to actively engage all stakeholders to try to find a solution for this area.
Additional comments – The bin collection was late last week due to a truck breaking down. Black sacks are expected to be delivered next week. Councillor Cane had been ensured that both the Swaffham Road and the Burwell Road would not be closed at the same time.

6. County Councillor Report
None received.

7. Minutes of previous Meeting
Approved as correct.

8.1 Reach Grant Fund
Nothing to report.

8.2 Finance
The report was noted.

8.3 Parish Council Members
Cllr Acklam reported that 'the Planning Inspectorate has accepted Sunnica's request to add to its application the option of siting transformers at Chippenham. Whilst the option of siting the transformers on compulsorily purchased land beside the Weirs Drove substation remains in the application, Sunnica has indicated that its preference is for the Chippenham option. Sunnica has stated that once they receive formal confirmation from National Grid that the Chippenham option is acceptable, then the Weirs Drove option will be removed from the application. We will continue to monitor developments given the continuing uncertainties.

Councillor Cane thanked Councillor McMillan for attending the Proclamation of the new King at Ely Cathedral on behalf of the PC.

Councillor Acklam had contacted Highways to ask why the Drying Ground had not been strimmed as scheduled and was awaiting a response

The Burwell Fen Solar Farm community liaison group will meet on 12 October at which the principles for funding from EDF for local community projects will be agreed. Cllr Acklam will attend, and Cllr Cane hopes to attend.

8.4 Play Spaces,
Kompan had not responded to emails. ***Clerk*** to continue correspondence.

8.5 Rights of Way
Nothing to report

8.6 24Acres Committee
100 saplings had been ordered from The Conservation Volunteers. These will be used for limited replanting within the woodland and to extend into the NT land which has been agreed.

8.7 Neighbourhood Plan
Since the meeting in July a resident has raised some concerns which we have not yet resolved. However, we hope to get them sorted and present the revised draft Neighbourhood Plan to the November PC meeting for PC approval prior to submission to East Cambridgeshire District Council (along with the Basic Conditions and Consultation Statements and supporting evidence).

8.8 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report

8.9 A to B1102 Group,
A-B1102 hosted a call on 22nd Sept to discuss the issue of bus route loss following Stagecoach informing the government that it would be ceasing a number of bus routes across the County. This was attended by group members and district and county councillors and representatives from Newmarket Town Council (NTC)
Main purposes:
- to represent views of local bus users and capture the strength of feeling about the impacts of the loss of the 11 and 12 service for local residents
- consider how to engage with Stagecoach and local authorities (as they all have skin in the game) to see how the service might be saved
- consider the short-term options to maintain some form of service and the longer term options of having a suitable bus service

The meeting felt strongly that it was the suddenness of the news that was particularly problematic and disruptive as it gave little time for local authorities to act and caused distress for bus users who have limited alternatives to access school, work, shopping, or social activity.
There was a wish to be more forensic about the figures presented by Stagecoach as it was clear that certain services were full (standing room only) whilst others were near empty and so there was concern that Stagecoach had not considered a better targeted service and the use of smaller more economical vehicles to match demand. Several attendees reported that buses were busy and so the impression was that peak buses were profitable with others loss making. It was felt Stagecoach's approach was rather binary and lacked any finesse and there was a desire to explore an alternative structure to the bus provision at least in the short-term to allow for commuter services to continue.

This meeting was followed by a meeting held by NTC which was widely reported and raised the issues facing local residents and achieved significant local and national press coverage which I suspect you have seen.

<u>Since then.</u>
A-B1102 have had a meeting with Stagecoach which was to better understand the figures they presented and their justification for axing the route. This was rather depressing as their analysis shows that only small parts of the route are financially viable, and these are between Drummer Street and the Park & Ride meaning there is little financial justification for a bus service even at peak times and any service will be reliant upon significant subsidy. It highlighted that overheads such as wages insurance etc remain similar if fewer services are operated and costs of replacing inappropriately large buses during quieter times do not save money.

They are keen to work with A-B1102 on establishing a "dial-a-bus" scheme, but this is still an unknown but has been successful elsewhere but is a longer-term solution

Stagecoach have been in contact with local authorities over the summer and so it would seem there has been some degree of unresponsiveness to the potential loss of service although there was an opinion given that Stagecoach were "sabre rattling" so perhaps the response from the local authority was less than required if this was a prevailing belief.

There has been an announcement that the 12 bus route - the fast service from Bury to Newmarket along the A1303 will be reinstated by Stephensons. This would not serve the villages and currently A-B1102 are looking at the feasibility of a stop on the A1303 at Bottisham which would at least provide some form of bus access to Cambridge.
A-B1102 received a response from Lucy Fraser that appeared reassuring as it suggested that additional funding would be made available, but this still has to be voted on and whilst it is likely the additional funds will be made available it far from certain that the services will be maintained. The proposal was put forward by the Conservative group and hopefully there will not be any politics over the voting. This would leverage sufficient money to fund the routes for 12 months.

However, it is unlikely (practically impossible) for routes to be maintained without disruption as tenders for new providers to cover the routes being lost will not be decided upon until 19th Oct and services finish on 30th Oct and so some form of hiatus is inevitable.
Assuming some form of new service is forthcoming there will then be a 12 month period in which new services can be formulated and implemented. This are likely to be very different and one would assume focussing on peak times and potentially will not come through Reach as that must be expensive for the few passengers in Reach who use it.

9. Remembrance Sunday
The Pc agreed on the purchase of the wreath for this years service. ***Clerk*** to arrange for the weeding and tidying of the War Memorial to take place. ***Councillor Cane*** to seek volunteers to take part in the service.

10. Approval of the Wicken Fen Vision immediate action points
The Wicken Fen Vision would like an improved crossing over Burwell Lode, this would allow wheelchair, cycle, and equestrian access to the core Wicken Fen from Reach. It is a cost-effective alternative to a new build over Burwell Lode which would cost in excess of £2M. ***Clerk*** to write a letter of support.
The Wicken Fen Vision had supplied a post for its Vision festival which they have ask the PC to promote. ***Clerk*** to put on the Facebook page.

11. Payments

CR Contracting – mowing contract	£318.50
L Phillips - Sewing tutor – Grant Fund	£340.00
E. on - Power on the green	£14.53
British Legion poppy appeal	£17.00
S. Bailey – Clerk salary	Confidential
S Bailey – Post	£17.10
National Trust – 24Acres lease	£10.00
D McMillan – Flowers for HRH Ely Cathedral	£40.00
D Pallant – Replacement for Swing repairs cheque from last month	£140.00

DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held at in the village hall on Thursday 1st November 2022 at 7.00pm.

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence - Approved.

Councillor Acklam took the Chair for the meeting. He opened the meeting by thanking the Councillors for their efforts considering the PC is operation with only 5 Councillors. The 2 vacancies to be discussed at a future meeting.

Forum for members of the public.
There were none.

Declaration of Interests
There were none.

1. Planning – 22/01190/FUL, Meadow View 28 Great Lane, Single storey side extension
This is a renewal of a 2019 approved application, with no alterations. ***Clerk*** to submit the same comments as for the last application, which is that PC are concerned that no neighbours seem to have been consulted on this application, and that the access to the site is along a single-track road with a tight turn and over a small bridge which already has been flagged for safety issues. The PC suggest that careful consideration of vehicular access and highway safety be taken during the construction period, should permission be granted.

2. District Councillor Report

Transport

Thanks to a lot of local people and the AtoB1102 group the number 11 and 12 buses have been 'saved' at least until the end of March. However, we still need to persuade Stephensons and the Combined Authority to reinstate Bottisham on the number 11 route. We also need to address ticket charging and some other matters. But at least we have the buses.
The Greater Cambridge Partnership's consultation is open and closes at midday on 23 December - GCP Making Connections 2022 | Consult Cambridgeshire (engagementhq.com). It is offering significantly improved services for most of us, paid for through a road charge for driving in Cambridge. It will have a major impact on these villages, especially on those who commute in Cambridge for work or study. We have some hard copies of the document which we will ask local shops etc to display for those without web access.

Finance and Assets Committee

ECTC has reported a profit of £785,643, turning the net liabilities reported in previous years to net assets of £59,857. It had loans of £25 million, which were due to be repaid by 31 March 2023 and a further £3.6m to be repaid by 31 March 2024. £4.9m of this was owed to ECDC, this has now been replaced by a loan facility of £7.5m from ECDC, repayable by 31 March 2026.
The Committee considered increasing the Council Tax discount for benefit claimants to 100%, so that they would not need to pay any Council Tax. John supported this proposal, because current price rises and increases in the cost of living affected the poorest the worst and we should not expect them to pay any Council Tax on top of all their other bills. But the proposal was defeated, so even the poorest in our community must pay 8.5% of the Council Tax bill. There was a further attempt to increase the discount at Full Council, but this was defeated.
Agreed to increase the Council Tax on empty homes by the maximum permitted. This is a rising amount depending how long the property has been empty, increasing to 400% Council Tax on properties empty for 10 years or more. The Council estimates that there are 143 properties which have been empty for at least 2 years.
Noted that the Council is forecasting a £100k overspend on its revenue budget for the year and a £2m underspend on its capital budget.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee met twice in October. At its second meeting it approved the Council's plans to build a crematorium and pet cemetery on the site previously used by the Mepal Outdoor Centre.

Full Council

Prior to the commencement of the meeting of Full Council, the Chairman delivered a tribute and a minute's silence was held as a mark of respect following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
Full Council passed a Cost-of-Living motion thanking Liz Truss' government for the support they were giving residents and businesses and for increasing energy production through North Sea oil and gas. They noted work the Council was doing to support residents with the Cost of Living, approved £10,000 for a 'Cost of Living Support Fund' and stated that they were minded to freeze the Council Tax for 2023/24, subject to the government budget on 31 October.
Charlotte seconded a Cost-of-Living Emergency motion which highlighted the impact of price rises on residents and called for the Council to press central government to provide immediate financial support to those using oil, bottled gas etc and increase investment in renewable energy. Called on the Council to expand the Council Tax Reduction Scheme; protect and expand grants to organisations giving advice to residents and to work with partners to improve access to affordable food. Called for £20,000 to be allocated to a 'Cost of Living Support Fund' and for the Council to convene a Cost-of-Living Emergency summit with all tiers of government and voluntary organisations. This motion was defeated.
Council unanimously adopted the Haddenham & Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan, the Compulsory Purchase Order for the proposed Bottisham Cemetery and the tidying up of the Parish boundary between Westley Waterless and Borough Green (which in turn will affect the District ward boundary).

Coming Up

November will again see 2 Planning Committee meetings – the one on 3 November to consider the Council's response to the Sunnica Solar Farm application – together with Licensing, Operational Services and Finance & Assets.
Our last Councillors' Surgery for this year will be on 23 November at 6.30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

3. County Councillor Report – Supplied by Councillor Cane.

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8 September marked an end to over seventy years of public service. The accession of HM King Charles III was proclaimed locally two days later in Cambridge and Ely as well as in other locations across Cambridgeshire.
The death of the monarch was followed by a number of days of mourning. Some local authorities responded by cancelling council meetings in line with legal advice they were given. Other authorities responded by continuing to hold council meetings in line with legal advice they were given.

STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Financial crisis

The financial crisis we thought we were experiencing a month ago as a result of energy prices was as nothing compared to the turmoil following the 'budget that wasn't a budget' announced by Prime Minister Liz Truss and Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng on Friday 23 September.
Even with the partial U-turn on Monday 3 October we face uncertain times as individuals, communities, and as a country. This includes local authorities for whom inflation and interest rate rises seriously disrupt financial plans.
Current year—small overspend

The Council's total service budgets for the current year are:
• Revenue: £456 million (net)
• Capital: £164 million (with a total programme of over £1 billion)
In setting the current year's budget in February 2022, the Council provided for significant budget growth between the previous year and the current year. It allowed for:
• Inflation £9.991 million
• Demand growth £9.615 million
• Pressures (e.g., increased costs or reduced income) £16.236 million
• Investments £7.253 million
This increased spending was met through this year's council tax increase, savings, and Government funding.
In June, the Council allocated additional resources to meet expected inflationary pressures in the current year. These are due to energy prices and to some of the Council's large contracts which are linked to national inflation figures. The Council also created a reserve to meet unexpected inflationary pressures. Apart from pay inflation, the Council therefore expects to be able to meet the costs of inflation in its revenue budgets this financial year.
Even so, the Council is currently forecasting a small (£2.368 million or 0.5 per cent) overspend for 2022/23, mainly due to the effects of the expected level of public sector pay inflation for this year, which exceeds the estimates used in budgeting. Inflation is also impacting on the Council's capital programme, alongside international supply chain disruption.
Next year and onwards—it gets much worse
2023/24 onwards however is another story. Inflation remains a significant concern in looking ahead to setting the Council's medium-term financial plan for the next five years. When the Council set its Medium-Term Financial Plan in February 2022, the budget gaps it expected in future years were as follows.
Budget planning is still ongoing, but instead of £17.396 million the remaining budget gap for the coming year 2023/24 is now looking to be over £28.6 million. This will again need to be filled by council tax, savings, and any Government funding awarded between now and February 2023. These were the assumptions made even before the economic announcement on 23 September.
Central government has so far given no indication of further funding to councils to meet pressures, and indeed since last month's financial announcement it is talking of reductions in public spending to pay for its unfunded tax cuts to high earners. The Council is therefore planning on the basis of needing to close this budget gap almost entirely through decisions within the Council's control.
In highways the cost of materials is rising, while Government capital allocations have not been increased for inflation, reducing the amount of maintenance it is possible to do.
Several of the Council's large contracts (such as for waste disposal) have inflationary uplifts included in contracts pegged to national indices—on a very large contract the difference between a 2 per cent rise and an 8 per cent rise can be very significant. The Council also purchases a large amount of electricity, with around two thirds of its electricity bill spent on powering streetlights.
The Council also needs power for its public-facing buildings such as libraries, registration offices, highway depots and offices. Keeping these buildings open and warm may be even more important for individuals and communities during the colder months.
It is currently estimated that energy costs will double from October 2022. This projection is based on the information currently available and given the volatility of the market there is increasing uncertainty as to how forecast inflation will settle over future years. There are also potential risks to energy supply which could result in energy shortages.
In September 2022, the government announced some relief from energy price increases for public sector organisations. The Council is considering the detail of this announcement and its impact, if any, on price projections. If the relief is for only six months, it will not necessarily provide any reduction in prices faced over the medium-term.
Changes in energy prices affect the Council beyond costs such as simply heating buildings or running streetlights. The Council is engaged in a number of energy projects, including retrofitting its own buildings with clean energy, building solar farms, installing solar panels on park and ride sites, and the flagship community heating project at Swaffham Prior. The business cases for all these projects change very significantly as a result of changing expectations for the costs of the oil and gas they are replacing.
Support for residents in coping with the cost of living
The Council is continuing to collate information about the various sources of help for individuals and households struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.
https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living

BUSES
Buses have been the main talking point for residents and politicians alike, since Stagecoach announced that despite taking Government money to sustain local bus routes still affected by the Covid passenger downturn, they were going to close large numbers of local routes anyway.
Combined Authority
With these services due to cease on 30 October (all the notice Stagecoach have to give) the Mayor's Combined Authority—which is the public transport authority for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough—has launched a procurement with £1.7 million on offer to fill as many of the gaps as possible from the date on which Stagecoach leaves them until the end of March 2023. The Combined Authority Board will meet on Wednesday 19 October, when it will reach a decision on the outcome of the procurement.
Beyond March 2023, the Combined Authority will be making decisions on bus services as part of its annual budget and business planning process.

The actions of Stagecoach have shown that the current system—in place since the mid 1980s—where commercial operators compete for money-making routes, leaving local authorities to fund the loss-making but socially necessary routes, is unsustainable. It is therefore vital that the Combined Authority moves forward at pace with proposals to develop a reliable public transport network for Cambridgeshire. Ideally this would include franchising of bus routes, where profitable and unprofitable routes are bundled together to avoid the current cherry-picking. However, to do this requires a steady stream of income.

County Council

At Cambridgeshire County Council's Strategy & Resources Committee on Friday 30 September, councillors on all sides joined to condemn Stagecoach for its actions, calling them 'appalling', 'scandalous' and even 'diabolical'.

But a premature proposal to allocate £1.7M of the Council's own reserves to a bus subsidy pot was not supported at this stage, given that there was an ongoing re-tendering process whose results were not yet known. The Strategy and Resources Committee meets next on 20 October, the day after the Combined Authority Board, when the gap between the Combined Authority's resources and the need will be much clearer.

Council Leader Cllr Nethsingha is writing to Government, specifically to Lucy Frazer MP as Minister of State for Transport, to ask that the Government urgently review the current regulations which allow bus companies to simply cancel routes at such short notice, and which give Bus Improvement money direct to bus operators rather than the local authorities responsible for them.

Greater Cambridge Partnership

Meanwhile, the Greater Cambridge Partnership Board has agreed to go to public consultation on its proposals for significant bus expansion over the next four years, paid for by a charge on driving in Cambridge from 2027. A set of exemptions, discounts, and refunds is also proposed in a number of circumstances.

I believe it is extremely important that residents in East Cambridgeshire are fully enabled to take part in the forthcoming consultation and are provided with all the information they need to do so.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Winter infections

Nationally and locally the public health services are gearing up for resurgences of Covid, and of flu and other outbreaks. No additional Covid-specific funding has been provided in the Government's public health grant to local authorities this year, though locally a small Covid team is funded until March 2023 from remaining resources.

To address the risk of a surge in infections, the Council is preparing to establish a Winter Infection Management Team, with an Amber plan for an extremely difficult winter, and a Red plan in the event of a major incident.

Autumn Covid boosters are currently being delivered to those aged 65+ and some who are at higher risk, with flu jabs also being given at the same time.

Health care waste

Following the debate at January's Full Council meeting about the Envar application for a medical waste incinerator at Woodhurst, a report is coming to the Adults & Health Committee on Wednesday 5 October on how the NHS locally is tackling waste and promoting carbon reduction.

The report says, "All trusts aim to maximise recycling of domestic mixed recycling wastes through sustainable waste management, including for example specialist recycling of certain types of waste, such as toner cartridges, batteries, and reuse of items such as furniture and walking aids. The remaining general/DMR [domestic mixed recycling] waste is processed via contracted services. Each trust has their own contract to dispose of this waste."

It goes on, "The Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CUH) incinerator provides disposal for 7- 8 tonnes of healthcare waste per day. This waste is generated from CUH and Royal Papworth Hospital (RPH). On-site incineration of healthcare waste is subject to constant emissions monitoring and very tight permit controls whilst significantly reducing the carbon emissions that would arise from waste road haulage and providing heat recovery to directly warm the hospital campus premises (15% of total)."

Examples are given from the various local NHS Trusts of their action plans to reduce waste and plastics. The new Integrated Care System for health and care in Cambridgeshire has a Green Plan for sustainability and carbon reduction.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION

Help with water bills

The County Council's COSMIC committee has agreed to use money from the Household Support Fund to give a 'payment holiday' to pensioners in arrears with their water bills—often an early sign of financial distress. At least one third of the Household Support Fund must be allocated to pensioners, and the fund had to be spent or committed by 30 September.

Anglian Water has approximately 2,800 customers of pensionable age in Cambridgeshire who are in arrears with their water bills and were early to agree this scheme in principle. Since the committee made its decision, Cambridge Water has also come on board.

Communities Capital Fund

The committee also received the findings of a working party set up to consider the eight 'red rated' capital projects offered money by the previous administration's Communities Capital Fund. Seven of these eight projects were found to be sufficiently well advanced that they could proceed to completion.

The eighth however, a new community building at Stretham whose costs had ballooned, and which had neither planning consent nor firm commitments of additional funding to match the £500,000 offered by the council, was agreed by a majority of the committee to be non-viable and was terminated.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvements

The Council's Highways & Transport Committee is being asked to approve a new way of managing Local Highways Improvements, developed by a councillor working group.

Applications will be divided into non-complex and complex schemes. Noncomplex applications will attract a maximum of £10,000 in council contribution, with complex proposals will be able to seek up to £25,000. The overall council budget for Local Highways Improvement bids will remain the same.
Non-complex projects will be scored by council officers using an agreed matrix, and a councillor working group will review the scores before they are submitted to Highways & Transport Committee for approval. This should speed up the process for all applicants and mean fewer applications for the councillor panel to interview in depth.
For the coming year, the proposal is for the application window to open on Monday 31 October and close on Friday 6 January, with panel meetings in May.
HGV policy
The Council's Highways & Transport Committee is also being asked to approve a new HGV policy drafted by a working group.
The policy seeks to address how the Council will fulfil its responsibilities for HGV movements throughout Cambridgeshire, and how it will work with partners to reconcile several key aspects of this issue, in particular the contribution of freight to the local economy, the effects of HGV traffic on the environment, and local concerns about residential amenity.
The policy also sets out how communities can take action to address the issue of HGV movements and how they can seek advice, support, and action from the Council if locally brokered solutions are unsuccessful.
The Council's Advisory Freight Route Map, which is currently on the Council's website, will go live on the one.network website, hopefully towards the end of this calendar year.
Highways Asset Management System
The Council is going out to tender for a new Highways Asset Management System. This will enable different parts of the highways service to work together properly, enable mobile working, directly share information with other council systems, and be hosted in the cloud. It will replace the current outdated Insight system, including the limited public facing Report It tool, and provide a much more satisfactory and coordinated way of working.
Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
The Highways & Transport Committee is being asked to approve a new Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, which highlights key corridors where it is possible to increase walking and cycling and reduce short car trips. The LCWIP will sit under the Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire which is currently under consultation, and this in turn sits under the Combined Authority's Local Transport & Connectivity Plan, currently being refreshed.
Consultation on the LCWIP took place in June and July 2021. A number of key cycling routes have been identified, and walking zones in the larger settlements. These have been mapped, and general approaches and interventions proposed. In East Cambridgeshire, the walking maps are confined within the urban settlements such as Ely. However, the cycling maps include some of the villages.
These proposals are currently unfunded but having an LCWIP in place increases the likelihood of getting active travel funding from central government.
Meanwhile on the Combined Authority
When the Combined Authority is not considering buses, the vast majority of its time is spent on the Improvement work that has been ongoing ever since a report from the auditors on the unsatisfactory state of affairs there. The Improvement framework presented to the Combined Authority's Audit & Governance Committee sets out six 'key priority areas of focus':
1. Establish clarity on the scale of political ambition and develop an overarching strategy for the remainder of this mayoral term, and to chart the next steps on that journey. This needs to include defining the purpose and role of the CPCA and in particular where the CPCA can add value.
2. Implement a comprehensive reset of ways of working and align the policy development and pre-Board processes to support this.
3. Prioritise work to establish a long-term strategy for transport, an urgent development of a bus strategy and review the role and functioning of the Business Board.
4. Undertake a strategic review of income projections, including options, to secure sustainability and the possibility of taking a more strategic approach to the application of funds for identified priorities.
5. Design and implement an organisation for today's performance, and with the agility to act on emerging demands and opportunities.
6. Map the approach, capacity and arrangements needed to build an effective public relation and influencing delivery operation.
Meanwhile, the Housing Committee is to receive a report on its outstanding loans. As previously reported, the largest loan made by the Combined Authority for housing is £24.4M to East Cambs Trading Company, a company owned by East Cambridgeshire District Council, for its scheme to refurbish the former MOD homes in Ely. The balance of this loan as of 16 August was £11M. The loan falls due in March 2023, and the most recent monitoring report advises that the cash flow is behind forecast. The Trading Company says it has 'access to a facility' in the event that it cannot repay the loan in full.

4. Minutes of previous Meeting

Following a request from Councillor Acklam to include that the Reach Fair discussion stated that "*The PC rehearsed the vulnerabilities of running the Fair as a subcommittee and reaffirmed that these could only be mitigated by the PC approving in a public meeting all Fair Committee requests for action before any action is taken. The PC judged this unworkable certainly for all concerned. The considered view of the PC was that a CIO or CIC would limit the personal liabilities of those ultimately responsible for the Fair whereas the provisions of a subcommittee of the Parish Council could not.* The amended minutes were agreed and approved.

5.1 Reach Grant Fund
An application had been received from the Events Team for up to £720 funding for the 3 Christmas events, the Christmas tree lights switch on, the seniors Christmas lunch, and the carols around the tree. Approved.

5.2 Finance
The report was noted.

5.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor Acklam had been contacted regarding the defibrillator and further training. ***Councillor Acklam*** to establish maintenance and another training day for use of the defibrillator.

5.4 Play Spaces
Councillor McMillan had met with Kompan at the playground to discuss the broken parts and the constant loosening of the bolts. We await information as to what Kompan are able to do to help with the situation.

5.5 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

5.6 24Acres Committee
Councillor Acklam stated that 100 saplings would be planted on 3rd & 4th December, the planting area would extend slightly into the NT owned area, as agreed with the NT.

5.7 Neighbourhood Plan
Clerk reported that a formal complaint had been received concerning the PC decisions made regarding the NP. Clerk had contacted CAPALC and ECDC Monitoring Officer for advice and assistance. Until this has been resolved no further meetings or discussions will take place.

5.8 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

5.9 A to B1102 Group
There had been lots of work this month regarding the cancellation and subsequent new bus service to the village and surrounding area. The PC expressed their thanks to the group for the work taking place. The latest report is below –

We have had numerous issues shared with the Group relating to bus cancellations, late running of buses and ticketing / travel card prices. It has been a particularly difficult week for the new operator, Bill Hiron, their MD shared the following: "we have had to work at breakneck speed to assemble buses, open a new depot, recruit and train drivers, devise timetables and duties and faretables and register routes, programme ticket machines and destination displays, prepare public timetables etc. So, there are a number of inevitable teething problems which we may have foreseen if we had longer (though many others where we would have not!)."
Roadworks on Newmarket Road in Cambridge have compounded things still further and looking at the feedback, it would appear that a potentially ambitious timetable, especially for the rush hour, combined with the roadworks have been a somewhat lethal cocktail!
Whilst I am very aware how frustrating, inconvenient, and disruptive it is when a scheduled bus does not arrive / arrive on time, we need to be cautious regarding criticism given the circumstances. Stephensons need some time to bed-in their services.
I have encouraged Stephensons to post updates to our Facebook page as a way of disseminating info quickly – they have admitted that they have very limited Admin staff capacity (so far, I don't believe they've taken up this invitation). Bill Hiron is willing to engage and has been quick to respond to my emails – all positive.
<u>Bus Passes / Tickets</u>
A big problem surrounds the cost of annual tickets and student travel when the student uses more than one bus company. Bill explains:
"The 11 route is tendered by CAPCA initially only for 5 months until the end of March, so any form of annual ticket is problematic. The 12 is commercial but our standard Smartcard scholars tickets paid by monthly direct debit run from September each year. Introducing them now would be technically complex. However, we are looking at a weekly student ticket valid up to age 19 and sold on bus by the driver. This will take a week or two to organise, price to be confirmed.
A return from Burwell to Cambridge on the 11 for a 16 yrs. costs £4.40 – exactly the same as Stagecoach were. Any passenger using more than one company will indeed need to buy a Cambridgeshire Multibus. We can't dictate that another commercial business accepts our tickets! This is £8 per day but there is also a weekly version at £33."
I suggest that we need to raise the issue of student travel with the CAPCA because £33.00 per week is a huge cost to get to college and back if that journey involves two different bus companies. This is something the CAPCA should surely be able to address. Annual tickets will, it appears, remain a challenge until the re-tendering of the No 11 route offers at least 1 year of tenure for the bus company.

<u>Summary of points raised on our call on the 27th October:</u>
The tender which has just been awarded covers services until the end of March 2023. Providers will have the option of an extension for 12 months

The CAPCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee is exploring a Bus Strategy for the County. Those present made clear concerns regarding the way any future strategy dovetails with the GCP aspirations for bus travel as part of the Congestion Charging / Making Connections plans.
JC explained that through input / facilitation from Councillors Claire Daunton and Lorna Dupre, the GCP have offered to engage with the A to B1102 Group – we therefore propose to set up a face-to-face session for all those currently engaged with the Group.
Issues emerging relating to the No 11 & No 12 Routes:
Timetable – a clear need for a more in-depth timetable
Lode Crossroads – signage and infrastructure at new stop – who will be providing these and by when, equally the need for Stephensons to brief their drivers of this new stop as some appear to be unaware of its existence (passenger feedback)
Bus Passes (see above)
Stephensons – will accept concessionary fares after 9.30am
Timetabling
Numerous issues around the synching of times for the different routes – currently, the timetables do not facilitate easy interchange on a number of the routes.
Fares
John Trapp believes now is the time to offer reduced fares to encourage more people onto the services – it was agreed this is a strategic decision which the CAPCA will need to address.
Communication: what are each of the villages doing?
Quy Facebook page / Quy website – being updated
Lode: Lode Star information – updated timetables in the magazine, Facebook page for the village & WhatsApp Group
Bottisham: Local Magazine, Parish Council Website, Community Website – Social Club, Village College – also keeping the Care Homes informed
Swaffham Bulbeck: Facebook page has been updated, Parish Council sharing information
Swaffham Prior: Facebook page has bene updated, Parish Magazine to contain information update
Burwell: Clunch information shared, Burwell Facebook Page – information in the Co-op
Reach: Out on Facebook / email list / Within Reach / local Pub
Newmarket: Covered the media – Town Council Website, links to the Stephenson's Timetables, Local Pubs / Shops
Issues raised (in addition to above)

- Revising the new No 11 route:
- Clear the new route disadvantages residents of Bottisham and in particular, those in Bottisham and other villages accessing care, GP services, sports facilities, and education in the village
- Data is required to better understand the numbers affected in Bottisham and in other villages – there are clearly trade-offs between meeting everyone's needs, the cost to run such a service, the speed of service etc.

a. The A to B1102 Group will facilitate this data collection by creating surveys over the coming 6 weeks A to B1102 Action
b. Question as to whether we can persuade Stagecoach to release any data on patronage whilst they ran the 12 and 11 services? A to B1102 Action

- There is a need to raise awareness, in particular amongst those not able to access digital services, for example, a greater proportion of the elderly to socialise the new service timetables and routes

a. Lorna Dupre took an action to explore whether it would be possible for the CAPCA Bus Travel team to utilise their database of concessionary fare holders to raise awareness, frustratingly, GDPR prevents this

- Questions regarding the aims & objectives of Suffolk County Council and the CAPCA in relation to the setting up of express bus routes between our key towns – Cambridge, Newmarket, and Bury St Edmunds – what is their position? Alan Sharp to explore this

5.10 Reach Fair
Meeting Thursday 20 October 8pm Village Hall
Present: Gayle Chapman, Alex de Giorgio-Miller, Cris & Nev Fletcher, Claire Halpin, Susan Hatley, and Dan Marsh (Dykes End)
Apologies: Oli Rausch
The Reach Fair committee now has eight members including Dan Marsh from the Dykes End. It is excellent news that our numbers have risen from three (last year) to eight. Many villages and clubs struggle to find volunteers and the rise in numbers bodes very well for the future of the Fair. We look forward to liaising with Dan from the Dykes End and integrating the activities of the pub and village. The new committee members will make a substantial contribution to the completion of the tasks associated with the running of the Fair and this is very important.
They will also bring fresh ideas, innovation and observations, and intelligent consideration of matters associated with ethics and policies, and the structuring and planning of the Fair. No pressure.
1 Entertainers
Performance Without Limits Dance Troup; Tang Soo Martial Arts; Jezo Magic Show; Musician Graham Buxton; Band The Casuals; and Morris Men. All booked and programme drafted.
2 Bar, Food Stalls & Inflatables
Increased fees seem not to have been a deterrent as the majority of Food Stalls have sent in their completed booking forms and deposits, and we now have some money in the Reach Fair bank account.
It was agreed that the budget will be considered at the November meeting when many of the external costs will have been received.

3 Logistics
All our external contributors have been contacted and replied in the affirmative.
4 Craft Stalls
All the stalls which attended last year, and previous years have been sent an invite and Booking Form for 2023, and some completed forms and payments have already been received.
5 Use of the Village Hall
The Village Hall will be free for the first time in 20+ years. It was agreed that the best use will be for exhibition stalls and games run by local PTAs, clubs, charities, and societies.
6 Status of Reach Fair Committee
Reach Parish Council are not willing for the Reach Fair committee to continue as a subcommittee of the Parish Council. AdG, CF and CH had already had a preliminary discussion of this important item prior to this meeting.
The options of the committee becoming a Charity, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or Charity Interest Company (CIC) were discussed at the meeting and the option of being a CIO was preferred and judged the most appropriate.
It was agreed that the new Reach Fair Committee (CIO) should have the ability to disperse the funds arising from the Fair. It was acknowledged that there is a long-standing history of the Village Hall receiving a significant sum from the proceeds of the Fair.
AdG, CF, CH and GC are all willing to be trustees
The PC require the change of status to be completed before Reach Fair 2023 so this task must be executed promptly. David Parr of the Events Team is very willing to assist with the preparation of the paperwork and AdG has direct experience of setting up a CIO. ACTION: David Parr to liaise with AdG and a progress report will be required for the RF November meeting. Since the meeting CH has contacted DP and he confirmed his willingness to act and appreciates the need to be prompt.
GC has already looked at insurance cost and obtained a figure of c.£500.
7 Social media and advertising
Review and add Reach Fair to What's On Sites.
8 AOB - None
Date of next meeting - Thursday 24th November, Thursdays 8pm Village Hall. Duration: usually c.1 hour
Nov 24th ; Jan 19th ; Feb 23rd ; March 23rd and April 20th.

Discussion took place regarding the statement within the reach Fair Minutes "*Reach Parish Council are not willing for the Reach Fair committee to continue as a subcommittee of the Parish Council."*
The PC felt this was not a true statement of fact and asked ***Councillor Fletcher*** to go back to the committee to ask that this statement be changed to clarify that the PC were not against the forming of a subcommittee however the PC had concluded that the ability of the committee to work and make decisions quickly enough to organise the Fair under PC rules, would make it very difficult for the Committee to operate successfully as a subcommittee of the Parish Council. Organising the Fair needs rapid decision making, but Parish Council's and their Committees can only take decisions at meetings where those decisions are included on an Agenda which was published at least 5 working days before the meeting. Creating a limited liability entity would also remove any personal liability from all of the organisers and the PC Councillors.

6. Sunnica & EDF solar farm
Sunnica
It was agreed that the previous discussed representation should be put forward by ***Councillor Acklam***.
It was also agreed that that the PC should join the Parish Alliance as the PC feels that a statement of common ground is more powerful than individual representations. ***Councillor Acklam*** to inform them.
EDF
Councillors Acklam & Cane attended a meeting with EDF & Burwell PC to discuss the split of the EDF community funds. EDF are offering community funds of £20,000 per annum, inflation proofed for 40 years.
Reach PC hoped the money could be used jointly on projects that would benefit both Parishes. Burwell would not agree and offered a 75/25 split.
Following discussion, the PC agreed. The £5,000 adjusted will be provided to the PC and although it does not have to be spent each year it should be used for infrastructure projects. ***Councillor Acklam*** to inform them.
Additionally, EDF would like to run forums/workshops for villagers, ***Councillor Acklam*** to inform them of the PCs grateful agreement.

7. Sustrans Route Feasibility reports & 8. CCC Transport Strategies 2022 - public consultation
Both reports/consultations focus on cycle route to/from the villages. The PC believe the route to Swaffham Prior is equally as important as the route to Burwell. A route to Prior would provide a vehicle free route to the school and on to Cambridge. The PC would prefer the access route to Burwell to go the area near to the shops, school, Library and Doctors as opposed to the Mandeville Hall end of the village. ***Clerk*** to inform Councillor Cane to allow her to feed back on behalf of the PC.

9. Cemetery & mooring fees
The PC decided not to change either of these fees this year due to the increasing cost of living crisis.

There was discussion about maintaining and improving the biodiversity of the cemetery. The PC agreed not to allocate burial plots at the very top of the cemetery to assist. The revised arrangement would still leave well over 70 plots available to the village.

10. Clerk review (Confidential Session)

11. Payments

E. on - Power on the green	£16.95
CR Contracting	£85.00

Diary Dates

December 2022	Event	Location	Time
Every Friday	Community Cafe	Village Hall	3pm to 4.30pm
Daily 1 to 24	Advent Windows	See Events Team page	
Sunday 4	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's	8.30am
Sunday 4	Christmas Tree Lights Switch On	Lower Green	5.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 6	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Tuesday 6	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Friday 9	The Funeral of John Cole	St Etheldreda's, followed by Burial in our Cemetery and Refreshments in the Village Hall	2.00pm
Tuesday 13	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Thursday 15	Senior's Christmas Lunch	Village Hall	12.30 to 3.00pm
Tuesday 20	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Friday 23	Christingle Service	St Etheldreda's	6.00pm
Saturday 24	Carols around the Christmas Tree	Lower Green	6.00pm
Sunday 25	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's	8.30am
Thursday 29	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		

January 2023	Event	Location	Time
Every Friday	Community Cafe	Village Hall	3pm to 4.30pm
Sunday 8	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's	8.30am
Tuesday 3	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Thursday 5	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wednesday 11	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 17	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 24	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 31	Recycling Day (Blue)		

Bus Timetable

STEPHENSONS

11 Newmarket - Burwell - Reach - Swaffham Prior - Lode - Cambridge

Monday - Saturday

No service Sunday & public holidays
Commencing 31st Oct 2022

	NS	Sa	Sa	NS										
Newmarket, The Guineas Bus Station	--	--	700	700	820	920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1520	1620	1745
Newmarket, Studlands, Park Avenue	--	--	710	710	830	930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1755
Burwell, Ness Road	639	649	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Burwell, Hawthorn Way	641	651	723	723	843	943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1808
Reach, Post Office	653	703	--	--	855	--	1055	--	1255	--	1455	1555	1655	1820
Swaffham Prior, Bus Shelter	658	708	737	737	900	957	1100	1157	1300	1357	1500	1600	1700	1825
Lode, Church	--	--	--	--	--	1004	--	1204	--	1404	--	--	--	--
Stow cum Quy, Station Rd Bus Stop	708	718	747	751	910	1012	1110	1212	1310	1412	1510	1610	1710	1835
Cambridge, Marshalls Airport	718	728	757	804	920	1022	1120	1222	1320	1422	1520	1620	1720	1845
Cambridge, Drummer St Bus Station	732	742	811	816	934	1034	1134	1234	1334	1434	1534	1634	1734	1859

Cambridge, Drummer St Bus Station	650	750	850	950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1550	1715	1815	1915
Cambridge, Marshalls Airport	702	802	902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1727	1827	1927
Stow cum Quy, Station Rd Bus Stop	712	812	912	1012	1112	1212	1312	1412	1512	1612	1737	1837	1937
Lode, Church	--	--	920	--	1120	--	1320	--	1520	--	1745	--	--
Swaffham Prior, Bus Shelter	723	823	926	1023	1126	1223	1326	1423	1526	1623	1751	1848	1948
Reach, Post Office	728	828	--	1028	--	1228	--	1428	--	1628	--	1853	1953
Burwell, Hawthorn Way	738	838	938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1638	1803	1903	2003
Newmarket, Studlands, Park Avenue	752	852	952	1052	1152	1252	1352	1452	1552	1652	1817	1917	2017
Newmarket, The Guineas Bus Station	802	902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1702	1827	1927	2027

NS Not Saturdays
Sa Saturdays Only



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

Tug-of-war in progress on the Upper Green during Reach Fair week 1970.

Chris Patterson

Contact Information

Parish Council – see "Know Your Parish Council"			
Village Hall			
	Chair	David Thomas	01638 742676
	Finance	Andrew Trump	01638 743335
	Bookings	Tash Bridgeman	07920 516586 rvhcb25@gmail.com
	Secretary	Sue Elliot	01638 742268
Marquee Bookings		Claire Halpin-McDonald	01638 743330
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







Courtesy of Rosanna



Courtesy of Rosanna



Courtesy of Rosanna



Big Bug(ger)