Within Reach



April/May 2023





Willow Weaving in the Village Hall





Contents

Title	Author	Page
Articles		
Bar Billiards at the Dyke's End	David "Taffy" Lloyd	14
Call My Wine Bluff	Helen Oliver	20
Devil's Dyke Update	Ross Clark	4
ECDC Press Release		20
Etheldreda's World	Charles Moseley	16
Willow Weaving in Reach	Helen Oliver	12
Anglesey Abbey	Meghan Curteis	11
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club	Daphne Hanson	10
Burwell Museum and Windmill	Sara Phipps	-
Burwell and Reach Car Scheme	Pam King	5
Bus Timetable		31
CentrePeace		7
Church		
Church Services		21
Letter from the Vicarage	Eleanor Williams	19
Reach Church Development Update	Pat Chalmers	19
Community Cafe	Claire and Helen	5
Contact Information		32
Diary Dates		30
Dyke's End	David "Taffy" Lloyd	15
Events Team		5
Food Focus	Catherine Gibson	12
Mobile Library		3
Nature in Reach	Cath Tayleur	8
Parish Council		
Know your District Councillors		22
Know Your Parish Council		22
Meeting Minutes		23
Reach Fair	Claire Halpin-McDonald	13
Rosanna's Ramblings	Rosanna Moseley Gore	6
Sport and Recreation		
Cricket Report	Ross Clark	15
Reach Riders	Sue Cameron	7
Tales from a Reach Garden	Danuta Gibson	17
Then and Now	Chris Patterson	32
Village Hall		10
Village Update	Alex de Giorgio-Miller	3
Wicken Fen	Julia Hammond	11

From the Editor



I think is fair to say that Spring is well and truly in the air – and it is very welcome! Bulbs are coming through and grass is growing again, indeed the Green recently had what I believe to be its first mowing of the year. And quite soon now it'll be Reach Fair followed by the Coronation Weekend.

Things are well under control for the Fair as you will see from Claire's report on page 13. There is a strong team in place with a good number of village newcomers getting involved, which is excellent news. The customary call for help on the day has been made, with a variety of fun jobs to be carried out – if you're willing to devote an hour or two helping out on the day, please let one of the team know.

There will be Parish Council and ECDC elections on Thursday May 4th. There's guidance on new voting rules in Alex's Village Update on page 4 and the Know Your District Councillors contribution on page 22, with the main change being that before you can cast your vote you have to prove you are who you say you are, which seems eminently reasonable to me!

So, in the same way that newcomers are becoming increasingly involved in contributing to Reach Fair, it'd be great if there were some on our new Parish Council. It really isn't onerous and a great learning curve about the village and local government. If you're interested, I'd recommend you get in touch with the Clerk, Susan Bailey, who will be able to enlighten you on what needs doing and when (see Know Your Parish Council on page 22 for her contact details). There are no major qualifications, just a willingness to contribute and the ownership of bit of common sense.

A big thankyou is needed to councillors Cris Fletcher and Matt Newman who have been helping villagers to understand how they can better insulate their properties, saving themselves money and contributing to a better world. Lots of people took them up on their offer and doubtless, if anyone missed out on this initiative, there'd be the possibility of repeating it.

And finally, have a look at the Events Team report on page 5 and get yourselves ready to have a fun time over the Coronation Weekend, culminating in our Village Event on the afternoon of Sunday 7th May.

David Parr

Cover Picture courtesy of **Rosanna Moseley Gore**

About the Magazine

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

Copies of *Within Reach* magazine and its predecessor *Out of Reach* can be found on the village website www.reach-village.co.uk. 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

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

Village Update



Apologies to all – I was completely fooled by the brief Spring-like weather in February and got out my sunglasses - which has obviously caused the flurry of snow and endless rain we've seen since! I vow not to embrace any warmer weather until at least May…

Photo ID now needed for voting

For the first time, residents in East Cambridgeshire will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections. Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote on 4th May by checking they have an accepted form of ID, which include: a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or provisional drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass.

Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo. Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID on the government website (https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) or by completing a paper form. The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.

Homeowners asked to help out Ukrainians

East Cambridgeshire District Council is launching a renewed appeal for homeowners to help support people from Ukraine on the first anniversary of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Since it was launched on 14 March 2022 extraordinary people from across our district have helped support more than 183 men, women and children from Ukraine fleeing the atrocities of the war. But as the crisis continues more homeowners are needed. Anyone who is able to offer a spare bedroom and some support for guests as they settle into a new life will receive an initial 'thank you' payment of £350 a month for the first 12 months. This will then increase to £500 when the guest has been in the country for 12 months.

The Council, in partnership with many other organisations, is also able to offer lots of help, advice and resources to hosts and guests. A special community hub has been established every Thursday at the Lighthouse Centre, in Ely which offers a welcome and friendly atmosphere for hosts and guests to meet and socialise, with a free play area and activities for the children, along with refreshments for all attending.

Anyone who would like to find out more or register their interest should contact Angela Parmenter for an informal chat on 01353 665555. For more information, please visit https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/housing/homes-ukraine-hosts

Cost of Living

The District Council Community Team are available on the Community bus, offering advice on a variety of subjects including benefits, housing advice, debt and financial support and how to access help during the cost of living crisis. The bus stops at Burwell every Thursday between 10am and midday at Mandeville Hall (the timetable of its other stops can be found on the council website: https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/housing/community-bus-timetable. They have seen demand for their services mushroom over the past 12 months as they have dealt with 1,411 requests for general cost of living advice and 1,029 requests for housing advice. Cost of living advice is also available on their website: https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/cost-living/cost-living and includes advice on: government payments, charities and support schemes, support with energy costs, help with food costs, information on community groups, advice on staying healthy, and debt and money advice.

Keep well

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

Mobile Library

The mobile library is visits Reach on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10.10 to 10.30am. This is route F16 and it parks at the Fair Green Bus Stop.

They have a great selection of books for all, free NHS hearing aid batteries and walking stick ferrules. You can join Cambridgeshire Libraries on the bus if you are not already a member.



Devil's Dyke Update

As the debate at Shire Hall rumbles on as to whether to demolish the Devil's Dyke over its historic links with slavery, we look at both sides of the argument.



Professor Ane

"Yes, bulldoze the Dyke now" says Prof. Bronwen Ane, Director, Devil's Dyke Must Fall Campaign. "Every time I drive from Swaffham Prior to Burwell I have to close my eyes. It's just too painful". Why? "Because my distant ancestor, Aelfrith, was one of several hundred serfs who were kidnapped by the kingdom of East Anglia and forced to work 18 hours a day for many years carrying buckets of chalk to construct the Dyke. Conditions were appalling. Sometimes they had to work in slurry up to their waists. During that time all he was fed was porridge. Diseases such as scabies and scrofula ran rife in the makeshift camps in which he and other bonded labourers were forced to live. The pain and exhaustion must have been unimaginable. Eventually, he ran away and fell, exhausted on Reach village green, only to be trampled by an auroch (this is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles). I know that the Devil's Dyke has been part of the landscape for centuries, is home to wildlife and a popular walking route, but it just isn't right to have in our midst a monument that was built on the backs of the poor and oppressed. Every day that it stands is a microaggression against people like me. It is a constant reminder of how the Kingdom of East Anglia denied the peoples of Mercia their basic human rights and simply cannot be allowed to stand in a progressive country in the 21st century. That is why we are demanding that it be torn down and returned to the soil. It could be replaced by a memorial garden and planted with climate-friendly wildflowers which could remove several tones of CO_2 from the atmosphere each year. That would be a win-win for the environment as well as social justice".



Dr Ivel

"No, keep the Dyke but do more to explain about serfdom", says Dr Derek Ivel, chair of Cambridge University's project to decolonise East Anglia. "Of course, a very great wrong was committed by the East Angles in using Mercian serfs to construct the Devil's Dyke and it is a great stain on the reputation of all of us who live here. Amends must be made but the Devil's Dyke is an ancient monument and also a site of special scientific interest, home to the B.1.102 lizard, which is only found in three other locations in Britain. We must do all we can to educate people about the use of serf labour – which could involve a memorial and interpretation board at Reach. But we believe that a far better way to deal with the issue is through reparations. The question is how we do it. Ideally, we would be able trace all the descendants of serfs and make them a one-off compensation payment. However, this will be difficult as not everyone, unlike Bronwen, has family records going back that far.

What we propose instead is the making one-off payments of £10,000 a head to local residents who live on the western, Mercian side of the Dyke. This would be funded by placing, for a period of 10 years, a 20 percent surcharge on the council tax bills of everyone who lives on the East Anglian side the dyke. In Reach this means properties on the same side of the village green as the church and the pub. Of course, we can't be sure that all residents on the eastern side are necessarily descended from East Angles nor that everyone on the western side is necessarily descended from Mercian serfs, but in the circumstances it seems the fairest option, and will go a long way to righting this great historic wrong".

What do you think? Should we bulldoze the dyke – or keep it and pay reparations to the descendants of the serfs who were forced to build it? Press TAB five times to redirect to the Accessibility page.

Ross Clark

Events Team



Ceilidh Band on the Green – in 2011

As you'll all be well aware, it won't be long until Reach Fair and Claire has written a comprehensive update on progress which you can see on page 13. Closely following the Fair will be the Coronation Weekend, with the Coronation itself taking place on the Saturday 6th and our Village Party on the Sunday.

Our plans for the Sunday are . . . .

Midday The **Dyke's End** will be open for Sunday lunches and drinks - and will stay open all afternoon and evening. They will be happy to supply ice creams too!

2.00pm If you are a Reach villager without guests, simply choose somewhere to sit and enjoy the event. We will provide whatever outdoor chairs and tables that we have, but please feel free to bring your own. And whilst we will be doing our best to feed you plus providing free soft drinks, please bring along any alcoholic drinks and glasses, or head to the pub. And if the kids want ice creams, the pub will also have those available too. **If you have guests** then please, should you so wish, head over to the gazebos and make your **donation of £5 per guest** - many thanks.

2.30pm Food will be served - tea party items plus a barbecue.

3.30pm Dancing! **With our Ceilidh Band** Frog on a Bike. We've had a Ceilidh band a couple of times in the past, the picture above shows the last occasion in 2011.

5.30pm Mementos will be given out to village youngsters - and our seniors! There will also be some available for villagers to purchase.

6.00pm The event will finish and the **Dyke's End** will take over the job of looking after you!

We look forward to welcoming you.

David, Debbie, Hannah and Jo

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.

Pam King

Community Cafe

The Community café takes place on Fridays form 3pm – 4.30pm.

There will be no café on Friday 7 April (Good Friday) or 14 April, however, it will resume on Friday 21st April.

The Community cafe evolved as a post Covid community event. Numbers have decreased in recent weeks and unless there is a sudden surge in demand it will only run until the end of the summer term.

Helen and Claire

Rosanna's Ramblings



I don't know about you, but I've been having some problems with time recently. It's not just the clocks changing (which, I may have mentioned before, I resent because I don't see why we should think we're more important than the sun). It's actually the way the passage of time seems to be playing more tricks on me than usual.

Take this issue, for instance. How can it possibly be the APRIL issue – already? I was comfortably sitting in my own inertia, feeling that it was a month before I'd need to stumble through another Ramblings for your dubious edification, when our Editor pinged a reminder email to send him my contribution. If I'd been in a cartoon, I'd have done a comedy double-take when I saw it. What – it's two months since I last rambled away into the ether? (Actually, though it usually feels like that, my last piece did actually elicit a much appreciated text of appreciation and the Reach village Facebook page has recently taken up the theme of off-roaders wrecking our droves and lanes so clearly I wasn't rambling alone – phew!).

Now, I pride myself in Being Prepared, Ahead of the Game and A Good Student. No last-minute submission of assignments for goody two shoes me. So, I was cross with myself for not only having to be reminded, but also for having taken my eye off the ball in terms of what my theme for writing might be. I just couldn't get my head round where we've got in the unfolding of 2023, even though I write down the date on each acupuncture patient's notes so I did know, really, that we'd passed the Ides of March. I'd even remarked on the implausibility of it being at this point of the year on several occasions.



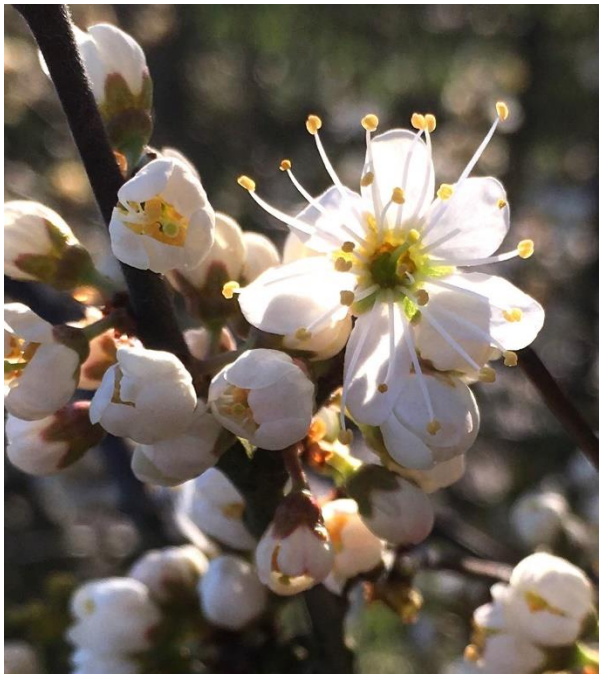
So, cue muted drum roll … my theme, dear reader, is exactly this. *"Time present and time past. And both perhaps present in time future."* My Charles will be thrilled that his literary influence has been strong enough on me to induce me to quote T.S.Eliot … particularly as I'm always raising my eyes in exasperation at his speaking through quotations! But having talked with plenty of people about it recently, I suspect that the weirdly distorted sense of time many of us have been experiencing is one of the little acknowledged legacies of the pandemic. It's an absurd three years since we were in the early weeks of the first Covid lockdown – and for me, at any rate, that time feels both far far away and also, viscerally, incredibly close. The weather was a whole lot better that stunning spring, wasn't it and despite my memories of deep anxiety and bewilderment, I do genuinely feel nostalgia for the gardening, the soup-making from foraged nettles, the first sourdough loaf I baked causing Charles to break a tooth, the sense of deep justification in always having some home-made cake to munch in the garden sun trap every afternoon. Even now, when I change our sheets or hang washing out to dry, a part of me remembers how I needed to log the temporal patterns that gradually emerged in those months when I wasn't allowed to see patients. Hair wash – every four days. Laundry – every three. Dishwasher – every other. Morning solo walk, afternoon duet. Life became reduced to something simpler and predictable, in order to manage the emotional turmoil of the globally complex and unpredictable Out There, Out of Reach.

So much, so three years ago.

And now, we're all going about life pretty much as if the pandemic never happened. I just popped into Tesco in Ely this morning and realised I hadn't been there since we all had to wear masks. It felt strange, both that we did that and we don't do it now. Our diaries have become so full in the scramble to catch up with friends and family, to fit holidays and short breaks and work travel (yes, lucky me having a clever husband who gives lectures at conferences – Rome in October, what a sacrifice!). So full that it's becoming almost embarrassing how far ahead our next free days are, when a friend says "Please come to lunch". It almost feels like a helter-skeltering hurry to do, and be, and enjoy, and achieve … what? Well, life, I think. Living the sort of life that felt welcome, and natural, and meaningful, and sometimes joyful – the sort of life that felt for quite a while as if it might never come back.

I say 'come back' but I don't think that's quite true. Wise husband is prone to saying "You can't step into the same river twice" and I'm always prompting patients who long to be "back to how I used to be" to think rather of moving into a new version of themselves which encompasses good health from the past with the wisdom and experience accrued during the difficult times. Even the Reach Fair coming up on 1 May won't be a cloned copy of the 2019 last pre-pandemic one.

Things change, though Charles will once again be manning the book stall and getting frustrated at curious people disarranging his carefully arranged order – so perhaps in that way, time will stand still and he will forever be huffing and puffing in his desire to make the world a neater and more manageable place. Poor dear man, to be so deluded in thinking such an endeavour will ever succeed!



But there will be a Reach Fair in 2023 (fingers crossed behind my back – a significant achievement, I'm sure you'll agree, while typing on a keyboard). The may blossom will be coming soon and decorating the Lode with its extravagant frothiness. The hawthorn gin I brewed from those trees is now ready for bottling – as yet untasted, it will apparently resemble sherry, but stronger. The blackthorns are showing their tiny spherical blossom buds as I write … holding the promise of sloe gin on chilly winter nights. Charles has got his early spuds in. My lilac shrubs in Ely are putting out their first leaves. My daughter will turn 30 in August. The ceanothus is flowering two months early. Snowdrops are lasting longer in flower than my narcissi. This June my Ma would have been 100 years old. My love and I have been together more than seven years and all of life seems to have been encompassed for me into those years. Our Milo will soon have his second Orkney beach holiday.

Who knows what else will come, has been, and might be?

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Reach Riders



We have spent some time tidying and maintaining the arena after winter, with more work to do. The arena has been rolled and is all ready to be used - we have more to do but it's all looking good, so thank you to all the committee members for helping.

We would like to welcome the new members and with more on the horizon, it makes for a promising start to the new season.

The committee has decided that membership will now run from the 1st March each year. Those who have renewed in October last year will have membership until Feb 2024.

The bank details for membership will be changing in the near future as the community account will be closing - Barclays decision, not ours, but it's fair to say they have been less than helpful !
We are hoping to start lessons again soon with Lucy Tuck, so will keep you posted. Let Helen Oliver or myself know if you'd like to be added to the WhatsApp group for lessons.

And let's hope we return to the lovely Spring weather we were experiencing at the beginning of this month.

Sue Cameron

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.

Nature in Reach



Are the daffodils out? Have we seen the last of the snow and freezing temperatures? I have to admit I have no idea. I departed the UK on a dreary March morning for a long overdue post-Covid trip 'home' to New Zealand, hoping to skip the last of the winter and return when Spring has well and truly sprung.

Right now, we are visiting friends in the Hawkes Bay, which was recently left devastated by a cyclone. This is a key fruit growing area and whole orchards were wiped out by enormous floods that buried them under layers of silt. The impacts were made much worse by the intensive forestry industry - which leaves huge amounts of debris after clear felling. All of this 'slash' was then carried down hillsides knocking out infrastructure and making the flooding worse by creating temporary dams. It's scary to see the impacts of climate change hit close to home (albeit a home on the other side of the world) and makes me think about the future of our low lying fens.



A different view from my office this month

On a cheerier note, I spent several days in my home city of Wellington listening to the beautiful call of native birds which have returned to the city. Partly due to overspill from an inner-city predator-free sanctuary, but also thanks to a city-wide predator free campaign where locals chip in to catch invasive mammals - all of which were introduced from Britain many years ago.

Hearing the melodious calls of Tui and the swoop of the native pigeon 'Kereru' in your backyard is fantastic. If only we could do the same for Turtle Dove and Nightingales in the UK.



A Wellington backyard overlooking the harbour filled with birdsong



A Wellington Tui

Closer to home Nick and Joss have us covered with their wildlife sightings.

Report from Nick Acklam

22 January: Despite the freezing weather, songbirds are still wary of using our garden feeders - a consequence, we think, of a Sparrowhawk presence in the area. Today a large flock of Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits gather in the tallest tree before dropping in relays and very briefly onto the feeders. A defence strategy perhaps.

23 January: Another bitterly cold morning with the high pressure responsible reflected a barometer reading of 1038mb. A very pale Barn Owl hunts over Reach Lode in broad daylight.

27 January: A flock of Reed Bunting, 20 or so strong, move through the hedge on Straight Drove.

28 January: About 100 Greylag and 20 Canada Geese are grazing the wheat in the field beside Split Drove. A passing runner puts them noisily into the air. Three Mute Swans on the same field are unmoved. Whooper Swans no longer frequent this field but Mute Swans are now a near permanent presence, often in pairs (or threes) and up to twelve birds at a time. A brief and exciting sighting of a male Hen Harrier by the cycle bridge.

2 February: A dog fox, very red, runs across the Hurdle Hall land close to the scrape. The small flock of wigeon sitting on the waters of the scrape are completely untroubled by its presence. A beige Barn Owl hunts back and fourth over the lode.

9 February: There are 25 Roe deer on the Hurdle Hall fields. I have never seen this number before.

10 February: A solitary Skylark sings high above Tubney Fen. A woodpecker drums in the tall ash trees by the sewage works. This continues for many minutes but neither Claire nor I can spot the bird.

11 February: There are 40 or so Greylag on the wheat field by Split Drove on 11 February. They take flight as we pass and move towards Burwell Mere.

13 February: A mumuration of Lapwing takes place over Tubney Fen and then Hurdle Hall in mild sunny conditions. Initially there is a single flock of about 200 birds but a group of perhaps 40 birds carves off, rejoins briefly and then disappears in the direction of Wicken. A flock of 100 or so Lapwing is in the same place two days later although there are no aerobatics on this occasion.

27 February: Standing on the lode bank I track the flight of a Mute Swan from the regular grouping on the wheat field beside Split Drove down the lode until I lose sight of it a short distance from the Hythe. When we arrive at the Hythe a solitary Mute Swan sits on the catchwater. In the mild conditions several skylark are in the air above Tubney Fen and a Song Thrush is singing lustily in the tall hedge on Straight Drove.

7 March: A pair of Great Crested Grebe sit on Tubney Mere.

Wildlife sightings from Joss Goodchild

Groups of roe deer visible in several outlying village fields, hares, rabbits and muntjac also.

20.1 Hilary saw a large fox crossing the road, Little Fen Drove.

23/24.1 Female blackcap (chestnut head) on peanuts. Sparrows dominant.

1.2 Deceased adult badger in a field off Great Lane. Later in the week I saw a buzzard standing beside it together with a magpie and an extremely brave grazing rabbit which obviously knew the raptor's attention was elsewhere. I read that badgers suck worms from the soil like spaghetti.

9.2. Hilary, evening time saw 2 badgers on the outskirts of Reach.

22.2. Hilary, early morning, 2 buzzards side by side on Aves' feed clamp straw bales, Little Fen Drove.

Feb, last two weeks of month Hilary heard echoes of woodpecker hammering from Lords Ground Farm direction. Great spotted woodpecker seen regularly on nut feeder at the stableyard around the same time, possibly the same bird.

26.2 Tubney Fen sightings, one short walk: wigeon, Canada and greylag geese, little grebe, coot, moorhen, mallard, kestrel, buzzard, roe deer.

1.3 Hilary saw a cormorant flying over paddocks towards Tubney Fen.

15.3 Good day for the garden, in addition to the usual birds a reed bunting fed on spilt seed beneath the container, great spotted woodpecker on peanuts, wren in shrubbery, a visiting jay.

15.3. Hilary saw long-tailed tits, tree sparrows join blue and great tits, chaffinch, greenfinch, yellowhammer, reed bunting, dunnock and the inevitable robin around the feeding station. Joss notes it was particularly good to hear tree sparrows (now scarce) are regulars to her feeders.

17.3 Rescued a honeybee from the donkeys' water bucket, we place a piece of straw in water containers to provide a life raft for insects. In early March I found what looked like an ichneumon wasp clinging to a strand. Despite being bedraggled it crawled into the undergrowth.

18.3 Heron on Blackberry Drove and in fields opposite Tubney Fen.

20.3 Buzzard on a post at our field, cock pheasant sauntered across the paddock, pied wagtails x 3 near the muckheap.

Penny & Ron Greenhill: spotted a lovely bumble bee at the sheep field 19 Mar. They have noted many more smaller birds coming to the feeders lately, greenfinches, goldfinches, various tits and mentioned 'the dawn chorus is worth getting up for'. There is also 'a very vocal frog calling for a mate at our garden pond'.

20.3 Tubney Fen walk - in addition to geese and waterfowl we saw 2 marsh harriers and 3 ascending skylarks which sang their gorgeous song. A red kite crossed the entire sky overhead without a single wingbeat.

Cath Tayleur

Village Hall



We had a really great Wine Tasting Evening at the Village Hall in February and thanks to the generosity of the cheese and wine suppliers through Andrew Trump and Tony Fordham who organised the evening, it was a great success raising £466 for VH funds. Thanks to Andrew, Tony and Charlotte who steered the evening, everyone who came enjoyed it and asked "When's the next one !" We hope we can do another tasting later in the Autumn but thanks to those who supported us!

Pleasingly, we have been able to get outline approval from ECDC to install solar panels on the VH roof. We are now seeking advice about the systems best suited to us so that the Hall can become greener and more energy efficient. Can anyone out there offer our committee some help, advice? It will be a long-term project but very worthwhile and we would be very grateful for any offers of help. Thankyou.

Sue Elliott Hon Sec
Reach Village Hall Committee 742268

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN 2023!

This year our club celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The club was formed in 1973 and three of the founder members remain and are still active photographers, Martin Rushworth and Daphne and Andy Hanson. To mark this special milestone we are staging a club exhibition at Mandeville Hall, Burwell on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May 2023. Opening times will be 9am to 5pm daily and refreshments will be available on both days. Please come and visit us to view our members' photographs, parking is available near the Hall.

Recently our club has moved meetings to Swaffham Prior Village Hall, where we meet Tuesday evenings, with the exception of the third Tuesday in every month when our meetings are on Zoom. With Zoom meetings we enjoy work from photographers across the country. In March we enjoyed a presentation entitled 'An Eclectic Mix' by Ross McKelvey from Belfast and in April we have a presentation by Steven Hodges from South Woodham Ferrers called 'Creating Impact & Mood'.

For the rest of our Spring season we have a Print League Competition, judged by Dave Stewart from Stamford, The Hanson Trophy PDI Competition, judged by Paul Radden from Hunstanton and The Roger Human Trophy, judged by Sue Wilson from Newark. We round off our season in May with a Social Evening when cups and trophies are presented and during the summer recess, we have a Club Outing to Norwich.

Meetings are held from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall and new members are always welcome. Visitors are also welcome for a small fee of £3 per visit, which includes refreshments. If you are interested in joining us, please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett, 07722 388770 or email: secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com or visit our website www.bottburpc.org.

I look forward to meeting you.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB
Chairman

Wicken Fen



A cuckoo – courtesy of Richard Nicholl

We're looking for the signs nature gives us to show that spring is here. Whether it's returning swallows or swifts, reed or sedge warblers; or hedgerow shrubs in flower, we've all got our spring favourites. We'll be listening for the cuckoo's call later in the month; something that is special for all of us at the Fen. We usually expect the first calls during the last week of April – keep an eye on our social media channels for the latest news!

We look forward to meeting people in our local communities when we visit some of the fairs taking place in the fen edge villages as part of our NLHF project: Footprints. Keep a look out for our gazebo at Ely Eel Fayre (Sat 29 April) and Reach Fair (Mon 1 May). We've got a fun activity to demonstrate how we're looking after peat to capture carbon at the Fen.

Easter Activities

1 to 16 April: Easter Egg Hunt - Explore the peaceful nature reserve, visit the historic windpump or drop into our bird hides as you follow the Easter trail through Sedge Fen and the Woodland Walk. The price of the trail is £3 per child and includes a trail sheet, pencil and a chocolate egg at the end. The trail route follows accessible paths; assistance dogs only.

4 and 6 April: Easter Crafts - Spring has sprung! If you love crafts, then join us to celebrate Easter, with heaps of Easter-themed crafts to make-and-take in the Learning Centre. All materials provided. £4 per child.

11 April: Owl Pellet Dissection – Delve into the fascinating world of owl pellets to find out what's on the menu for the owls at Wicken Fen! £5 per child.

May Half Term

Spring events for families include: pond dipping, seedling planting, games and crafts. For details of all the above mentioned events plus booking information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen.

Julia Hammond

Anglesey Abbey



As evenings begin to get lighter, it is starting to feel like Spring at Anglesey Abbey. The Gardens are looking wonderful with the daffodils adding a warm glow and the small scillas creating a carpet of purple across the lawns. We launched Specialist Daffodil tours for the first time this year and they have proved to be very popular. You can join a daffodil tour every weekday at 1:30pm and will continue until 31 March, starting again on the 17 April.

Coming up later in the year we are celebrating National Blossom week from 24 to 30 April. At Anglesey Abbey we have an array of blossoms getting ready to bloom from Wild Cherry blossom in the Rose Garden to local varieties of plum and apple in the Heritage Orchard. In 2021 the Garden team planted Olympian Way with Prunus 'Accolade' (an ornamental cherry that blossoms pink with a delightful scent). This is going to be a key highlight in the garden in April.

From the 1 April we will be celebrating The Magic of Books. This will highlight the beauty and variety of the book collection in Lord Fairhaven's library. We have recently had bespoke display cases produced by one of the country's leading designers to showcase some of the most unique and beautiful books in the collection.

It wouldn't be spring without our Easter adventures at Anglesey Abbey! Join us for activities inspired by the magic of books, including a Hare and the Tortoise racetrack, Alice in wonderland noughts and crosses and a Mother Goose scavenger hunt. You can continue the adventure, enjoy a picnic and treat yourself to refreshments from Caffe Mobile in the Woodland Play Area every day. Each trail is £3 and pre-booking is essential. Don't forget to pick up your dairy or vegan and Free From chocolate egg reward, both are made from Rainforest Alliance certified cocoa. Once Easter eggcitement is over we have another exciting Spring adventure at Mog's Remarkable Adventures. Join Judith Kerrs much-loved character Mog the Forgetful Cat on an adventure in the garden this summer as you leap through a giant cat flap, play with Mog's toys and other fun activities.

Meghan Curteis

Food Focus

Food Focus Chinese Style Pot Roast Chicken & Rice



This month's recipe is a one pot wonder from Annas Family Kitchen on Instagram, a new source of recipes. This is definitely a treat and could very easily be served to guests, it's pretty straight forward to prepare and inevitably there isn't much washing up.

I served it with some stir fried green vegetables. The chicken fell off the bone and the Chinese flavours permeated the meat and the rice. I'll definitely be cooking this again.

Ingredients for 4

- 1 onion cut into disks
- 1 lemon halved
- 1.8-2kg chicken
- 2 garlic cloves crushed
- 3tsp grated ginger
- 5tbsp soya sauce
- 1 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp mirin
- 2 tsp Chinese five spice
- 2 tbsp sesame oil
- 100g frozen peas (can't remember if I used these)
- 5 spring onions sliced
- 250g basmati rice
- 1 tbsp sesame seeds

Put the onion disks in a casserole pan, sit the chicken on top and put the two lemon halves in the cavity.

Sprinkle the sesame oil and the five spice over the chicken.

Mix together the ginger, garlic, mirin, soy and honey. Spoon half of this over the chicken, reserving the rest. Put a lid on the pan and roast at 190 C fan for 1hour 20 minutes.



Add the rest of the reserved gingery garlicy mixture to the pan along with the spring onions, rice, frozen peas and stock. Give it all a bit of a stir around the edge of the bird.

Sprinkle the chicken with the tablespoons of sesame oil and seeds.

Return to the oven uncovered for 20 minutes.

Fluff up the rice with a fork

Catherine Gibson

Willow Weaving in Reach

Sculptor and weaver Jane Frost, has recently held two workshops in the Village Hall. The Village Hall is a great venue for such events and Jane will be returning in the autumn to teach on the following workshops:

Sat 14th October – Basketmaking
You will learn techniques to make a traditional round basket. For returning students who want to upgrade their skills this will include making handles.

Sat 25 November – Willow Christmas decorations
Make willow decorations for your home or as gifts..... perfect for a whole day out with friends before the festive rush is overwhelming. Suitable for beginners and those who have worked with willow before.

See https://workshops.frostart.co.uk/workshop/ for full details and to book a place on either workshop.

Reach Fair



The countdown is underway for Reach Fair 2023. Check out the website at: www.reachfair.org.uk/whats_to_enjoy_new.html to see who will be attending. The musician Graham Buxton returns and The Casuals are new to the Fair. Jezo will be giving a magic performance and Performance Without Limits are sure to delight us once again. The incredible Artisan and Craft Stalls will be on the Top Field, and our own Dan Marsh of the Dykes End will be running the Beer Tent.

We have been delighted and inspired by the support Reach villagers give to the Fair. You know the drill: we require cakes (contact Susan Hatley); salads (Cris Fletcher); scones for the cream tea in the church (Pat Chalmers: administrator@stmarysburwell.org.uk), books (Charles Moseley) and bottles (Alex de Giorgio-Miller and Claire Halpin).

We're looking for help on the village stalls and car park and also assistance to set up the Fair and clear away after the event.

Collections for the Bottle Stall will take place early evening the week commencing Monday 17 April. Bottles may be alcoholic or non-alcoholic. Thank you.

Don't forget Quiz Night on Sunday 30 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, with Ross Clark as our ever popular Quiz Master.

Road Closure

Reach Fair will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 1 May 2023. Please remember that on Fair Day Swaffham Road, Fair Green and Burwell Road will be closed to traffic from 10am to 5.30pm. This closure applies to all non-authorised vehicles. If you require a Car Pass please contact Claire Halpin. All cars should be removed from these roads to the car park before 10am for safety reasons. Thank you. A controlled one-way system will operate on Burwell Road giving access to the Reach Fair car park between the above times.

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Claire Halpin-McDonald

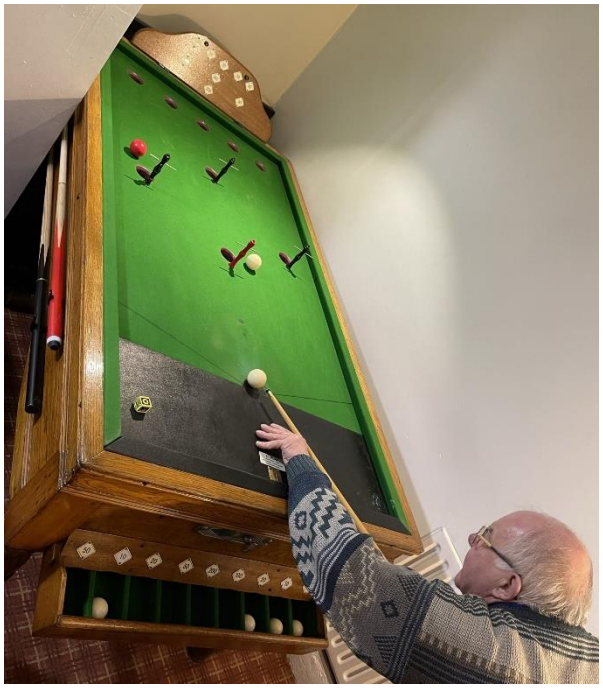


Bar Billiards at the Dyke's End



A bar billiards table has been installed at the Dyke's End (DER) since late October 2022 and within days the table was being used by many, many people pleased to see the game again. A new league had been formed just in time for DER to be ready for it and 4 months later that league has been won with 7 wins and 1 draw and thus – undefeated!

This is the shortened story of how this all came about. There was a league after WW2 named the 'Bury St. Edmunds and Nmkt District' and this continued through to 1998 or so. When it dissolved, the nearest tables were at Snailwell and Chippenham where I played at the Tharp Arms.



The Dyke's End bar billiards table being used by Will Richards of the Exning Road Club

The game was 4-pin bar billiards which is an East Anglian version of the game, everywhere else in the UK it is the 3-pin version. Whilst numbers in the rest of East Anglia cling on over the years the 3-pin version of the game is in sharp decline in the Home Counties and Thames Valley where it is disappearing without trace.

Up here, the furthest that vendors dragged their tables, we didn't even have them prepared let alone repaired and so around Cambridge the game has just 2 teams left and no league for the first time this year. The end for them is nigh! I bought 8 tables last August from the old Deal & Dover 3-pin league who used to have 108 teams in 1978 and closed with just 4.

So, there I am playing 4-pin bar billiards in the 70s, 80s and 90s and then the game disappears while I try and control a mortgage debt that's spiralling, so what happened? I can't find anyone that knows but the answer is in the small village of Kirtling I bet, where the last organisers lived.

I decided to buy a rough table for my own use in 2016 and found myself making a new slate bed from a £10 pool table, fitting new rubbers, stripping and oiling the wood, machining the coin mechanism for the £1 coin and quietening the table underneath and I loved doing it, I loved playing it. I then started inviting people around to join the fun, old players and friends etc and they loved it too. I then bought one or two more for a few ££££ and all needed massive work which I did myself and enjoyed immensely.

Pubs initially weren't interested but now it is a lot easier, we lose one for every two we find but now my table numbers are up to nine while there are three in Cambridge City and just the two 3-pin tables that are left; which aren't mine.

The old Nmkt & BSE rules were unique even within East Anglia in that you use the red ball as the cue ball and no other area does this with all areas preferring a white. We use the name 'Newmarket & Cambridge' in deference to those days. So, we kept that rule and I took the liberty while practicing at my own home in changing a few more things to make the game more exciting! I designed a special half-skittle and half-mushroom I called a 'mushtittle' and even put a heavy tungsten dart barrel up the middle, I'm nothing if not cheeky!

The rule changes have been happily accepted by the new players and now they are ready to form a committee, have an AGM and make up their own opinions. It'll be up to them to modify my foolishness!

So, when the league started, we three were actually down to play for a club at Ely but the manager wanted more space for the Football World Cup and it was red carded out! A quick call to Dan at the Dyke's End and I asked if he'd like an instant team on his new table and he kindly obliged except that the DER is closed on league night – a Tuesday – and so we made all home games on a Wednesday and with plenty of notice – and all went well.

A team consists of three players who play in pairs for three games and then have a singles match each making for a good 'value' evening.

Our players are from Soham, Ally my friend who loves the game and Shaun who has only started the game in the last 12-months. Ally is relentless in chalking up steady big scores, she rarely knocks a pin over and knows how to stay at the table. She can make players crack earlier being a w***n, as egos get in the way. You see in bar billiards, once you chase the game, you rarely win, you 'crack' and so Ally is very good and if she's losing with a minute to go she won't change the way she plays and will still just try to gently caress the score up bit by bit.

Shaun being young lacks the guile and isn't very soft or subtle, but he is getting better. Ally and I had the ability to carry him early on and the only pressure on him was his own pressure on himself.

In the league, it turned out all our hard games were stacked at the end of the season when we played the Exning Road Club, Nmkt and after leading 3-1, their youngest player made an amazing 1,000 at the end including the 200 shot to win by 10! What a game and then later it became a 3-3 draw.

At home against them back at the DER, we started off with a first leg defeat and then won the next 5 games, Shaun shining at last and not a minute too soon, he'd got the winning knack! Joe took over from Ally who had 'retired' and he got the highest score at 2,850 while Moi took the highest break at 1,650 of the season.

Our final game was away with just two players present and we even lost the opening two games before taking the next 4 for a 2-4 win. I took the highest leg score to 3,250 in the very final leg of the season. You see each table is different and it takes time to pick up the speed of the cloth and the bounce from the rubber cushions. Some tables seem to regurgitate the balls from the holes, others almost suck them down and you have to be observing what the table does as you keep scoring….and….don't stop scoring! Stay at the table, rack up the points, squeeze your opponent.

The Jelks table at the Dyke's End is a light wood, perhaps an Ash and was made in around 1950. The originals were Jelks of Tottenham but someone made a massive batch of true replicas in 1950 after Jelks demise and this is therefore one of those 'B' tables. They have 9 rows in the ball tray while the originals mostly have 8. The game is from France where they call it Billard Russe (Russian Billiards) and they have no 200 hole and thus 8 rows. The English brought the game over in around 1934 and we play 4-pin while the south stayed with 3-pins.

The table at the Dyke's End had to have at first one then another rear leg "amputated" and a look underneath will show it as resting on the old wooden seat that used to be in the corner. This allows the table back a further 12" and means we play only standing a little on the pub ramp.

I've been playing the game now on and off for 45 years and every game is still a treat. Advice on playing? Well, I won't stop you trying to stun the cue ball and aim one ball at one hole. This is the wrong way to play, always divide the balls one left and one right and aim them to go through the 5 holes at the top and come back through them making 2 balls and 4 chances of one going down. Always remember that 500 on the board makes your opponent feel crushed and the 500 may as well be 3,000 if they can't cope with that. The rest is learning from playing with other players and how they deal with things and the 'percentages' they play.

We will continue to be the Dyke's End team and won't leave it without one, but if nearer locals would like to play and form a team we would probably withdraw gracefully and allow this so that we could get up another team elsewhere to play. We'd like to see a league in just this the Newmarket area and one at Cambridge and save on travelling.

David "Taffy" Lloyd

Cricket Report



It is nearly time for the cricket season again and Reach Cricket Club would like to extend a welcome to anyone who fancies a game.

We are a multi-ability side and there is room for anyone from former test players to… well, me, really. Don't worry if you haven't played for years – many of our players hadn't when we first corralled them into the team.

We play friendly matches on most Sunday afternoons throughout the season, plus competitive 20 over matches between early May and early August. We are kicking off the season with a fun inter-club game on Sunday 23 April.

We also have an ambition to get some women involved. If you fancy a game on 23 April, please get in touch. We would like to stage a women's game at some stage during the season if we can get enough interest.

Let me know if you would like to be part of such a game.

Ross Clark

rossjclark@aol.com

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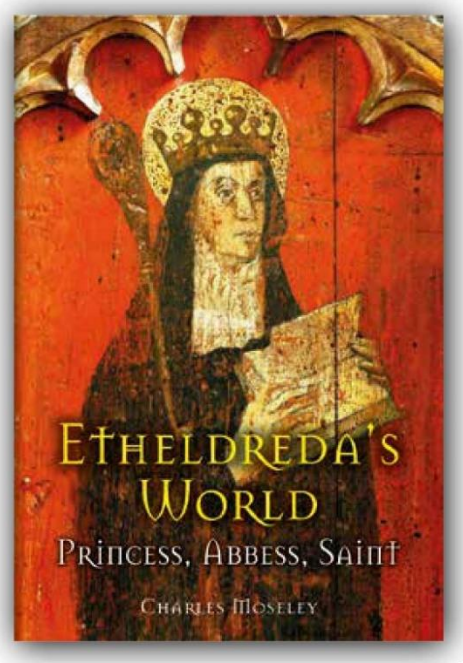
New Book Information

ETHELDREDA'S WORLD - Princess, Abbess, Saint



TITLE: Etheldreda's World - Princess, Abbess, Saint
AUTHOR: Charles Moseley
PUBLICATION DATE: 6 April 2023
BINDING: Laminated Boards
ISBN: 978-1-913159-66-5
FORMAT: 216 x 138mm
PAGES: 112pp
PRICE: £12.99

ISBN 978-1-913159-66-5

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By any standards, Etheldreda was a remarkable woman in a time of remarkable women. Far from being the wishy washy figure of so much stained glass, she was – had to be – a tough operator.

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2023 marks 1350 years since St Etheldreda first established a monastery in Ely in AD 673. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have flocked to Ely Cathedral in her name and churches across the country have been named in her honour.

Dr Charles Moseley has taught literature in the University of Cambridge for many years, and has lived within sight of Etheldreda's Ely for half a century. He has long been fascinated by what made the people who preceded us tick. We are their heirs, and their choices and troubles and joys made the world we inherit and take for granted, just as ours will our children's.

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Architectural Drawings	
Ely Design Group	6
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Robinson and Claydon Vehicle Services	16
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NCS	3
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Burwell Computers	10
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Tina's, Burwell	11
Electricians	
Cartwright Brothers	2
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N & G Marsh of Burwell	2
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The Dyke's End	Mag
The Quy Mill Hotel and Spa	Mag
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CATEGORY	Page
Gifts and Interiors	
Honeysuckle and Hawthorn	8
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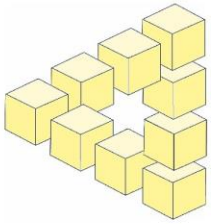

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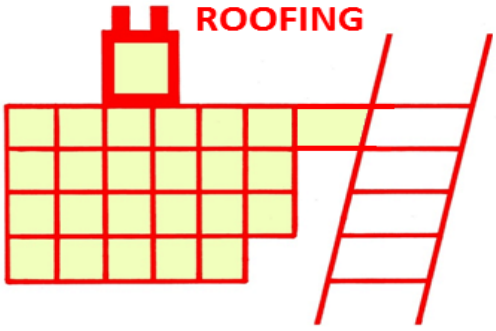

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Tales from a Reach Garden



This winter has been very odd. We've had long stints of freezing dry weather since the end of November, interspersed with dry sunny spells and occasional bouts of rain, (though not nearly enough rain), then winds. A lot of plants in the garden have suffered.

Some coped with the first icy cold spell but put out fresh growth when the weather turned warm and their fresh leaves were then shrivelled by the next icy blast. Native plants seem to have shrugged it off, especially those native plants we call weeds!

Many common garden shrubs are not native to these isles and some of these, particularly the evergreen shrubs, have not coped well. There is a phormium in the garden which often develops bronze-coloured leaves during the winter. Phormium tenax is native to New Zealand but is hardy down to -15C. It survived overnight temperatures of -14C in winter 2013 without any protection. However, the repeated freeze-thaw cycles this winter have collapsed the long sword-like leaves; most are browned, dehydrated and look dead and it's hard to tell if anything will survive. I shall cut away any obviously dead growth and see what is left. Normally in spring the phormium needs a bit of a tidy up but this year it will need some life-saving surgery - if it isn't already dead.



Phormium March 2017 . . . .



Phormium March 2023 . . . .

Another evergreen shrub which has suffered in the garden is Choisya ternata otherwise known as the Mexican mock orange. It's an attractive shrub with glossy green leaves, which puts out white flowers in May and sometimes in September too. At the moment, older leaves are still green and glossy, but young leaves produced during the warmer spells this winter are looking brown and shrivelled. This is relatively easy to rectify. Choisya is a very forgiving shrub and responds well to pruning. Evergreens with small leaves like box have survived this winter pretty much intact.



Choisya ternata and its shrivelled leaves

There have been similar tales in the vegetable garden. The leeks have shrugged off the cold weather and are doing well. The biggest problem with them was not being able to dig them up when the weather was very frosty. We thought the kale plants had succumbed to the cold weather because they looked dead during the winter months but surprised us with some fresh foliage in the last week of February and are thriving now.



Curly kale currently growing in the garden

Chard and perpetual spinach which we cut back in autumn usually crop again in spring giving us some early leafy greens, but here is no sign of any growth at all so far and I doubt there will be. The saddest story is our early-flowering broccoli. All of the plants look like dehydrated husks with bent, brown stems and shrivelled, dehydrated leaves. This is particularly disheartening because of the 12-month effort involved in growing this type of broccoli from sowing seed in May, pricking out seedlings, potting young plants, then transferring them to their final bed to continue growing and ultimately picking the broccoli spears from February to May. Let's hope this winter has been a one-off and it's not a sign of winters to come.

Danuta Gibson



Sorry if anyone finds this inappropriate - but it made me laugh

Letter from the Vicarage



Easter is a very special part of the Church's year. The good news of Easter is that out of death comes new life; when everything seems hopeless and all is lost, new hope can come. That is what we remember, year by year in the Church's calendar: the terrible events of Good Friday and Jesus' death, the desolation of Easter Saturday and the glorious, wonderful joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning.

We would love to welcome you to any of our Easter services, which follow a similar pattern to previous years. On Good Friday, 7th April, 10.30am – 12.30pm, there will be a Messy Easter family event at St Mary's, Burwell, then a service in St Etheldreda's at 2pm. On Easter Day, the service in Reach will be at 8.30am and then on Sunday 16th April there will be a family service at 3pm, including a baptism. For Easter, each year we have a display of lilies in St Mary's, Burwell, from Easter Sunday, in memory of loved ones. Please get in touch if you would like more details of how to include a name on the list.

Coronation Weekend will bring more special events, with lots of bell-ringing, thanks to St Mary's bell-ringers and we are looking into options for screening the Coronation Service in the church in Reach, on Saturday 6th May. On Sunday 7th May there will be Coronation Café Church in St Mary's - a very special opportunity to celebrate together, with refreshments, time to chat and Coronation themed activities, followed by a short service. Monday 8th May is designated as 'The Big Help Out', a day to highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation, to encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. We will be looking at ways of getting involved and inviting you to be involved in with us, perhaps in developing the Reach churchyard, when the building work is finally finished.

Refresh Café is our group for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups, which meets on Friday mornings at St Mary's from 10.00am, with a simple sandwich lunch from 11.30am. We offer a very warm welcome to any little ones and their parents/carers and continue during school holidays, welcoming older children as well for these extended sessions. Messy Church has a regular pattern of Sunday afternoon gatherings and we welcome families with children of all ages who want to have fun, explore faith and share a meal. All Ages, All Welcome.

We are looking into the possibility of setting up another group for pre-school children in Reach on a Monday. If you would be interested in helping, please let me know.

A little further ahead, following a special request, we have arranged a short service of Renewal of Marriage Vows during the afternoon on Sunday 2nd July, at St Mary's, Burwell and I would be very happy to hear from other couples who would like to take part and renew their own marriage vows. If you are planning to get married, but not yet sure about where, why not think about a church wedding at St Mary's, Burwell or St Etheldreda's, Reach? The Church of England has an excellent section on its website with a lot of useful information, explaining the practicalities of arranging a wedding: www.churchofengland.org.

On 30th July, we are planning a celebration to give thanks for the completion of the building work and in thanksgiving for Maisie Whitehead's generosity. More details to follow.

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 or St Etheldreda's, please get in touch. Please also get in touch if you would like to chat or if we can pray for you, if you are struggling, or know someone who is, or need help accessing Ely foodbank. Up to date information on services and activities for all ages is on our website and Facebook page.
God bless you

Eleanor Williams Vicar of Burwell with Reach

01638 741262
vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk
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Reach Church Development Update

The months since the last update have been quite frustrating as the final stages of completion move on very slowly, but steady progress is gradually being made.

Inside the church, all the pews are now on wheels, giving us maximum flexibility for layout and the kitchen is gradually being equipped. The designs for the altar rail and the plaque have been finalised and approved and we hope that both will be ready in April. The digital piano has been on order since before Christmas and will no doubt arrive eventually! Appropriate people have been contacted about getting the bell working again and we await their response and we have now established that we need a clock expert to get the clock going, so will hopefully progress that soon.

Outside, fitting rectangular stones into a curved path was quite a challenge for the stonemasons, but the result looks good. As we move into spring, we look forward to implementing our Biodiversity plan for the churchyard. The final job to be done before the church can be formally handed over to us is the lightning conductor and we hope that will be finished by the end of March, so that we can leave the church open during the day and use it for all purposes and not just services.

With that in mind, we hope to be able to support Reach Fair as usual this year by serving cream teas in the church. We're also beginning to plan a special service later in the summer, when Bishop Dagmar will come to lead us in our thanksgiving for Maisie's generous legacy and all that has so far been achieved. It has given us a beautiful, flexible building for the whole community to use and enjoy.

Reach Church Development Group

ECDC Press Release



East Cambridgeshire District Council is launching a renewed appeal for homeowners to help support people from Ukraine on the first year anniversary of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Since it was launched on 14 March 2022 extraordinary people from across our district have helped support more than 183 men, women and children from Ukraine fleeing the atrocities of the war.

But as the crisis continues more homeowners are needed.

Anyone who is able to offer a spare bedroom and some support for guests as they settle into a new life will receive an initial 'thank you' payment of £350 a month for the first 12 months.

This will then increase to £500 when the guest has been in the country for 12 months. The Council, in partnership with many other organisations, is also able to offer lots of help, advice and resources to hosts and guests.

A special community hub has been established every Thursday at the Lighthouse Centre in Ely which offers a welcome and friendly atmosphere for hosts and guests to meet and socialise, with a free play area and activities for the children, along with refreshments for all attending.

Councillor Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, said "The first year of the Homes for Ukraine initiative has been a huge success. We are only a small district but we have been able to offer support to more than 183 men, women and children.

"However, we desperately need more families to come forward who are able to offer a spare room and provide some of the practical and emotional support needed to help these families into a new life.

"I know many people may be in a position to offer support but worried about what this actually means in practical terms. If you are one of those people then I would certainly encourage you to get in touch with the Council. We can provide you with more detailed information about what to expect and ensure the advice you receive is tailored to your personal circumstances."

Anyone who would like to find out more or register their interest should contact Angela Parmenter for an informal chat on 01353 665555.

For more information please visit:
https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/housing/homes-ukraine-hosts

Call My Wine Bluff

Many thanks to the Village Hall committee for organising such a fabulous evening in the village hall.

Previous wine fuelled village hall events have aimed to educate us. This one tested any existing knowledge we might already have ..... and judging by the scores, lack of spittoon use and noise levels, the population of Reach may have its fair share of wine drinkers but connoisseurs we are not!

We started by trying to differentiate between a Cava, a Prosecco and a Spumante? Tricky. White wines then flowed, followed by a rose and a few reds ..... and finally, whiskey finished us off! Some of us struggled to get points. Others struggled even more ..... Huge quantities of bread and cheese kept us going .....
The 'bluffers' did sterling work entertaining us – while trying to convince us to vote for them.

Many thanks to the Village Hall Committee for a great event – excellent organisation, great raffle prizes and fantastic cheeses. Apparently we can look forward to another one in the autumn.

Helen

PS Thanks also to the following organisations for donations of wine, whiskey and/or cheeses:

Naked wines, Times Wine Club, Deer Park



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Know Your Parish Council

Your councillors are:

Charlotte Cane	Chair	741064
Cristine Fletcher	Councillor	07763 529886
Edward Hall	Councillor	
David McMillan	Councillor	741259
Matt Newman	Councillor	07786 988175

There are currently 2 vacancies

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

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



Elections for Parish Councils and East Cambs District Council will be held on Thursday 4th May. The Government has changed the rules and you will need photographic ID to vote in person at these elections – that's a passport or photographic driving licence or other options listed at:
https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id.

People without the necessary ID can get a Voter Authority Certificate from the Council, by applying at:
https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.

If you can't use on-line forms, please contact the Council on 01353 665555. If you cannot show photographic ID when you go to vote, you will not be given a ballot paper.

Congratulations to Swaffham Bulbeck, whose Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by the District Council at its meeting on 21 February. This Neighbourhood Plan aims to protect the 'diversity, community spirit, distinctive and attractive built heritage and green spaces…achieve carbon-neutrality, promote biodiversity and enable proportionate development'. This will now be used in assessing all planning applications made in Swaffham Bulbeck.

The Council approved a budget with no increase in District Council Tax. Charlotte seconded an amendment to the budget which also would not have increased the Council tax but included funding for:

- a new Local Plan, to protect our towns and villages from inappropriate development;
- implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement;
- doubling the Environment Fund; and
- setting up a small grant fund for parish councils and community groups to mark the coronation.

But this amendment was lost.

At the same meeting the Council agreed to a request from East Cambs Street Scene for an additional fee of £500,000 for the year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Charlotte proposed an amendment that the £500,000 should be a loan and that the Directors, Observers and auditors should provide reports to relevant committees about why it had taken so long for the overspend to be brought to Councillor's attention and what changes were being put in place or needed to be put in place to ensure better financial management and service delivery going forward. This amendment was defeated despite one of the Observers admitting that neither she nor the Directors had reviewed Management Accounts before January 2023.

We have had reports that some residents have not had any black bin bags delivered; please contact the Council or us if you have not received your black bin bags.

Our April Councillors' Surgery will be on Thursday 20th April at 6.30pm at Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion. Or you can contact us directly at any time:

charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk	07976 607512
john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk	01223 812120

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held at in the village hall on Wednesday 7th February 2023 at 7.00pm.

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence - Received and approved. Councillor McMillan took the Chair in Councillor Cane's absence.

Forum for members of the public.
A member of the public attended to ask about the planning discussion from the December meeting regarding the stepping stones outside Harrier House, 15 Chapel Lane.
The resident also asked about why the opening hours of the pub did not meet the terms of the lease & complained about people walking too many out of control dogs on the byways along the Lode and towards the 24Acres.

A member of the Events Team spoke about the proposed Coronation celebrations.

Declaration of Interests
There were none.

1. Election of Vice Chair
None of the Councillors have the capacity to take on this role at the moment. The PC is able to operate without a Vice Chair.

2. Planning – None

3. District Councillor Report
The Operational Services Committee and the Licensing Committee meetings scheduled for January were cancelled. This meant that the Q3 Waste Performance and the Budget Monitoring reports, amongst other things, will be delayed until the next meeting on 27 March.
Finance & Assets Committee did meet as scheduled and recommended a budget to Council. The budget draws £2.5m from the savings reserve, in order to avoid increasing Council Tax in each of 2023/24 and 2024/25. It estimates that in 2025/26 the final £2.1m will be drawn from the savings reserve, leaving that reserve at £nil with a further budget shortfall of £2.6m to find from savings/increased income. This shortfall is estimated to rise to £4.9m in 2026/27. This is over half of what is currently raised through Council Tax or more than one third of current net expenditure, so there will be some challenging decisions in future years. The Budget will be the main agenda item at Full Council on 21 February.
Audit Committee also met. Unfortunately, it has been set up with very limited powers – for example we cannot question relevant managers at the Committee, despite this being recommended practice, and indeed normal practice. Instead, we must submit questions before the meeting, and these are frequently not fully answered and follow up questions are often not answered at the meeting, since the relevant
manager is not there. The problems went even further at January's meeting where no answers were given to my questions around IT, where many audit actions remain outstanding, some for almost a year after they should have been completed. Instead, the Committee was given a statement to explain the staffing issues which had caused the delays and promised a fuller report at our meeting in March.

We also reviewed the risk register where the risk of ECSS failing to deliver on its business plan and expected levels of performance was assessed as 'unlikely'. I questioned this, in the light of recent problems, and was told 'The residual likelihood score reflects the implementation of the Improvement Plan in 2022/23 and will be monitored by the Director, Operations'. I remain concerned about ECSS' ability to deliver on its business plan, given the costs of bringing in contractors for missed deliveries. And its ability to deliver the contracted service levels, as the most recent update confirmed that it is still not delivering contracted levels of street cleaning. If the risk were assessed as high then senior management would be receiving and reviewing regular reports, instead of relying on the Director, Operations.
The Greater Cambridge Partnership is consulting on the proposed design for walking, cycling and public transport improvements on Newmarket Road and the selection of a preferred site for the relocated Park & Ride. There will be an online event on Wednesday 8 February 6.00-7.30pm and two public drop-in events on 15 February 5.30pm-7.30pm, Christ the Redeemer Church, Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8RS and 1 March 6pm-8pm, East Barnwell Community Centre, Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8RS. The AtoB1102 Group are working up a proposed response in significant detail.
Answers to a query raised by Bottisham Parish Council in January:
48 residents have been assisted by the Community Bus in the last 12 months.
1,131 residents have attended community advice drop-ins in the last 12 months.
976 residents have attended housing advice drop-ins in the last 12 months.

4. County Councillor Report
Not received.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting - to be approved as correct.
A resident had claimed that the draft January minutes are "riddled with untruths" The PC felt the minutes gave an honest report of the meeting. Approved.

6.1 Reach Grant Fund
The Events Team had requested £1250 for a Coronation garden party. The Coronation itself is on Saturday 6th May & on the Sunday 7th, Buckingham Palace has suggested "The Coronation Big Lunch". The Reach event will take the form of a Garden Party, starting at 2.00pm on the Village Green. It will be similar to the Royal Wedding Garden Party in 2011 http://www.reach-village.co.uk/news_garden_party_april_2011.html Food (barbecue, sandwiches & cakes) will be served at 3.00pm, then at 4.00pm a Ceilidh Band will play, this went down extremely well at the Diamond Jubilee Party in June 2012 http://www.reach-village.co.uk/news_diamond_jubilee_garden_party_2012.html

6.2 Finance
Nothing to report. ***Clerk*** to contact Barclays to change the signatories on the bank account.

6.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor Newman had received an anonymous call regarding vicious dogs running loose in Reach Wood. The PC noted that it had previously ruled that anonymous complaints could not be dealt with. The PC needs to know who is complaining but will always honour their confidential information.
Considering the other complaint earlier in the meeting the PC discussed this item, deciding that signage should be increased and made clearer. Reach Wood is managed by the Woodland Trust and there are signs regarding their dog walking code of conduct. ***Clerk*** to investigate getting larger more prominent signage. ***Councillor Fletcher*** to investigate getting some similar signs to be put up near the byways and the 24Acres. The PC recommends anyone experiencing dog issues should contact the Dog Warden at ECDC.

Councillor Newman also reported that he now had the Thermal Imaging camera and would be producing a leaflet and contacting residents who have signed up to the initiative in the coming week.

6.4 Play Spaces
No report received.

6.5 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

6.6 24Acres Committee
A further planting of 100 trees had taken place last weekend.

6.7 Neighbourhood Plan
Nothing to report.

6.8 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

6.9 A to B1102 Group
Nothing to report.

6.10 Reach Fair Group
The group had become a CIC. All funds from the Fair will be paid to the PC for the Grant fund. A loan from the PC/Grant fund will be required to pay the upfront costs for this years Fair. Councillor Fletcher and Councillor Cane have been working on this. ***Clerk*** to add to March agenda for approval.

7. Approval of letter to Lucy Frazer MP about the state of Cambridgeshire fen roads, in particular Little Fen Drove.
Councillor Cane had produced a letter to be signed by residents. Approved. Several residents attended the meeting to sign the letter. ***Clerk*** to send the letter by email.

9. Decision as to whether a procedure for a review of how past decisions were made is necessary & viable
Councillor Newman had made the alterations as discussed at the last meeting. Document approved. ***Clerk*** to add to the website.

10. Give support to the AtoB1102 group for the Making Connections approach
The group wanted to get the backing from the PC for their continued work on the bus and transport services for Reach. They would like support from all the local PCs to establish the B1102 as a pilot for the Making Connections approach. And also, to ensure Reach has good connection to Swaffham Prior or Burwell.
This support may require some financial input. Support approved by the PC, with financial support to be approved when required. ***Clerk*** to inform the group.

11. Village Hall payments – Hall Hire & Shed hire
The PC had received invoices for the hire of the village hall shed for storage and for the use of the village hall for its meetings. These were approved for payment. However, going forward, it was felt a discussion was needed to allow one payment a year to be made to include these costs and a percentage of the Fair income. ***Clerk*** to add to the March agenda.

12. Sunnica PC representative
The PC are keen to continue with their observations and objections to the Sunnica scheme. However, none of the Councillors have the capacity to take this on at the moment. ***Clerk*** to ask Nick Acklam if he is able to continue with this work.

13. Payments

E. on - Power on the green	£56.14
Events Team – Christmas events – Grant Fund	£487.61
Village Hall – shed	£720.00
Village Hall – Hall Hire	£28.80
Events Team – Christmas events – Grant Fund	£130.00
N Acklam – tree stakes 24Acres	£83.00

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held at in the village hall on Wednesday 7th March 2023 at 7.00pm.

Attendance

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

Apologies for absence – There were none.

Forum for members of the public.
Several members of the public attended to speak against the change to the development envelope in the draft neighbourhood plan. A resident asked why the review was not taking place at this meeting. A resident spoke stating the process lacked democracy & impartiality. Another stated they had no confidence in the integrity of the PC, and they lacked trust in the PC. The approach to the NP process was inappropriate & the petition had been ignored. The petition was signed by more residents than had responded to the NP review. They thought that what the PC disagreed with was ignored, and the PC had no accountability. They all stated that the fully supported the resident of 16 Chapel Lane. They wanted the decision reviewed and rescinded in the interest of democracy. A resident stated that she was going to complain to ECDC.

Declaration of Interests
There were none.

Members of the public were asked to leave for a confidential item

1. Co-option of new councillor
Edward Hall had applied to join the PC. Proposed by Councillor Cane, Seconded by Councillor Fletcher. Approved.

Members of the public were allowed back into the meeting.
Councillor stated that the PC does not have to respond to the public forum, but she would like to clarify the situation – The review had not happened at this meeting as the Councillor tasked with the review had not had time to complete it. The councillors are volunteers, and the review will be done as quickly as possible and will come before the council once it is complete. When the NP is finished it will come before the PC and be reviewed again in its entirety. The it will go to the planning inspector at ECDC, any recommendations will be considered by the PC before it goes to the village for a referendum

2. Planning – 22/01278/FUL Proposed construction of single storey garage, 21 Fair Green
This is a revised application, with the extension removed and the garage roof is now pitched. The councillors felt it was a shame that the area for solar panels was now reduced. No comment to make.

3. District Councillor Report
Voters will need photographic ID to vote in person at the elections in May – that is a passport or photographic driving licence or other options listed at - https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id
People without the necessary ID can get a Voter Authority Certificate from the Council, by applying at – https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.

The Council approved a budget with no increase in Council Tax. Charlotte seconded an amendment to the budget which also would not have increased the Council tax but included funding for: a new Local Plan, to protect our towns and villages from inappropriate development; implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement;
doubling the Environment Fund; and setting up a small grant fund for parish councils and community groups to mark the coronation. But this amendment was lost.

The Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan was adopted.

Council agreed an additional £500,000 fee to ECSS for the current financial year. Charlotte proposed an amendment that the £500,000 should be a loan and that the Directors, Observers and auditors should provide reports to relevant committees about why it had taken so long for the overspend to be brought to Councillor's attention and what changes were being put in place or needed to be put in place to ensure better financial management and service delivery going forward. This amendment was defeated despite one of the Observers admitting that neither she nor the Directors had reviewed Management Accounts before January 2023, which is very worrying given the well-known inflationary pressures; the extra costs of getting back on track with missed deliveries after the round reconfiguration; and the significant increases to staff pay. We would have expected the Directors and the Observers (who attend Directors' meetings on behalf of the Council) to be reviewing Management Accounts regularly. If they had done so, they would have spotted the overspend sooner and might have been able to take mitigating actions or at least warned the Council that they were likely to request increased fees.

4. County Councillor Report
Not received.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting - to be approved as correct.
Approved.

6.1 Reach Grant Fund
Nothing to report.

6.2 Finance
Clerk had contacted Barclays to change the signatories on the bank account. Councillors had completed the forms. ***Clerk*** to return forms. Clerk had discussed with the bank the use of online banking. Council approved this idea. ***Clerk*** to arrange and bring a resolution to a future meeting for approval.

6.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor Fletcher had produced a similar sign to that at Reach Wood to be put up near the byways near to the Lode and the 24Acres.

The thermal camera will be returned to ECDC next week, 14 homes were reviewed using the camera, its use had been gratefully received.

6.4 Play Spaces
No report received. ***Clerk*** to ask Craig to look at the grass growing through the matting. ***Councillor McMillan*** to look at the surface under the swings on the green.

6.5 Rights of Way
It was reported that the IDB had recently dredged the Lode and used the materials removed to flatten the byway. A complaint had been received by the Council, but others had welcomed the work. The PC is hopeful that the vegetation will soon grow through.
Highways had visited the byways local to the village and propose that the surface of Straight Drove nearest the village is made up with recycled road planings.
Highways also suggests that the Parish Council seek the support of a local farmer, to repair/ level out the surface of both Straight Drove & Barston Drove, using heavy disks.

6.6 24Acres Committee
Nothing to report.

6.7 Neighbourhood Plan
Nothing to report.

6.8 Friends Of Reach Wood

Steve Boreham met with Tom Bolderstone, the new Woodland Manager for Cambs and Norfolk from the Woodland Trust. They toured around the wood, pointing out many features that need attention and improvement, as well as some past successes. In particular, they talked about the need to warn us about any impending works in Reach Wood and the meadow. Clerk had also contacted him with regard to the dogs code signs following the discussions at the last PC meeting. Toms suggested way forward is to begin with slightly adjusting the locations of the current dog walkers code signs on site. Moving them into a slightly different position allowing them to be in peoples eye line which will hopefully allow people to engage with them more than at present.

6.9 A to B1102 Group -Minutes of the A to B Meeting Thursday 2nd February 2023

Those Present Councillors, residents, and clerks from the following villages: Fordham, Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham, Lode, Gt. Wilbraham, and Stow Cum Quy. There were also County Councillors, and ECDC councillors as well as members of the A to B group. The meeting was chaired by Jonathan Cook and the presentation was done by Emma Fletcher

JC introduced the meeting with the following comments:

The Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership and Cambridge City politicians have made clear their determination to reduce congestion in the City. To achieve this, a significant change needs to take place in the public's attitude towards public transport, a change that will only come about if the services provided are fast, more reliable, efficient, and enjoyable. The current provision from our area is none of these. He had tried to contact Stephensons (providers of the No 11 and No 12 bus services) to find out how their services are performing, but

they were unwilling to talk until they hear whether they will continue receive subsidies to run the services after the 31st March 2023. The B1102 is a rat-run for people accessing the Cambridge area from Ely, Mildenhall and beyond which significantly increases the volumes of traffic recorded along the B1102. If public transport is to facilitate this change rather than people being forced out of their cars in the event that congestion charging is implemented, we need a fast, new bus service to get the people who currently use their cars into and out of Cambridge, whether to get to work, school, colleges, to the hospital or train stations. The current levels of subsidy for bus services are not guaranteed. There was a general consensus that the buses are being used more now. The GCP plans currently under consultation (Eastern Access 2nd Consultation), if implemented, will reduce the road space to allow for more active travel into Cambridge. That will move the traffic congestion further back towards Quy and the B1102 unless a shift is achieved from private car to bus.

The A to B Group have therefore developed a Fast Bus Service concept, which if implemented could deliver the fast, reliable, efficient and enjoyable service required. As part of this, the A to B Group propose that the Park and Ride be moved to the North side of the A14 at Quy so that congestion is alleviated before the A14 roundabout and in doing so, a new travel hub is created at Quy enabling buses to travel on to different locations within and to the North and East of the city. Infrastructure in the villages will be required for buses, bikes, and safe, well-lit shelters to encourage people to use the buses rather than their cars.

Emma Fletcher who led the development of the concept then did her Presentation. And then the floor was open to all the parish representatives to have their say:

Fordham the hub is out of Fordham on the A142 B1102 junction, but they agreed that was the best position. There is concern over Isleham and Freckenham, which are integrated with Fordham, so need a minibus service to transport people to the hub. There is also no bus to Wicken.

Burwell A mini bus will be needed in addition to the Express Service to connect different areas of the village and get people to the surgery and shops. It was suggested a 3rd stop be added for Burwell, at Toyes Lane, as it is a very long village. There was discussion over where land could be used for a hub. There is concern over parents buying cars for their children to get to the colleges. To get a high level of uptake, the hubs need to be car based. It was suggested that one stop needs to be on the route of the road to Reach. In practice, there is really only one viable route from Reach to the wider area and that is direct to Burwell, because the bridge over the disused railway line at Swaffham Prior is a difficult pinch point. ECDC have commissioned SUSTRANS to look at cycle routes from Reach, Fordham to Quy, so that they can cycle to a hub and leave their bikes there.

Swaffham Prior Maybe have a hub here, although a fast bus service would be very welcome to reduce the traffic passing through the village.

Swaffham Bulbeck Lots of people need to get to Bottisham, to go to the shops and the surgery. There needs to be a small hopper (minibus) bus to be able to do this and that service could connect through to Burwell via the Swaffhams.

Bottisham More students are coming to the Village college from Newmarket and Cambridge and need transport. However, there is going to be a new secondary school built in Cherry Hinton, so fewer pupils might come in the future. Also there needs to be contact between Bottisham and Great Wilbraham which has just one bus a day at 7am.

Wilbraham EF's suggestion of a route from Lode, Bottisham, Wilbraham, Fulbourn and then to the Babraham P and R. There is no cycle path or bus. There needs to be a cycle path between Wilbraham and Bottisham, so children can get to school by bike. At the moment there are 40,000 people working at the Biomedical campus and 300 cars a day go through Wilbraham between 7 and 9am. The Parish Council wants to reduce this volume of car travel.
Lode generally supportive of hubs, but it needs to be evidence based. Also we need to involve the National Trust, in particular Anglesey Abbey which has 400K visitors annually. Unclear what is happening to the Greenways, and a possible connection from Waterbeach across the Fen.
GCP we all need to respond to their consultation. Also, to push for the Newmarket P and R to be moved to Quy, not just within Cambridge. It is not a done deal but we will have to be pushy. There is a redundant farm South west of the church in Quy that backs onto the A14. Perhaps this where a new P and Ride could be. It would also be useful when the Honey Hill sewage construction starts.
Conclusions
JC (Chairman): Clear from feedback from the Parish Councils that there is support for such a scheme. Such a scheme will require a significant amount of money and a business case will have to be developed based on data demonstrating the travel needs of our communities. Travel hubs need to be safe and well lit. Bus stops need to be upgraded which is the job of each parish Council. We need to get our MPs on board as well as the GCP.
Next Actions
1. To share the concept with our MPs, the GCP and Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority and Stephensons
2. To publish the minutes from this meeting along with the presentation to enable our communities to comment
3. To develop a high level project plan for the next phase of the project which will be data collection to understand our communities' travel needs
4. The project will require funding to pay for consultants / employees to move to this stage, so the project plan needs to include an outline business case / vision
5. Parish Councils will be asked to explore options for Travel Hubs location sites as part of a feasibility study which will follow the data collection phase

6.10 Reach Fair Group
The group had become a CIC. All funds from the Fair will be paid to the PC for the Grant fund. A loan from the PC/Grant fund will be required to pay the upfront costs for this years Fair. Councillor Fletcher and Councillor Cane have been working on this. ***Clerk*** to add to March agenda for approval.

7. Elections – paperwork, new councillors & May meeting
The nomination forms were completed by those who wish to stand at the May elections. The documents were passed to the ***Clerk*** who will deliver to ECDC on the 30th March. It was agreed that the May meeting, which will also be the Annual Parish Meeting, will be held on Tuesday 9th May.

8. EDF Community Fund split between Burwell & Reach
The Burwell PC meeting agreed to the split requested by Reach PC, which being 77.5% to Burwell & 22.5% to

Reach of £20,000 per year, for 20 years, increasing in line with inflation. EDF have decided that the money will be given to a third party and the PCs will have to apply to gain access. Both Burwell & Reach PC would like to avoid this as it usually makes the system very complicated. The next EDF meeting will take place on 22nd March.

9. Reach fair loan to agree procedure and approve
The Reach Fair CIC requested a loan from the Grant Fund to pay for the upfront costs of the Fair. A loan agreement was produced. The loan will be interest free and repayable before the 1st of June. The PC does not receive interest on money in the bank so will not lose from giving the loan. The loan is unsecured however it was felt that the Fair has never not made enough to repay this amount in living memory and therefore was a tiny risk. Approved.

10. Setting up the Grant Fund as a charity
The Reach Fair CIC will need to pay corporation tax on profits unless they are given to a charity. A charity will be set up to run the Grant Fund. This will be a separate entity from the PC. The Charity will be able to fund village events, & possibly the village hall. The charity will require trustees to consider grant requests. It was felt that it would be ideal if these trustees came from the PC, The Events team, and the village hall. ***Councillor Hall*** agreed to draw up the charity documents taking advise from NALC and the Charity Commission. CAPALC will be asked to review the document before it goes to the Charity Commission.

11. Village hall payments to agree procedure and approve

The PC is required to pay for use of the hall for meetings. It was agreed that these should be paid once in the year to reduce banking work. ***Clerk*** to arrange a once yearly payment for 10 meetings in the smaller room, and use of the larger room for the May annual meeting

12. Cambridge Eastern Access - Newmarket Road improvements and Park & Ride relocation

The AtoB1102 group have proposed a plan for the park and ride to be moved to this side of the Quy roundabout. This would allow one bus to go into the city and another to go towards Cambridge North, the Science Park and CRC. It would also reduce congestion on the roundabout. ***Councillor Cane*** to draft a letter to support this and also to endorse their proposed bus routes.

13. Payments

Gallaghers – Insurance	£1549.48
D Parr – Events Team ceilidh Band deposit	£297.50
Reach Fair CIC – Loan for prepayment items	£2164.00
D McMillan – playground repairs	£8.99

Diary Dates

April 2023	Event	Location	Time
Friday 21st and 28th	Community Cafe	Village Hall	3pm to 4.30pm
Monday 3	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday 12	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 18	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 25	Recycling Day (Blue)		

May 2023	Event	Location	Time
Every Friday	Community Cafe	Village Hall	3pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday 2	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Tuesday 2	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 9	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 16	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 23	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 30	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		

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)*

This view towards the village green from the top of the slope that is the start of the Devil's Dyke is rather overgrown and obstructed now. I have therefore on this occasion opted for an 'Old and older' photo set, rather than the 'Then and Now'.

The older postcard photo is probably around 1900. Its date could possibly be narrowed down with some detailed observations but there is no war memorial in place. The more recent photo is about 1959 as scaffold around the church steeple can just be seen.

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












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