# Within Reach



February/March 2024





*A flooded 5 Miles from Anywhere*

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## From the Editor



Well, have we seen the worst of the winter out? I very much hope so. And a good sign that Spring is in the air is the bulbs coming through, led as always by the snowdrops.

Christmas seems a dim and distant memory, but what I can remember is all good. People enjoyed participating in and viewing the village Advent Calendar windows.

Then we put our tree in place, big thanks go to all those who helped put it in place and decorate it on the Saturday – and to Suz who, as previously, sorted all the logistics in procuring what was, by general consent, the best tree we have had to date. On Sunday we had the customary Brass Band and Mulled Wine.

In the middle of the month the Seniors Christmas Lunch took place and as always, it was a delightful event and again, huge thanks go to all those who made it happen.

The final event, our carols around the tree on Christmas Eve, took place during high winds and in the latter stages, driving rain. So, we moved from the Green to the front of the Village Hall, where Grahame led our singing with some background musical accompaniment. After it concluded (and in some cases before it did) a good proportion of us retired to the Dyke's End to dry out.

The next event for us all to look forward to is the Call My Wine Bluff which takes place on Saturday 10th February in the Village Hall. Further information can be found on page 4 of this magazine.

OK, so the bad news is that Cath Tayleur, who has been delightfully editing the magazine's Nature in Reach article, has decided to relinquish the role – huge thanks Cath for all you have done over the last couple of years. The good news however is that Nick Acklam has agreed to take over – he is, of course, already a big contributor to the article with his wildlife sightings. Thanks Nick.

Nick has also taken on a lead role, with Steve Boreham, in the production of a Nature Recovery Plan which every local authority is required to produce. It gets a mention in both sets of Minutes and doubtless we'll get to know more about it in future issues.

**David Parr**

## About the Magazine

The purpose of *Within Reach* is to serve the whole village by circulating information and interesting articles free to every household. Additional copies are available at a charge of £3.00. Issues are published bi-monthly covering the months of Feb/Mar, Apr/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov and Dec/Jan.

Copies of *Within Reach* magazine and its predecessor *Out of Reach* can be found on the village website www.reach-village.co.uk. This magazine (which is fully funded from advertising) is printed by Burwell Print Centre, an excellent social enterprise which trains and supports adults with learning disabilities and provides high quality design and print capabilities.

## The Team

| | |
|---|---|
| **Editor** | David Parr |
| **Distribution** | Freda Lloyd, Claire Halpin-McDonald and Grahame Radford |
| **Photographer** | Rosanna Moseley Gore |
| **24Acres** | David Thomas |
| **Anglesey Abbey** | Meghan Curteis |
| **Church** | Eleanor Williams |
| **Cookery** | Catherine Gibson |
| **Cricket** | Ross Clark |
| **Events Team** | Debbie Quilter |
| **Gardening** | Danuta Gibson |
| **Neighbourhood Watch** | Kevin Evans |
| **Reach Riders Group** | Sue Cameron |
| **Rosanna's Ramblings** | Rosanna Moseley Gore |
| **Then and Now** | Chris Patterson |
| **Village Hall** | Sue Elliott |
| **Village Matters** | Alex de Giorgio-Miller |
| **Wicken Fen** | Julia Hammond |
| **Wildlife** | Cath Tayleur |

## Village Update



I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead. The new year always feels like a time to hunker down and regroup after the busy holiday period and I often feel my mental health takes a hit with less daylight and less social interaction. So I'm making more of an effort to exercise and keep in touch and making sure I enjoy the good things about this time of year - the woods do look fabulous and sparkly in the torch light on my early morning dog walks when they are frozen!

**Community Hubs**

Community Hubs operate in various locations across our district, offering residents a chance to socialise, meet new friends and enjoy each other's company. Breaking down barriers of isolation and loneliness, the hubs are run by the community, for the community. They offer a place to connect with each other, with the activities and services provided by trained volunteers. Activities and services offered by the hubs can vary from one to another, reflecting the diversity and needs of each local community. All offer a common theme of warmth, friendliness and inclusive places to socialise, take part in activities and access information and support from partners in the district including the Council, NHS and the Communities Service.

Community Hubs currently operate in the following locations:

**Ashley**
Ashley Pavilion, CB8 9DX
Last Thursday of month, 10.30am-12.30pm

**Bottisham**
Community Room at Queens Court Care Home, CB25 9DD
Wednesday 12pm-2pm

**Fordham**
Victoria Hall, CB7 5HG
Monday 9.30am-12.30pm

**Haddenham**
Haddenham Sports and Social Club, CB6 3SS
Monday 9am-12pm, Tuesday 9am-2pm, Wednesday 9am-1pm

**Little Downham**
Village Hall, CB6 2ST
Wednesday 2pm-5pm, Friday 10am-2pm

**Little Thetford**
Village Hall, CB6 3HG
Monday 10am-1pm, Thursday 9.30am-11am

**Littleport**
St George's Church Parish Room, CB6 1PS
Tuesday and Friday 11am-1pm

**Mepal**
Village Hall, CB6 2AJ
Monday 10.30am-12.30pm

**Soham**
Walter Gidney Pavilion, CB7 5PL
Tuesday 12pm-3pm

**Stetchworth**
Ellesmere Centre, CB8 9TS
Wednesday and Friday, 9am-12pm

**Energy Saving Funding**

Over a period of two years the ECDC aims to spend up to £2M investing in energy efficiency measures for non-gas homes in East Cambridgeshire, as part of a wider £10M government grant scheme called the Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG 2) secured by the Action on Energy partnership. Action on Energy also provides wider support to help residents with resources, guidance, and advice on home energy efficiency and retrofit.

Information and the grant funding application form can be found at: www.actiononenergycambs.org or for more information contact the Home Energy Team on 01353 665555 to discuss further or to check if your property has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

Weekly Energy Drop sessions are also available free of charge to members of the public every Tuesday at the council's offices in Ely. Simply drop in between 10am and 1pm or call 01353 665555 to pre-book an appointment.

**Tips from ECDC for saving energy in the home:**

- Turn down your thermostat by just 1°C to save £100 a year
- Shorten showers to 4 minutes to save £70 a year
- Turn appliances off standby mode to save £50 a year
- Use reflective radiator panels to save £25 a year
- Be aware which devices in your home use most energy according to the charity National Energy Action. www.nea.org.uk

Keep well and warm!

**Alex de Giorgio-Miller**

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.*

## Mobile Library

Cambridgeshire libraries

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.




## Events Team

After a hectic December, described in the Editorial on page 2, the Events Team will be getting together in February to firm up on plans for 2024.

This is always a quiet time of year, with inclement weather and temperature which discourages outdoor activities but events like the very successful Village Hall **"Call My Wine Bluff"** can and will take place – see the Poster on the bottom left of this page.

And of course, in just three months, **Reach Fair** will be with us with all the fun that that brings to the village.

More information about 2024 will be contained in the next issue of this magazine.

**David, Debbie, Hannah and Jo**

## Rowan's Annual Art Exhibition

Raise The Roof FOR rowan
Creating art, Improving lives
1984 40 2024

Local charity Rowan is getting ready to launch its annual art exhibition, on 24 and 25 February in Cambridge.

The exhibition, which will be held at The Leys School, will be open to the public and attendees will have the opportunity to purchase artworks. All the money raised from art sales will go to the charity, which supports adults with learning disabilities. To mark its 40th Anniversary, the charity has launched the 'Raise the Roof for Rowan' fundraising campaign, seeking to raise funds for the replacement of the deteriorating roof at the Rowan art centre.

## Reach Riders



There was a little jostling for positions at the very start of the ride and some trotting, but the horses settled down quickly to a steady walk. The latter was maintained for the ride there and back and the horses kept together as a nice group (having been rather strung out at the start).

The horses took all of the obstacles without a hitch and queued patiently single-file to squeeze past the broken gate. There were no scary moments and the horses and riders came together nicely. Only PJ was a little over-excited for most of the ride. I think the horses all enjoyed the change of company and scene.

The route is lovely with just one very small stretch of road at Upware. The horses walked the length of the road in a very orderly fashion and were an impressive group. Evie and Poppy were at the tail end of the group and turned and thanked the car drivers very politely for waiting. Such ready politeness was lovely to see.

Although the day was pretty windy most of the walk was sheltered and located between a hedge and the lode bank. Coming up to the 5 Miles was exposed and windy, and the riders didn't want to stay very long in the open area of the pub grounds. Another year the young riders might appreciate a hot chocolate each.

David, the pub landlord was very welcoming (big smiles) and helpful. He was evidently looking out for the horses and opened the gate to the grassed area as soon as we arrived. At the end he collected the tray, cups and glasses.

The riders all seemed to enjoy the ride and were appreciative of the organisers. The four Burwell ladies were particularly jolly. It was lovely coming back as the riders pealed off to go home – the Mercer girls Molly and Mabel across the fens to Highbridge Farm, the Burwell ladies clip clopped over Reach bridge with big waves and smiles and Evie on Poppy diverted off in the direction of Spring Hall Farm. That just left a few riders to complete the journey into Reach.

The event was lovely, much enjoyed and well worth doing.

**Sue Cameron**

## Village Hall



Cheers to Natasha Bridgeman who produced her fourth daughter Lydia on 30th December and has continued to welcome and manage our bookings which is keeping our Village Hall open and thriving.

The burglary of the lead flashing which happened in October has caused damage and expense and because all the roofing companies have been overwhelmed with work after the serious weather damage caused in the past few months, it has been difficult to get an estimate from them so that we can proceed. Thanks again to Andrew Trump for continuing to chase this up for the eventual repair and recovery of costs, it has been a very frustrating 4 months!

All Village Halls are required by law to update their Fire and H&S and protection of vulnerable adults which we have processed and approved and will display in the inner area as soon as possible. Otherwise, bookings continue to increase and now there are a wide range of subjects and activities, which is great to have going on in the centre of Reach, please make enquiries with the leader of the class, all details available on-line.

Finally, tickets are selling very fast for our annual **WINE TASTING EVENT SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY at 7.30**. It was a great night last time and everyone loved it and asked us to repeat. Book tickets asap (simply email rvhcb25@gmail.com) and come along in a team of 6 (or come alone, we can join you with a team) and you will have the chance to sample lots of wines with an interval of bread, fruit and cheese, prizes and raffle. Tony Fordham, Andrew Trump and Charlotte Cane will make it challenging and very lively and fun! Ring me if you'd like more details.

**Sue Elliott**

Hon Sec
742268

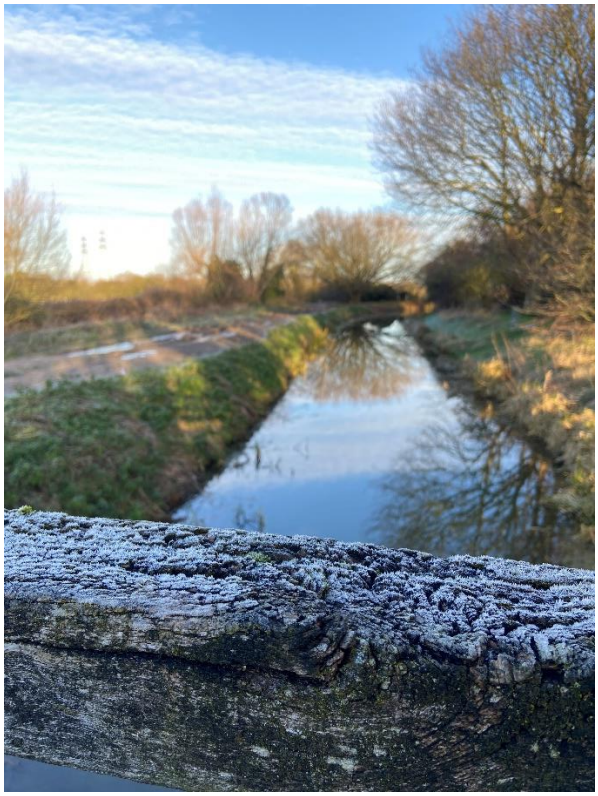
## Rosanna's Ramblings



I've just returned from a cold and frosty sunrise walk to the cricket pitch, with Milo and a visiting black lab. They had fun chasing two roe deer and I had fun walking on the hard frozen ground. Such a relief after what has seemed like weeks – months even – of the particularly slithery mud we have round here.

A year ago, I was writing about the hideous mess churned up by the off-roaders on our droves and judging by my postbag … well, the handful of emails and texts I received from other Reach residents in response to my disgust, my words resonated with many. I think there were some plans and discussions to "Do Something About It", but thus far nothing has been done as far as I can see. And in fact, in the last week, we've spotted many tracks, including in Reach Wood, of scrambling bikes as well. It's not good news.

But it was good news, for me at least, to see a week of sub-zero temperatures forecast because that means hard ground. Yes, one has to be careful with ankles on frozen ruts. Yes, there are large icy puddles where the droves have been mushed up particularly badly. But as long as those are avoided, slithering has temporarily been held at bay.



When I was a teenager, Paul Simon had a song called "Slip Sliding Away". The song wasn't bad, but I didn't like that phrase because I've always been at best uncomfortable with, at worst freaked out by, the ground under my feet not being solid and secure. I have vivid memories of being taken to a local skating rink at the age of about four and clinging panicked to the rail at the side while other children just launched themselves off onto the ice with seemingly no fear of falling. When I was nine, my grandparents wanted to take me skiing as they had taken my older sister when she was nine. She had adored it, I on the other hand cried and cried at the prospect. So my grandfather instead took me and my sister and our mother, to a wintry Jersey for a few days. My first flight (I was scared of that too) and it was wet and dreary, but we did go to see the *The Guns of Navarone* in the cinema and that seemed to me far preferable to being encouraged to don skis and head down a hill.



So, returning to the Reach mud – that unique clayey chalk, or chalky clay that seems to produce an almost oiled surface when wet on the paths through the wood and on the hill. Some years back, I had one of those slow-motion falls on said oiled surface of the wide path that goes down and up again in the middle of Reach wood, where soon we'll see clumps of what look like giant snowdrops. Are they called Snow Bells? Not sure. Anyway, it had been wet and under the covering of ginger-brown leaves, the slimy pale mud caught me unawares and though uninjured because the landing was soft, the landing also happened to be straight into a large patch of nettles. So, hands and face badly stung, body structure intact, pride not quite so intact.

Ever since my two-dog-caused knee injury back in April, I've been especially nervous about twisting or falling. That nervousness was only aggravated by an ignominious slide down carpeted stairs a few months later (besocked feet, heavy laundry basket in hands – don't do it, just stupid!); and then again by a fall in Rome airport entirely caused by long-sighted scanning for the right direction to a gate leading to completely missing one of those annoying yellow cones warning of a slippery surface at one's feet. Spill of liquid on super-polished marble floor – not a good combo and why hadn't they just mopped it up???

I wasn't happy, partly because I'd fallen straight on what prior to the dog injury, had for ages been my "bad" knee … and partly because not just darling husband but also several solicitous Italian strangers did that thing. You know that thing? Rushing up kindly to offer help to a hapless person who has landed on the ground unexpectedly? Offering help to get up when you really don't want anyone to touch you because you don't yet know whether you're hurt? Which, in my case anyway, has usually led to an ungainly scrambling to get up and a saying "Thanks but I'm fine!" and then hobbling or limping off and realising that you're actually not fine, really, you're shocked and in pain and cross and worried, all rolled up into one big uncomfortable ball.

I don't want to give the impression that I'm always falling over and need an urgent referral to a Falls Unit at Addenbrookes. I'm not, and I don't. But I think my emotional relationship with falling down, real or feared, is rather heightened compared to, for instance, my beloved skiing and skating enthusiast husband. I can still recall the humiliation of tripping over and grazing my knee just outside the windows of a classroom at school when I was 16. Everyone saw me. I'm sure they laughed, but I was too embarrassed to look. And I had to arrive late to my next lesson, my tights in tatters and hiding my shameful injury by carrying my bag in front of me awkwardly. And then there was the time I slipped on soggy autumn leaves in a lunch break at work, back in the 80s; and the badly sprained ankle in Portugal inflicted upon me by uneven cobbles; and probably a few more.

So, if you notice me walking Milo while holding firmly onto a beautiful tall walking stick Charles made for me, spare a thought for the travails of a slip-slide-averse neighbour who isn't aged and infirm (even though I've decided to let my hair revert to its natural, more wintry, tones)!

**Rosanna Moseley Gore**




## Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



Meetings are now in full swing at Swaffham Prior Village Hall when we returned from the Christmas and New Year holiday on 9 January with Panel Pics & Creative Board competitions judged by David Steel from Cambridge. For the Panel Pics members enter 5 images, on a subject of their choice, which must form a cohesive panel and for the Creative Board, more than one print mounted on a board showing imaginative ideas and techniques.

On 16 January members were treated to a Zoom presentation by award winning landscape photographer Ruth Grindrod who explained in detail how to combine colour, tone and texture in your photographs, ending the evening with some superb images from her various trips to Iceland, the USA, Outer Hebrides, Cornwall and Norfolk, where she currently lives.

Our season continues with a Photography Workshop entitled 'An Evening of Fire & Light' led by our member Elliot Needham, internal competitions of projected images and prints and a digital presentation by Jonathan Vaines from Bedford entitled "Compose Yourself". In February we are looking forward to a visit from Clive Tanner from Kent who will show us his prints of church interiors which gained him a prestigious Master Award. If you think church interiors might be boring, think again as his work is stunning!

We meet Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall (except the third Tuesday in the month a Zoom meeting) and new members are always welcome. Visitors can attend a lecture for a small entrance fee of £4.00, which includes refreshments. Our annual subscriptions are £55.00 for Adults, £30.00 for Students, plus a weekly attendance fee of £1, which includes refreshments.

If you feel you would like to join us, please get in touch with our Secretary, Debra Bennett for further information, or you can just turn up to enjoy one of our lectures. Email secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com or call 07722 388770.

**Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB**

Chairman

## Nature in Reach



It's been two years since I started writing Nature Within Reach, though when I say writing, really just cobbling together an introduction ahead of Joss and Nick's wonderful observations. Like our winter visitors, with spring around the corner, it's time to move on so I'm sad to say this will be my last column.

Despite over 20 years living in the northern hemisphere I really do struggle with January. Give me a frosty morning and blue sky and my heart soars but the reality is more often muddy byways which coat boots and dog paws. But there are those glimpses of the year ahead, the lengthening evenings, catkins in the woods and an increased flurry of activity from the garden birds. And I suppose the miserable winter months make the spring transition all the more miraculous and welcome.

I think if you spoke to the wildlife they would also agree that January/February are not a lot of fun. It's scientifically been identified as a 'hungry gap' when autumn resources have been exhausted. This can mean they're sometimes easier to see. The muntjac that live in our garden have eaten everything they can reach and have boldly moved onto our flower beds. I've even come across voles foraging out in the open on the byways. Joss reports on large numbers of deer and also a rare sighting of a mile above ground.

I was really pleased to see a strong focus in our Village Plan on protecting and improving the unique natural habitats we are so lucky to have on our doorstep. I tip my hat to the dedicated individuals that give up their spare time to help record and protect the special nature of the village. My professional life is dedicated to driving a nature positive future and we need every village, town and city to take up the challenge.

Thanks for joining me on these musings, I will continue to be an avid reader of the seasonal ins and outs of Reach's wildlife.

**Wildlife Sightings: Nick Acklam**

28 November: two large flocks of Lapwing circle Tubney Fen. A group of 20 or so Whooper Swans take off from Burwell Mere. It is a noisy affair with the birds calling and splashing the water heavily as they gain momentum. Once airborne they head north towards Upware. A Sparrowhawk flies over Reach Lode and perches briefly on the fencing of the cycle bridge.



1 December: a pair of Mute Swans stand on the frozen lode.

7 December: a flock of a hundred or so Starling flies towards the village, quite low and along the lode at Hurdle Hall. Not a murmuration but impressive nonetheless.

8 December: over a hundred swans, many of them Whooper, are congregated on Burwell Mere. Although it is full daylight, none move off to feed.

9 December: 27 Whooper Swans overhead at Hurdle Hall and flying north in three loose skeins.

24 December: a brief sighting of a Short-eared Owl at the northern end of Hurdle Hall where it goes to ground and stays put.

6 January: thousands of Lapwing in a number of loose flocks over Tubney Fen. This is undoubtedly the largest number of Lapwing I have seen locally. Most are flying north into the teeth of a brisk wind.

11 January: a Barn Owl and a Sparrowhawk on the margins of Reach Lode.

13 January: a Red Kite circles the field behind the Village Hall.

**Wildlife sightings: Joss Goodchild**

'If you love wildlife, neither despair nor wild optimism much help - it's about doing what you can to make things a little better'. Simon Barnes On The Marsh.

Observations. Noticeably large groups of roe deer in fields outside the village. I wonder if they have been displaced due to loss of habitat re. the nearby solar farm.

Significantly fewer rabbit sightings these days, significantly more muntjac deer.

10.12 Saw a crow carrying a snake (still curling) land on Aves' farm barn roof

10.12 3 x grey squirrels, Reach Wood

11.12 Kestrel on Robert and Suzanne's house roof, Great Lane

11.12 Red tailed kite in tree, rear of Ron and Penny's garden

12.12 Sparrowhawk in our garden tree, Great Lane

12.12 Redwing, fieldfare, lapwing, Tubney Fen

14.12 Kestrel over Lesley & Gareth's field

15.12 Hilary heard first one robin then a second singing at 7pm in the dark

15.12 2 x brown hares, Little Fen Drove

16.12 Buzzard above Great Lane

21.12 Ali Kohlman took this photo near their field, a Great White egret, the size of a grey heron.



This a significant and unusual sighting for Reach

24.1. Ron drove along The Weirs and saw a little egret close to, within 15ft. of his car.

25.1. Ron also mentioned that the (almost dead) fallen ash tree which temporarily blocked the Burwell Road was a favourite haunt of spotted woodpeckers which both nested and fed there. The holes can clearly be seen in the remaining wood.

25.1. I saw a barn owl cross Little Fen Drove 6pm.

23.12 Ali Kohlman, cormorant on the Redfarn's garden decking

31.12 Counted 26 roe deer in Burwell Road field

1.1. 24 Blue tits using our bat box for Winter shelter

5.1 Hare at a balanced canter, evening, near Tubney

5.1 5 x cock blackbirds back in evidence, Great Lane

6.1 Fen fields, rooks search for worms

7.1 5 x pied wagtails, Little Fen Drove

8.1 Ron and Penny regularly see red tailed kites from their back garden, often close to, also buzzards, often mobbed by carrion crows.

11.1 Dafila's domestic geese try to join the mute swans, Catchwater drain. This swan chased the geese off.



13.1 5 x little egrets rose together, looked like handkerchiefs, Springhall Farm

14.1 Ali Kohlman photographed a mole in their muckheap



20.1 2 x jays, Great Lane, 2 x jays Burwell Road

20.1 Black headed gulls in village fields

21.1 Hilary watched 'a weasel hunting fearlessly around my muckheap' Little Fen Drove

24.1 2 x rabbits near Reach Wood

**Cath Tayleur**

## Wicken Fen



We've been enjoying some stunning sunrises and sunsets over the winter here at the Fen (see photo courtesy of David Boughey). If you can visit either early morning or when the light is fading, you'll often be rewarded not only with beautiful skies, but also short-eared owls hunting, or harriers and corvids coming in to roost. The days are getting longer now, so look out for signs of spring when you next visit.

We're celebrating **World Wetlands Day on Friday 2 February** with a guided walk with one of our rangers. Find out about how important wetlands are for combating climate change and biodiversity loss. To find out more and book, please visit our website.

Our popular **Stick Trail** is back! Tons of fun for all the family – who doesn't love playing with sticks?! From 3 February onwards including half term; normal admission applies, free entry for members. As usual, we have lots planned for **February half term**: Monday 19th - Owl Pellett Dissection, Tuesday 20th - Bird Box Workshop, and NEW on Wednesday 21st - Lino.Mono.Collage and Thursday 22nd - Sketch.Paint.Create free creative workshops for age 12 to 16. For details and booking, see our website.

**National Lottery Open Week is 9 – 17 March** and we will be offering free entry for lottery players during this period. Our free half term workshops are made possible with the National Lottery Heritage Fund with thanks to lottery players, so we'd like to show our appreciation by offering lottery players the chance to visit free of charge. Our **Mucky Pups** sessions for pre-school children continue on 16 February and 22 March. Plenty of outdoor adventures including seasonal nature activities, crafts and stories. Details on our website.

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

**Julia Hammond**
Senior Programming and Partnerships Officer

## Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group

*"Your views matter"* is the message the Patient Participation Group (PPG) want to emphasise to everyone who uses Burwell Surgery. Whether those views are complimentary or constructive criticism it is important they are heard.

Here are the ways you can do that:

- Direct contact with the surgery (01638 741234 or admin.burwellsurgery@nhs.net)
- Filling in one of the Surgery's online survey forms is another if you have access to the internet (e.g. https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/patient-group/patient-feedback/)
- Email the PPG (admin.burwellsurgery@nhs.net) with suggestions to improve the surgery and its service to the community. These can then be raised at PPG meetings for discussion and proposed as part of an on-going action plan
- Comment on Burwell Surgery or PPG Facebook posts.

Compared with some of the negative national coverage of GP surgeries and the length of time patients are waiting for appointments, the PPG's view is that our local surgery is doing a really good job. However, there is always room for improvement and it's part of the PPG's role to make sure that feedback is sought from as many people as possible on the service that the Surgery provides.

The PPG would especially like some younger patients to join us at one of our meetings to discuss the services the Surgery provides. Our 2024 meetings are on 16th January, 16th April, 16th July and 15th October, all at 6.30pm at the Burwell & District Day Centre. You don't have to come every time – feel free to dip in and out if you have other commitments. To find out more about the PPG, visit our webpage on the Burwell Surgery website at https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/patient-group/.

We do understand that younger people, especially those with families, are busy and that few may want to attend evening meetings. Another reason to get in touch with us in other ways.

Every voice matters - and we look forward to hearing your views!

**Colin Warnock**

## Burwell Museum and Windmill

Burwell Museum and Windmill are looking for new volunteers to join the current teams. No experience is necessary for any of our volunteer roles, we are looking for a range of skills which will complement the volunteers we have helping us already. There are opportunities for everyone and anyone to become involved, there are no barriers to volunteering and we advocate diversity and inclusion.

People often don't realise that they have the skills and talents we are looking for, our needs are diverse and accommodating to all. So we thought we would give people the opportunity to find out more about what we have to offer by holding two Volunteer Recruitment Open Days. The dates are Saturday 17th February 2024 and Saturday 2nd March 2024, both days 11am - 3pm. We would love to meet anyone who feels they would like to become involved and give some time, energy and expertise to help our village museum and mill have fresh ideas and contributions.

Much as we are open on Sundays and Thursdays for half the year, we need volunteers on other days of the week too to help with the maintenance, repair and upkeep, both inside and outside. We are also looking for volunteers who can help during our special larger events which are held once a month throughout the year to assist our trustees in setting up, running and derigging these events. Front of house is also an area we need more volunteers, hosting our visitors and ensuring all visits are friendly engaging, informative and bring to life living in a village such as Burwell, living in a fen edge village. We would also like to recruit a Trustee Treasurer so if you have experience using Xero, Zettle, financial management and business banking , then please do contact us.

We will be opening access to our observatory this year so if you love gazing at the stars and planets and would like to inspire and educate others into this domain the please do contact us, the telescope engineering is deemed as truly outstanding, we are very proud to have been the recipient of this from the estate of Barrie Bushel.

And finally, we need help to engage and expand reach on social media channels and improve our promotion of the museum, mill and our forge too as well as events and activities. So please contact us if you feel you can help with this.

The opportunities are endless and you may be able to offer something to us which we have never thought of! You do not need to live in Burwell, we have volunteers from far and wide across our region who join us to be a part of this unique opportunity and gain experience second to none.

So do come along on our open days or contact us via our email or social channels, we look forward to meeting you. Here is the story of one of our volunteers .

**Andrew's Story**

I started volunteering at the Museum over 10 years ago and it has been one of the most formative, enjoyable and best experiences of my life. It has given me skills, knowledge and experience to succeed in life when I had left university due to ill health, without a qualification.

I now head the mill team and have also recently become a trustee. I am now managing a team of volunteers who I have been part of for so long. It brings me great joy to see the museum and mill being run so well by dedicated volunteers and trustees, some give a couple of hours a week / month, some are involved on a daily basis but we are all united by one thing which is to enable to see the museum and windmill flourish. I am a proud ambassador to be part of such a village asset. I am really looking forward to 2024 and action the developments we all work together to achieve to improve the museum and the mill and take both into the future to educate across all generations of visitors.

It is a privilege to be a part of this.




**Sara Phipps**

# Dyke's End

## The Good Beer Guide

As real ale enthusiasts, we were delighted to hear that we'd won a CAMRA award from the Cambridge & District branch back in June 2023. After only one year at the helm at the Dyke's End, it was testament to the work we had done and the quality of our real ale.

CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) is a consumer organisation set up in 1971 that champions good quality real ale, ciders and perries in pubs. It also produces a book titled The Good Beer Guide each year, highlighting the best real ale pubs around the country - the 2024 edition of which, the Dyke's End now features.

We choose to stock only East of England beers. Not to say there's not ample delicious beers from all over the country - some of my favourites are from Surrey Hills, North Wales - but this selection gave us our niche, which stood us in good stead with ale enthusiasts. We are able to buy directly from local breweries, highlighting beers that are often not found in brewery-tied pubs. Some of my favourites so far have been Moongazer (Norfolk), Colchester (Essex), Tring (Herts), Papworth (Cambs), Buntingford (Herts), Moonshine (Cambs) and Green Jack (Suffolk).

The record for fastest firkin being devoured goes to Side Pocket for a Toad from Tring brewery in Hertfordshire, which disappeared in just a few hours. Second place went to Fen Skater from Papworth - 24 hours later, no more skater. I'd like to think that could have been a nod to our location - my mother's great grandfather (of the Housden clan) used to skate down Swaffham fen (we've still got the skates) - but more likely it was just very tasty beer.

Beer selection is one thing, keeping good ale is another. Ale cask conditioning is the process of secondary fermentation in the cellar of a pub. Firkins of ale (a cask) require both racking (tilting securely on a rack) and venting which involves hammering in a soft spile that allows excess gas to escape. This process allows the yeast that is left in the beer to continue changing the sugars into alcohol. It produces a little bit of fizz (carbon dioxide) and adds a very small percentage of alcohol to the beer (about 0.1%). It's an essential process to allow the flavour to mature and if done well, results in the best quality beer in your local.

How long you condition ale for all depends on the beer and brand. Ale is a living, breathing beverage, not pasteurised like many lagers and has naturally occurring $CO_2$ without any need for gas to be added. It therefore changes every day in which it is served, which is what makes it so special and unique. Most ales, including the resident beer at the pub (Wherry from Woodforde's), require at least twenty-four hours of venting to condition properly before being served. Often conditioning for longer than this will improve the flavour further.

Beer lines are another key factor in the quality of beer. In 2022 we installed brand new ale lines in the Dyke's End - it's good to have a fresh start. And only last year (May 2023) all lager lines were replaced to follow suit. To achieve nice clear beer, using a good quality beer line cleaner with a purple indicator allows the solution to be seen easily in the pipes and when used once a week ensures efficient cleaning and removal of heavy water salts, proteins and deposits that can build up if lines are not properly maintained.



*Big thanks go to villager Matt Marian who handmade these beer pump handles for us, using four different woods*

We've loved discovering, conditioning and drinking new beers from breweries in the local area - it's been a real privilege to meet so many passionate producers of fine ales, without which there would be no good beer guides or awards. Here's to all those breweries that have sometimes veered from their usual delivery routes specially to deliver to the pub - much obliged. Later this year we're going to put on a mini beer festival in the front garden that will allow us to showcase some of our favourites - many of which will also be on show in the beer tent for Reach Fair 2024. We look forward to seeing you in the pub or beer garden soon and thank you in advance for your support during the year ahead.

**Cheers, Dan, Ruth and Lila.**

La Cucina Italiana

THE DYKE'S END

# Valentine's Day Menu

## STARTER

*A sharing platter with Italian Salami, Prosciutto, Sundried Tomatoes, Cornichons Olives and Walnuts*

*A Vegetarian version can be made upon request*

## MAIN COURSE

*Stracotto - a rich, slow-cooked beef in red wine*

*or*

*Chicken Cacciatora - Hunter's chicken in tomatoes with olives and basil*

*served with sauté potatoes and a fresh green vegetables*

*or*

*Pappadelle with aubergine, peppers, tomato (Vegetarian)*

## DESSERT

*Lemon Posset with Shortbread biscuits*

*or*

*Tiramisu*

*or*

*Hot Chocolate Soufflé with Creme fraiche and Raspberry Coulis*

**£38.50**

DYKE'S END

# Food Focus

**Seasonal Ingredient focus: Beetroot**



I have to admit this is my favourite savoury food of all time and there is increasing scientific evidence that it's really good for you, Michael Mosely has devoted a whole "just one thing to it" see below.

Boiled whole fresh beetroot is my favourite, but both George and I also always have the packaged sweet fire chilli beetroot in the fridge (available in Tesco and Waitrose). I've always hated the traditional beetroot pickled in vinegar but it's been available just boiled and vac packed for years for those that don't want to boil it for an hour. I regularly make a grated beetroot and carrot salad as a starter (helpful for smoothing the blood sugar curve), roast beetroot, boil it (I love the satisfying process of rubbing the skins off in water) and make a soup with lime. See vague recipe below….apologies can't find the actual one so this is from memory – go with your gut on quantities if mine seem ridiculous!

**Beetroot, Lime & Coconut Soup**

- Lots of beetroots peeled (10)
- Coconut Milk (1 or 2 tins to taste)
- An onion, chopped
- Zest and juice of 6 limes
- Stock

Fry the onion in oil or butter and once softened add the peeled chopped beetroots and a litre of stock. Bring to the boil (add coconut milk now if more liquid needed). Once the beetroot is cooked add the zest and juice of the limes and the second tin of coconut milk if using, and whizz. Season to taste.

**From Michael Moselys Just one thing:**
**The benefits of beetroot**
Beetroot was thought to have health promoting properties as far back as Ancient Greece, so we've known beetroot is good for the body for a long time. But now, a vast body of research is starting to unravel the surprising benefits of this earthy vegetable. So, why is it so good for you?

**The secret ingredient**
One of the powers of beetroot is that it is incredibly rich in nitrates. Eat some beetroot and something remarkable happens: the bacteria that live in your mouth kick start the transformation of the nitrates into nitric oxide, a powerful molecule with many effects around the body.



**Heart beets**
A daily dose of beetroot juice can have a significant effect on blood pressure! One study found that just a few weeks of munching a couple of beets a day led to a fall in average blood pressure of about 5 millimetres of mercury, if maintained, this is enough to reduce the risk of stroke and heart attack by 10%. Studies have also found that beetroot can have an effect on blood pressure within a few hours of intake.

Nitric oxide can increase the size of your blood vessels so blood flows through more easily. This is one of the reasons why eating beetroot can reduce blood pressure. It could also help explain why beetroot juice can be beneficial for your brain!

**Drop the beet for your brain**
Beetroot can increase blood flow to crucial areas in your brain. One study found that pairing beetroot juice with exercise could increase connectivity in areas in the brain that control your movement. They found that those who exercised and drank beetroot juice displayed active motor brain networks which more closely resembled those of younger adults. So, drinking beetroot juice really may help keep your brain younger.

**Beetroot & your (micro)biome**
Research has also revealed that drinking beetroot juice twice daily for just ten days can change the mix of oral bacteria for the better. Amazingly, the volunteers who drank beetroot had a boost to bacteria linked to good vascular and cognitive health. They also had reduced levels of bacteria associated with disease and inflammation .



Boosting healthy populations of oral bacteria may help combat the drop in your body's ability to produce nitric oxide as you get older and pave the way to better long-term health.

Recent studies are also stacking up on how this humble vegetable could help you run faster…

**Beet your personal best**
Prof Andy Jones, Professor of Applied Physiology from the University of Exeter who has spent over 10 years investigating the effects of beetroot on sport performance explains how the nitrates in the beetroot improve the blood flow to our lungs and muscles, resulting in a faster delivery of oxygen. "There's the potential for the muscle to be receiving more oxygen and to distribute that oxygen within itself more effectively because of the effects of nitric oxide", he says. Not only this, they help you make more efficient use of oxygen during exercise, so you can work harder, without feeling the strain.

The results are remarkable. Eating beetroot has been shown to have significant effects on speed and perceived exertion. In one study, during the last 1.8K, the runners who'd had beetroot ran a potential race-winning 5% faster .

**How much should I be eating?**
Prof Jones advised that two to three medium beetroots, or a shot of beetroot juice, is all you need to see positive effects. Getting about 6 to 10 millimoles of nitrate a day is what's important. He advises keeping a steady intake of nitrates every day and every week for long term benefit.

**In one study, during the last 1.8k, the runners who'd had beetroot ran a potential race-winning 5% faster**

The precious nitrates are water-soluble though, so be careful when boiling beets. Boiling your beets will allow nitrates to leach out into the cooking liquid, so you won't get as many benefits.

Much of the beetroot we buy is vacuum-packed: some brands pre-boil and others don't. Pickled beetroot tends to be pre-boiled, so the nitrate content will likely be too low to get all the good stuff.

So, if you really want to get the most out of this vegetable it might be best to buy it raw and bake it or drink the juice! It's a small change that really could have some un**beet**able effects!

**Catherine Gibson**

# Neighbourhood Watch

**New bus stop posters warn of emerging scam**

It works through QR (Quick Response) codes and can see victims unwittingly download malware or provide fraudsters with sensitive information. One victim lost £13,000 after scanning a code on a station parking machine, which took her to a phony website.

Posters have been put up at bus stops in Cambridge in a bid to spread the word about the threat. These show someone scanning a QR code on a menu – just one of the many places QR codes can be found – with the words, "Never been quished? Let's keep it that way", written across them.

The posters encourage people to scan a code, which will take them to a dedicated force webpage, packed with messages on how to stay safe from this latest scam. It also highlights how quick and easy it is to scan a code.

QR codes are often found on things like parking machines, charging points, emails, even restaurant menus. Once scanned, scam codes will take you to a bogus website where you innocently input your details thinking you're paying for a service or visiting the genuine site, when in fact, you're sharing all your personal details with the scammers.

There are a number of things people can do to keep themselves safe, including:

- If the QR is on a poster in a public area, always check whether it appears to have been stuck over the original. If the sign or notice is laminated and the QR code is under the lamination or part of the original print, chances are it's genuine
- If in doubt, download the app from the official Google or Apple store or search the website on your phone's internet browser, rather than scanning a QR code to take you there. It may take longer, but it's more secure.
- Check the preview of the QR code's URL before opening it to see if it appears legitimate. Make sure the website uses HTTPS rather than HTTP, doesn't have obvious misspellings and has a trusted domain.
- Trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, don't share your details

For more on quishing, visit:
https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/campaigns/quishing/

## Letter from the Vicarage



Easter is early this year and Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent, is on February 14th – Valentine's Day. I know many people mark Lent in some way, often by going without something like chocolate, which makes it a bit hard this year with Valentine's Day, often a day for lots of chocolate, coinciding with the start of Lent!

Perhaps, though, it's a good reminder about what the season of Lent and Easter is really about - God saying, 'This is what it means when I say I love you.' The journey of Lent ends at Easter, when we celebrate God's incredible, outrageous, some might say foolish love, in Jesus living, dying, and rising again, to show us what it's all about - love poured out, to give us new life and the chance of making a fresh start. May this Lent be a time when you begin, or continue, a journey to discover what that means for yourself.

Some special services coming up at St Etheldreda's: we have a midweek service once a month, usually on the 3rd Wednesday at 10.30am, which is followed by coffee and time to chat and an early service on the 1st Sunday, at 8.30am. On Good Friday our reflective service is at 2.00pm at St Etheldreda's and on Easter Day, there is a service at 8.30am.

At St Mary's, in Burwell, each 1st Sunday of the month is our Café Church - a relaxed start, with drinks and pastries and activities related to the theme of the day, before a short service. Next dates are February 4th and March 3rd.

Our Mothering Sunday Thanksgiving Service is at St Mary's at 10.00am on Sunday March 10th, when posies of flowers will be given out. Messy Church meets monthly, usually on the last Sunday of the month, with an Easter special on Good Friday, 29th March. Please get in touch if you would like more information about these or any of our events or services, including weddings, christenings or a baby thanksgiving service for the gift of a child, or to find out more about the Christian faith, or just if you'd like a chat. All are welcome.

I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in setting up and contributing to the Pop-Up Pantry at Burwell Day Centre. We are working closely with Ely Foodbank to direct people where appropriate for longer term support. If you are struggling financially, or know someone who is, the Pop-up Pantry is open every Friday 2.00 – 3.00pm at Burwell Day Centre and some Wednesdays 10.00am – 12.00pm, as advertised.

**Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams** 01638 741262
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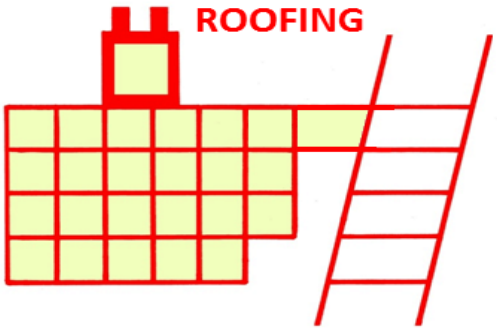

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## Reach Church Garden



**REACH CHURCH GARDEN – BE PART OF IT!**

Be part of it: we have made a start on setting up the new garden area behind the church. Much of the hard physical work has now been done - dealing with brambles in borders, ivy on walls and nettles near neighbours. We have also repurposed the old pulpit, to form a raised alpine bed in front of the arch.

The next stage will be the planting (sowing locally collected wildflower seeds, putting in plants attractive to pollinators) and we'd love more people to help.
To find out more/ get involved, please email Caroline Smith, our Assistant Churchwarden with responsibility for the churchyards, at yucca.smith@btinternet.com.

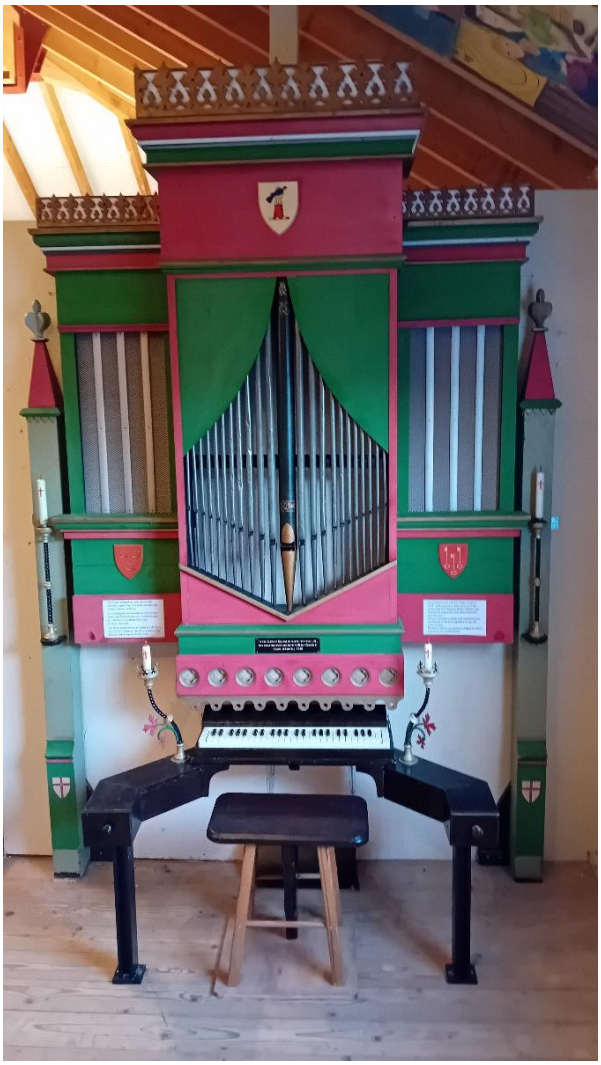
**Caroline Smith**

*Assistant to the Churchwardens*




## Old Organ Update

You may recall that, a few months ago, I reported that the casing for the old organ that used to be in Reach church, and which Maisie would have played, was donated to Burwell Museum to be displayed with references to Colin Washtell, a Reach resident who built it and also to Maisie, who played it for so many years. They have now reconstructed it and have sent me this picture. I look forward to going to see it when the Museum re-opens at Easter.





## Know Your Parish Council

Your Councillors are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Charlotte Cane** | Vice Chair |
| **Catherine Gibson** | Councillor |
| **Edward Hall** | Chair |

There are currently 4 vacancies, please contact Susan Bailey if you are interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council.

| | |
|---|---|
| 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




The district council is working on a new 'environment chapter' for its now very outdated Local Plan. This would at least fill some of the obvious gaps in the council's planning framework. Consideration has begun of what the contents of this chapter might be, and also what it would exclude.

Following a local public vote on which animal residents would most want to save, the council will also be producing a supplementary planning document on hedgehogs. If you want ideas on how to help hedgehogs, there is a really useful booklet on-line - https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/16597%20WAG%20-%20Hedgehog%2016pp%20Booklet%20AW_0.pdf

The Council has approved new policies on Supporting Residents Experiencing Domestic Abuse, and Employee Domestic Abuse.

New postal and proxy vote regulations have come into effect as a result of the Elections Act 2022.
Electors wishing to vote by post will now need to reapply for their postal vote arrangement every three years instead of every five. The number of people a person can act as proxy for will be limited to four, of which no more than two can be 'domestic' electors (ie not overseas or service electors).
A National Insurance Number (or other relevant data) will now be required on applications for postal or proxy votes, but it will now be possible to apply online for these.

The District Council's Finance & Assets Committee will meet on Thursday 25 January. There will be a budget report on the agenda, though we know from past experience that this may bear no relation to the actual budget to be set on Tuesday 20 February.

At the end of November it was reported that the Council was projecting a year-end underspend of £757,000, against a budget of £16.85 million. £700,000 of this can be attributed to the Council benefiting from rises in interest rates on its deposits.

The Finance & Assets Committee meeting on 25 January will also receive the Full Business Case for the crematorium at Mepal.

The District Council's Operational Services Committee will meet on Wednesday 31 January. It will consider the improvement plan for East Cambs Street Scene, to bring it back to budget and to delivering the contracted service levels. It will also consider the grant to Newmarket Citizens Advice.

At the Council's Operational Services Committee meeting in November, it emerged that the accounts were not being reviewed in the form laid down by the Memorandum of Agreement; and that the October Management Accounts would not be considered by the Company Board until January. We expressed concern that the report to the Committee did not give reassurance that the overspending could be resolved by the year end, and at the apparent lack of urgency to resolve the situation. A strategic review of the waste and recycling service has been established.

Some months ago, the Council announced that it would be moving to the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil to fuel its waste collection vehicles. It then said this would be too expensive due to the current cost of the oil. The waste fleet is the single biggest contributor to the Council's carbon footprint. We supported a proposal that as there had been a net underspend of £33,000 on fuel by East Cambs Street Scene in the first six months of the financial year, and as a further underspend was likely for the remainder of the year, this underspend could be used to run the fleet on hydrotreated vegetable oil for the rest of the year, even at the higher price. This proposal was defeated by six votes to five.

The Council held a 'behind closed doors' seminar with Sanctuary Housing on Thursday 14 December. Top of our list of questions was what is being done about the large number of empty properties—something like five per cent of Sanctuary's stock. Their response was that they were prioritising currently occupied homes in need of repair, and finding capacity to tackle empty properties in clusters. We have been following up a number of enquiries about Sanctuary repairs and long-term empty properties in local villages.

Recommendations are being finalised for presentation to February's Full Council meeting for changes to the council's constitution. These will include recommendations about the rules of procedure, responsibility for functions, the Code of Conduct for Councillors, and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' allowances.

Our next surgeries will take place on:

Monday 26 February, 6:30-7:30PM by zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6315424066?pwd=YjhScGtmZm5Kb1BpRmFsNnN0Nnl2dz09&omn=82265943981
and then:
Thursday 21 March 6.30-7.30pm at Reach Village Hall.

Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email or phone.

**Charlotte Cane and John Trapp**

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



## Singing For Breathing

**Do you have breathing difficulties?**
**Did you know singing can help?**

Singing is a great way to improve the way you breathe and get the best from your lung capacity. The Cambridge Singing for Breathing group is meeting online, using Zoom, on Thursday afternoons 2.30 - 4.00pm and we're looking for new members!

Kay Barrett, founder of the group, says:
*"You don't need any singing experience to take part - it's all about what it feels like, not what it sounds like. The camaraderie of the group, the guided relaxation, the breathing exercises and the singing are so much appreciated by everyone and the health benefits transfer over into daily life. Being online singers can join from the comfort of home, even when they are feeling unwell. We sing with microphones turned off, which can actually be very liberating! You simply sing along with the leader, learning uplifting songs often in call and response style. We also use multi-track recordings so we can enjoy singing rounds and harmonies."*

**Do I have to pay?**
Those who can afford it are invited to give a £3.50 donation each week, but this is not essential - we want everyone to be able to come.

**Do I have to come along every week?**
No - just come along when you can.

**I have Long Covid, can I join?**
The gentle pace, breathing exercises and relaxation can be very beneficial, but do check with your doctor or respiratory physio.

**How do I join?**
Simply email singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com or call Mary on 07972645473 for more information and to receive the Zoom link each week. You can find out more at:
www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com
or on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/singingforlunghealthcambridge

**Mary Denn**

# Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7pm

**Attendance**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cris Fletcher | Chair | Present | Susan Bailey | Clerk | Present |
| Charlotte Cane | Vice Chair | Present | Charlotte Cane | District Councillor | Present |
| Catherine Gibson | Councillor | Present | Joshua Schumann | County Councillor | Not Present |
| Ed Hall | Councillor | Present | | | |

**Forum for members of the public.**
The tree officer attended the meeting.

**Declaration of Interests**
There were none.

**1. Nature Recovery Plan**
Every local authority is required to produce a Nature Recovery Plan. There is a framework within which the document must be produce. Reach PC will be producing one for our area with the expert help of Nick Acklam & Steve Boreham. Following additional consultation with knowledgeable local people the initial document will be bought before the PC at the January meeting.

**2. Oak trees for the village**
Seventy-five English Oak trees are being given away by East Cambridgeshire District Council to help celebrate King Charles III's coronation and his 75th birthday this November. The pc would like to apply for 6, the maximum number available, to be planted at various locations around the village. ***Clerk*** to complete the application.

**3. Planning**
There was none.

**4. District Councillor Report**
Licensing Committee agreed the fees for 2024/25 and delegated to officers to implement any statutory changes for 2023/24.
Operational Services Committee merely noted various reports from ECSS, despite ECSS forecasting a significant overspend for 2023/24; reporting failure to meet contracted service levels; and the external auditors having 'Material uncertainty related to going concern'. The Chair restricted members from asking a full range of questions about these reports, restricting us to any follow-up questions to questions which we had asked in writing before the meeting. There have been significant staffing restructures and ECSS is conducting an internal review in the hope of reducing the forecast overspend and ECDC set up a members Working Group to review the service. These reviews will report to the Operational Services Committee in January, with proposals for improvement. We feel this is allowing too much time before addressing issues which have been reducing the service to residents and incurring additional costs for at least two years and leaves little time to address financial issues before the 31 March year end. The Committee also accepted that all but one of the new refuse vehicles would run on fossil fuel rather than Vegetable Oils (HVO) as planned. These vehicles
account for about 2/3 of the Council's carbon footprint and the move to HVO would have been a significant step towards our carbon zero target. This was decided because the price difference between fossil fuels and HVO was higher than expected. We supported an amendment to move to HVO for all the vehicles, noting that the cost was still withing the total budget set for fuel.
The Committee also noted a report forecasting a 6% revenue overspend on its areas of responsibility of £407,000 and a capital underspend of £1.9m. It approved policies to support residents and staff suffering from Domestic Abuse in line with it becoming a 'White Ribbon' Council. The Committee approved an Environmental Crime Action Plan and Fixed Penalty Charges, which will help us to tackle fly tipping and other environmental crimes.
Finance & Assets Committee reported a forecast capital underspend of £1,890,172 because the price of ten new waste collection vehicles was lower than expected, and that the contingency fund for new waste bins is now not needed, as the Government had not come up with a new plan for separating recycling items. A review of the smaller vehicle fleet requirements may result in spending some of this money on upgrades.
The forecast revenue underspend is £757,000, but some of this is earmarked for future spending.

Preparation for the new Local Plan will consider environmental issues first, and there will be consultation on all aspects of the new Local Plan as they become available. The Committee reviewed the scope for the Local Plan Climate and Natural Environment Chapter. The draft chapter will return to a Committee meeting before going out for consultation.
ECTC (East Cambs Trading Co. which manages parks, markets and building houses) is projecting a loss of £750,000 because this year it is engaged in building houses to be sold in the next financial year. There is still one house to be sold from previous developments.
Charlotte & John have a meeting in early December with Sanctuary Housing, which was postponed from last month.

**5. County Councillor Report**

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Council leaders respond to Chancellor's autumn statement CCC leaders have expressed disappointment about the lack of any additional funding for local government in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement. Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council said: "The failure to address the funding crisis faced by the whole local government sector, caused by rising levels of inflation and spiralling need, in [the] Autumn Statement is disappointing for all County Councils. "While we welcome an increase in the national minimum wage, as people on the lowest wages have been affected most by the cost of living crisis, this will make setting our budget this year even more difficult. Councils like Cambridgeshire have been underfunded for many years by central government, and central government are again asking for more growth without recognising the costs that brings in the need to provide more schools and more care for our growing older population. "A previously announced £2.3million over the next two years for highways improvements in Cambridgeshire is helpful, but it's a drop in the ocean of the need for investment in our highways network. Soaring inflation in highway maintenance costs, alongside the impact of climate change on our 4500 miles of roads, 37% of which are affected by peat damage due to extreme weather events, have left us with a huge challenge to simply stand still on keeping our roads safe. Like the Local Government Association said over the weekend, we need highways funding to be over a minimum of five years—as has been offered to National Highways." "We're firmly on the side of our residents and remain committed to bringing forward proposals in our budget next month which focus on those who are in greatest need, and which consider some of the key areas that were highlighted to us in our Quality of Life survey this year – such as improvements to our highways, mental health support – particularly for younger people, tackle the climate emergency and support those most affected by the current cost of living crisis." said Cllr Elisa Meschini, deputy leader of the council. "The cost-of-living crisis means it's costing us far more today to do the same things we were doing just a few months ago. This at a time when more and more people than ever need our help. We've already seen applications to our household support fund reach their highest ever levels this summer, compared to the same time last year." confirmed Cllr Tom Sanderson, Leader of the Independent group on the council, and chair of the Communities, Social Mobility, and Inclusion Committee. Proposals for Cambridgeshire County Council's 2024/5 budget and five-year business plan are set to be presented to its Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee on 19 December, the same day the Government is likely to unveil the full detail of its Local Government Financial Settlement.

National concern at council funding challenges County councils across the country have warned of the risk of major budget overspends due to 'uncontrollable' pressures, and fear that even well-managed councils are 'running out of road to prevent insolvency'.

The County Councils Network (CCN) says all frontline council services are being affected, with increasing demand for care services amongst vulnerable children and a rise in the cost of placing children in care leading to spiralling costs.

•£319 million of the projected £639 million national overspend by county councils this year comes from children's services.

• One in ten 'well-managed' councils are unsure whether they are able to balance their budget this year, which is a legal requirement. This figure is expected to rise to four in ten for next year, and then six in ten for 2025. The overall funding deficit is anticipated to reach £4 billion up to 2026, regardless of the £2 billion worth of savings and cuts that councils are planning to make in order to prevent the issuing of a 'Section 114 Notice' (the local government equivalent of bankruptcy).

Council wins staff development award Cambridgeshire has become the first county council to be awarded 'Silver' membership of The 5% Club's 2023-24 Employer Audit Scheme. This award recognises the council's significant contribution to the continued development of all its employees through 'earn and learn' schemes such as apprenticeships, graduate development programmes and sponsored student course placements.

ADULTS & HEALTH Winter vaccinations Flu, COVID-19, and shingles vaccines are now available for eligible groups. Flu and COVID-19 vaccination information at www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations and information about shingles vaccinations at www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/shingles-vaccination/

Older Adults Social Inclusion Grants Cambridgeshire County Council is opening up grant funding for services, clubs and activities that support older adults (over 65) with emerging care or support needs to be:

• socially included in their community
• more physically active
• as independent as they can be. These activities support the Council's 'Care Together' objective of enabling older adults to remain independent for as long as possible. Older adults and partners have co-designed what should be funded in each Cambridgeshire district. Some examples of the grants on offer include:
• building-based services (day centres)
• community-based activities (providing opportunities for social interaction, such as lunch clubs, wellbeing walks, knit and natter groups)

• hospital discharge support (with a view to regaining independence)
• some Community Transport funding.
https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/care-together/older-adults-social-inclusion-grants
ASSETS & PROCUREMENT Shire Hall to be re-marketed CCC is poised to begin work to find a new commercial partner in the redevelopment of the former Shire Hall building in Cambridge. The previous preferred bidder Brookgate has now confirmed that altered market conditions mean they are unable to complete the deal. Councillors have been asked to approve moves to re-market the site from early next year with a deadline to complete with a new partner by the end of 2024. Council officers have been working with expert legal and property advisors to review the six-acre site and provide a comprehensive update on all the options available. The review has recommended that the development of the site for office and hotel use remains the most valuable option for potential developers and local taxpayers—with a likely annual return in the region of £3 million each year to invest in frontline services for the next fifty years and £6 million to invest in Cambridgeshire's infrastructure and assets. All proposals for the site will require full planning, Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument consents, and ensure protection of the assets on site.
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE Teenage fostering appeal In Cambridgeshire, there are currently more than 400 young people in the 12-18 age range who, for reasons beyond their control, are unable to continue living with their birth families. These young people would benefit hugely from the invaluable experience of people who have raised teenagers and supported them on their journey to independence. When you foster with the Cambridgeshire Fostering Service, you will receive:
• generous allowances and carer perks
• an individualised training programme tailored to your needs
• round-the-clock support
• a dedicated, skilled, and experienced Supervising Social Worker If you are over 21 years of age, have a spare bedroom, and believe you have the qualities and skills to become a compassionate, resilient foster carer, *please get in touch. Facebook at @CCCFosteringService Online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption Phone 0800 052 0078*
Care quality initiative The new initiative aimed at nurturing and developing social care skills in Cambridgeshire (see November report) has now been launched. Cambridgeshire Academy for Reaching Excellence (CARE) is a new approach launched by Cambridgeshire County Council to support learning and develop
talent within its children's social worker and social care practitioner workforce. The new Social Care Academy aims to improve outcomes for children and young people through support and training being offered for social work students and apprentices, international practitioners, experienced social workers, and those in leadership positions. It comes at a time when across the country local authorities are facing a shortage of social workers. For more information see www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/care
Modeshift STARS Four Cambridgeshire schools attended a regional award ceremony for their achievements in promoting sustainable travel and developing school travel plans. The schools made a shortlist of only 124 schools across England chosen to take part in the 2023 Modeshift STARS Regional Awards.
Two of these, Highfield Littleport Academy and Barnabas Oley C of E Primary School went on to win STARS Local Authority School of the Year 2023/24 awards. Highfield Littleport then went on to receive STARS Regional SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) School of the Year 2023/24 – East of England. All these awards are fantastic achievements. Highfield Littleport, which is part of The Active Learning Trust, will now go on to represent the East of England in person at the National STARS School Travel Awards in London in March 2024. Modeshift STARS, supported by the Department for Transport, is the national school travel awards scheme to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel for the journey to and from school. Cambridgeshire County Council's Road Safety team is keen to see more schools in Cambridgeshire taking part in the Modeshift STARS travel planning scheme to encourage sustainable school travel. More information about the scheme can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/road-safety/road-safety-education-for-schools/school-travel-planning
Holiday activities and food This Christmas, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is offering free spaces for children in Cambridgeshire who are eligible for free school meals, to enjoy enriching experiences and nutritious food. Approximately 19,000 HAF eligibility vouchers have been sent to families. These vouchers offer sixteen hours of access, for no charge, to a HAF scheme this Christmas, subject to availability. Each session will include a nutritious meal, a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children. The HAF scheme is part of the County Council's 'Be Winter Wise' campaign, which draws together a range of services, activities and offers, keeping communities across Cambridgeshire informed and prepared to stay safe and healthy during the winter months of 2023 and 2024. Subject to availability of places, any child receiving benefit-related free school meals is eligible for the programme. The programme will run from 21 December to 3 January, except for bank holidays. Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), the scheme enables councils to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council. The Council is working with schools, childcare providers, and voluntary and community organisations to deliver the programme. Further information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme
ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT Swaffham Prior Community Heat Network which is offering residents in the village the opportunity to swap from oil to clean green energy with no upfront costs and better prices, has won the

prestigious Edie Net Zero Award for Renewable Energy Project of the Year. The Edie Awards—formerly known as the Sustainability Leaders Awards—are the world's largest sustainable business awards and recognise green projects which are transforming the energy landscape for good. There are more than 25,000 homes in Cambridgeshire—and around 4.4 million nationally—that are off the gas grid. The Swaffham Prior project provides a new business model for community-wide adoption of renewable heat, and off-gas communities have been in touch wanting to replicate the project. Meanwhile, interest in the project continues, and I was interviewed on-site by Reuters last month who were keen to cover the scheme.
New Environment Minister I was invited on to BBC Radio Cambridgeshire after last month's Government reshuffle to respond to the move of North East Cambridgeshire MP Stephen Barclay from Health to Environment. I pointed out that there are national challenges he needs to address, like climate change and the water pollution scandal. But I said Cambridgeshire also faces local environmental issues.
• Flood risk in the north of the county; water shortages in the south.
• The need to get 25,000 homes off oil and retrofit many thousands more.
• Carbon emissions from our peatland, and how to cut these while continuing to farm and to feed the nation.
• Transport, the biggest source of carbon in Cambridgeshire.
• And being asked to tackle all of that while meeting demands for huge growth in and around Cambridge. There are things the new Environment Secretary can do directly. Implement sensible funding regimes, not ones where bidding rounds for funding open, then run dry within ten minutes. Real serious investment in flood defences to protect vulnerable communities and in decarbonising our homes and buildings. But
he also needs to be the voice calling for action across Government. He needs to be talking to Transport ministers about money to repair and rebuild the fen roads damaged by the effects of extreme weather on their soil base; and about major public transport and active travel investment, and an electric vehicle charging network that meets the growing demand. He needs to be talking to colleagues within Defra about being helpful to Cambridgeshire in trying to move to weekly food waste collection under new Government demands when we are constrained and limited by a waste PFI (private finance initiative) contract that runs until 2036. But most of all, we need to know where we stand with Government. David Cameron is now back in Government as Foreign Secretary, but when he was Prime Minister, it didn't take him long to move from hugging a husky to demanding that the Government should 'cut all the green cr*p' (a direct quote that earned me a rap on the knuckles from presenter Louise Hulland). The present Government is moving away from its environmental targets as fast as it can, in response to vociferous and powerful lobbying.
Flood drop-in The County Council's flood and water team will be joined by representatives of the National Flood Forum and other partner organisations at a dedicated drop-in session on Friday 8 December from 10:00AM to 12:30PM at New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald. The event is open to all, and no bookings are necessary. The team will be able to discuss any concerns, explain measures you can take to help protect your property and community against flooding, and talk you through how to report different types of flooding.
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT Local Highways Improvement applications The window for Local Highways Improvement applications is now open and will remain so until 5:00PM on Friday 12 January 2024. More information can be found on the Council's website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding/applying-for-a-local-highway-improvement-lhi The status of schemes currently in delivery can be found at https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding/local-highway-improvement-delivery-programme Over the course of the application window officers have arranged a drop-in session for applicants with any questions. This will take place on Friday 5 January 2024, 10:30AM—12:00noon). If you are an applicant parish council, please contact the relevant County Council officers to confirm your attendance.
Streetlights switchover on the way The Highways and Transport committee agreed in October a project to switch its streetlights to newer, more efficient LED lights. The work is expected to begin in 2024 and will involve replacing 47,500 streetlights with LED lanterns. This will take two years to complete. The works should cause minimal disruption to residents, with no impact on roads or footpaths. Each unit should take about one hour to replace. The Council will share the proposed installation dates for each area before the start of the works and will publish this information on its web site. The Council's street lighting service provider, Balfour Beatty Living Places, will also provide information on its own web site. Questions can be addressed to Street.Lighting@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
PLANNING - Waste management company Envar Composting Ltd have submitted an appeal to the Secretary of State after Cambridgeshire County Council voted in April to refuse their planning application. Envar's plans include building a healthcare waste energy recovery facility on Somersham Road in Woodhurst, near St Ives, which would lead to the construction of a 26 metre-high chimney stack. This would allow for clinical waste, transported to the site from local hospitals, to be incinerated.
Meanwhile on the Combined Authority The Code of Conduct complaint against Mayor Nik Johnson has now been adjudicated by the Combined Authority's Audit & Governance Sub-Committee. The Mayor was found to have breached the Code on two counts—civility and disrepute, the latter brought upon himself. The Mayor was cleared of bullying, but investigators took the view that his failure to intervene over the behaviour of a former employee 'amounted to him condoning such behaviour'. He was asked to issue an apology and to undertake appropriate training. The decision notice, the Mayor's apology, and a statement from the Combined Authority chief executive, are all publicly available at https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/code-of-conduct-decision-notice/ The Board has agreed £550,000 for the next stage of the project for safe crossing of the A10/A142 BP roundabout, and £3M capital for construction.

The change of political control at Peterborough City Council last month following a vote of no confidence in leader Wayne Fitzgerald and his cabinet is significant for the Combined Authority. Peterborough, like Cambridgeshire County Council, has a veto over significant financial and transport decisions at the Combined Authority. Following the change of control, the Combined Authority Board has been able to agree its updated Local Transport & Connectivity Plan, which Cllr Fitzgerald had previously vetoed. A number of bus services have been reviewed and proposed ways forward agreed by the Combined Authority Board. These include the 8A between March and Cottenham, where a significantly improved interchange at Milton Park & Ride is being proposed; and the 12 between Newmarket and Ely via Fordham, Soham and Stuntney, which will be retained but kept under review. In East Cambridgeshire, the proposal is for the Combined Authority to work with the District Council to agree preferred ways forward for potential trials of demand-responsive bus transport on two routes:

• Burwell to Ely via Soham, Fordham, Isleham and Prickwillow
• Mepal to Ely via Witcham, Wardy Hill, Coveney, Pymoor, Little Downham.

**6. Minutes of previous Meeting**

Approved as correct.

**7.1 Reach Grant Fund**

Nothing to report

**7.2 Finance**

Nothing to report.

**7.3 Parish Council Members**

A resident had contacted the PC regarding a large tree part of which overhangs their property. This is a healthy tree with no sign of disease. There is no TPO. Legally the resident can remove the sections of tree overhanging, however, the PC has taken advise from the ECDC tree officer who advises against surgery on this tree. As the surgery creates risks for the tree including creating openings for Ash dieback infection. The PC would therefore like any work to be minimal. The PC also requests that the ECDC tree officer and the resident meet on site to discuss the best way forward to achieve the required outcome and keep the tree in its best health. The PC be would also need to be informed of the discussions and planned work prior to any such work taking place. ***Clerk*** to inform the resident.

**7.4 Play Spaces**

A quotation for the flooring around the play equipment had been received and circulated to the Councillors. ***Councillor Hall*** to look into alternation solutions. ***Clerk*** to add to the Agenda for the January meeting.

**7.5 Rights of Way**

Nothing to report.

**7.6 24Acres Committee**

Nothing to report.

**7.7 Neighbourhood Plan**

See below. The NP group would like to produce copies of the final document and a leaflet for each household prior to the referendum. Councillor Fletcher proposed that up to £500 be approved for this purpose. Seconded Councillor Hall. Approved.

**7.8 Friends Of Reach Wood**

Nothing to report.

**7.9 A to B1102 Group**

Nothing to report.

**8. Budget for YE2025**

Clerk had produced a budget for the next financial year to allow the PC to apply for the precept from ECDC.

Costs have increased rapidly for the PC this year, but the PC are also mindful that householders cost have also risen sharply. For the next financial year, the PC will not move money into restricted reserves for legal fees or for election costs, saving the PC budget £1,000. The PC will also look at where efficiencies can be made. This month the PC has started to operate online payments, this will reduce printing & stationary costs as well as postage. The main costly expense is the streetlights electricity. The PC will look at reducing these costs and perhaps changing to LED bulbs. However, any possible changes will not be immediate. The PC therefore has to increase the precept by £2,200 to £14,700 to cover costs. Proposed Councillor Hall, seconded Councillor Fletcher. Approved.

**9. Approval of the Neighbourhood Plan independent examiners report**

The PC had received the independent inspectors report for the NP which recommended that it progresses to a referendum subject to a few changes to wording. This NP report will be fact checked and updated with the modifications as requested by the Inspector. The referendum is likely to take place early next year.

Councillor Cane proposed acceptance of the examiners report. Seconded Councillor Hall. Approved. ***Clerk*** to inform ECDC.

**10. The Armed Forces Covenant.**

Signing the Armed Forces Covenant shows an understanding, supporting & celebrating of The Armed Forces Community. The PC pledge to look after the War memorial, and to hold a respectful remembrance service each year and should a veteran in the area need help the PC pledges to assist as much as it can.

Proposed Councillor Cane, Seconded Councillor Gibson. Approved. ***Councillor Cane*** to produce the document for signing.

**11. Grant fund charity update**

The new Grant fund charity will be register as a charity with HMRC to allow for tax efficiencies. It can not be registered with the Charity commission until it has £5000 of funding. This will be done after the next Reach Fair.

**12. January meeting date**

Following discussion, it was decided that the ***Clerk*** would produce a poll to arrange the next meeting.

Councillor Fletcher ended the meeting by announcing her resignation form the Council, due to increased additional commitments. This leaves the PC with 4 vacancies. ***Clerk*** to add recruitment of Councillors to the next meeting.

**13. Payments**

| | |
|---|---|
| E.on Next – power on the green | £54.70 |
| S Bailey – salary adjustments | confidential |
| TH Tree Surgery - Tree works | £1,644.00 |

Approved for payment by online banking. ***Councillor Cane*** to approve.

# DRAFT Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7pm

**Attendance**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Charlotte Cane | Vice Chair | Present | Susan Bailey | Clerk | Present |
| Catherine Gibson | Councillor | Present | Charlotte Cane | District Councillor | Present |
| Ed Hall | Chair | Present | Joshua Schumann | County Councillor | Not Present |

**1. Election of Chair**

Councillor Cane nominated Councillor Hall to be the new Chair, seconded by Councillor Gibson. Approved

**Forum for members of the public.**

Two members of the public attended the meeting, one to assist the discussion regarding the Nature Recovery Plan and one to express an interest in joining the PC.

**Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Cane had previously declared an interest in the planning application discussion. Under the PC standing orders, the Clerk had issued a dispensation to Councillor Cane to be able to participate in the planning discussion, item 3. Without this the PC will not be quorate and therefore the item will not be able to be discussed.

**2. Nature Recovery Plan**

The initial Nature Recovery Plan had been received, from the working group. The PC thanked the group for their work and a very comprehensive and information document. Following discussion, amendments will be made, Councillor Cane proposed that the document, subject to the changes should be adopted and submitted to ECDC, seconded Councillor Gibson, Approved. ***The Clerk*** to add The Nature Recovery Plan to be a standing agenda item and full details to be added to the PC website.

**3. Planning - 23/01292/FUL Proposed extension to commercial garage. Robinsons Servicing & Repairs Ltd. 50 Great Lane**

Councillors Hall & Gibson had visited the site. Proforma detailed below –

Previous applications/appeals - Previous retrospective application for running a business from the existing facilities was approved.

Loss of sunlight - None.

Overshadowing/loss of outlook - None.

Overlooking and loss of privacy - None.

Highway issues: Traffic generation Vehicular access Highway safety - The Application only provides limited additional capacity, and it does not look like the application would significantly impact on vehicular access or highway safety.

Noise or disturbance resulting from use, including proposed hours of operation - Existing application has noise and operational hours constraints applied, these should be maintained.

Smells and fumes - As per existing conditions.

Capacity of physical infrastructure - N/A

Deficiencies in social facilities - None.

Storage and handling of hazardous materials and development of contaminated land - Missing Risk assessment for contamination as highlighted by the Environment Officer. We would like to see the Environment Officers concerns addressed satisfactorily before progressing the application.

Loss or effect on trees - None.

Adverse impact on nature conservation interests and biodiversity opportunities – None, space for extension is on existing hard surface area of site.

Effect on listed buildings and conservation areas - None.

Incompatible or unacceptable uses - None.

Local financial considerations offered as a contribution or grant - None.

Compliance with Reach Design Code - Yes

Compliance with Reach Landscape Analysis

Conclusion of outcome: No objection but submit comments. We note that a contamination risk assessment has not been undertaken as highlighted by the Environment Officer and as the Parish Council we would like this to be completed before we make final comments. We have no other concerns outside of receiving this report.

**4. District Councillor Report**

Happy New Year!

There have been no meetings since our December report. Unfortunately, this includes our planned meeting with Sanctuary, which was again postponed. We hope to rearrange shortly.

The Finance & Assets Committee will meet later this month, where the main Agenda Item will be the Revenue Budget for 2024/25. This is the first opportunity to discuss the draft budget and therefore Council Tax before it is presented to Full Council in February for approval.

The Operational Services Committee will meet at the end of the month. The main item on that Agenda will be the report on the review of East Cambs Street Scene to outline if and how ECSS will deliver the contracted level of service and bring the costs back within budget and therefore the agreed fee. The committee will also discuss the grant to the Newmarket Citizens Advice.

The Combined Authority is consulting on its budget for 2024/25. This would raise the Mayoral precept to £36 a year for a Band D property, with the money being used to deliver the Mayor's vision for bus services across the area. This will include paying for new routes and improving existing routes to keep our communities connected with each other, work and education. One of the proposals is to reduce bus fares for people under 25, which will help with the costs of attending Sixth Form College, apprenticeship work and help with the costs of travel during the early years of employment.

You can respond to the consultation at - https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/yoursayyourfuture/ the deadline is 13.00 on Monday 15th January 2024. They are also asking people to comment on local bus services at - https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/better-buses/#questionnaire.

Our Councillors' Surgery this month is on Thursday 25 January at 6.30pm at Westley Waterless Village Hall.

**5. County Councillor Report**

FULL COUNCIL Five motions from councillors were debated at the Cambridgeshire County Council full council meeting on 12 December. Four were passed, one was not.

1. Noting the crisis in adult social care caused by chronic Government underfunding to councils and asking officers to be ready to take advantage of any future change in Government policies. (Passed)
2. Asking the council's Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee to consider actions to ensure a more diverse council. (Passed)
3. Expressing concern at the lack of availability of NHS dentistry and committing to take action to address the problem. (Passed)
4. Complaining of confusion about highways consultations and wanting to consult all who could potentially be affected by changes to the highway. (Not passed)
5. Welcoming options for more flexible working and committing to promote these within the council and among local employers. (Passed)

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE Joint statement on 'Cambridge 2040' announcement The Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, unveiled updated plans for the Government's 'Cambridge 2040' vision on Tuesday 19 December 2023. These include 'northwards' of 150,000 new homes around Cambridge as part of a major new expansion of the city. The leaders of Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, said: "Despite working hard to engage constructively with Government officials since the Secretary of State's initial Cambridge 2040 announcement in the summer, it's deeply disappointing that once again Government plans for Cambridge seem to be being negotiated through the press. We note in the latest announcement that the number of new homes put forward by Rt Hon Michael Gove MP has come down from 250,000 to 150,000, but this is still substantially more than the over 50,000 homes we have identified as needed in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (to 2040)—a number which will already be incredibly challenging to bring forward. We are ambitious for high quality sustainable, green growth but can't stress enough how vital it is that Government supports us to tackle the issues that will otherwise act as roadblocks to sustainable growth. We have written to the Secretary of State a number of times over the past month to stress the importance of committing to sustainable growth, and to reiterate the support that is needed to enable us to plan for the homes set out in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This includes prioritising sustainable public transport, community infrastructure such as schools and GPs, and water shortages in this region, which are putting our chalk streams under extreme pressure—an issue which the Greater Cambridge Planning Service warned in January 2023 could delay existing plans for housebuilding if not addressed by Government. We are still waiting for responses to these questions which would detail how Government proposes to support us in delivering a proposed 50,000 or so homes responsibly, let alone 150,000. Clarity is also needed as to who is involved in the 'Cambridge Delivery Group', what it will do, and how it will be governed. Devolution works best when local politicians are empowered to lead and deliver sustainable development and we will continue to work hard to represent our residents and ensure that Cambridge and its surrounding villages grow in a sustainable and carefully planned way." Since the initial announcement in summer 2023 about the Government's 'Cambridge 2040' plans, council leaders and officers have begun to explore the vision for Cambridge 2040 with Government officials. Following a visit to Cambridge by the Secretary of State in November, leaders from Cambridgeshire County, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, the Greater Cambridge Partnership, and local business wrote to urge Government to make a number of commitments—including water supply and transport—necessary to support sustainable growth in and around Cambridge.
£368,000 to help council respond to major projects A successful bid to Government means an additional £368,000 to help the council respond to proposals for major infrastructure in Cambridgeshire. The money will help support the council with the administration of Development Consent Orders (DCO) for schemes like East West Rail, the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet upgrade, and the Fenland Reservoir, as well as other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). £268,000 will bring in extra technical and specialist resource, and a further £100,000 will enable work across all these types of projects.
Consultation begins on budget proposals Consultation is to begin on the council's proposals for its 2024/5 budget, in what is being called 'the toughest year to set a balanced council budget'. The Government's one-year Local Government Financial Settlement announced last month does not compensate for the levels of demand and inflation that the council is faced with, particularly in areas such as children's social care, home to school transport and provision for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. A fair funding review for local councils promised by the Government has never materialised. And all local authorities face significant financial uncertainties as a consequence, as I reported last month. The council is looking to support vulnerable people and improve highways maintenance, while still seeking to bridge a remaining £2M gap—even with a proposed council tax rise of 4.99 per cent (two per cent for adult social care services, and 2.99 per cent for general services). The Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee received and considered draft budget proposals at its meeting on Tuesday 19 December. The council's service committees will consider these at their various meetings in January. An online public survey has been launched and is open until Tuesday 16 January https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2024-5 The Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee will make a final budget recommendation at its meeting on Tuesday 30 January for Full Council to debate on Tuesday 13 February. The draft proposals have been shaped by views gathered in the council's first Quality of Life Survey conducted over the summer. They focus on sustaining social services, continuing to provide free school meal vouchers for eligible children during holidays,
progressing the council's commitment to pay the real living wage to people providing adult social care, and prioritising highways and cycleways maintenance across the county. Potential savings have been identified to help bridge the funding gap. These include
• Moving to LED streetlights (£1M in energy savings each year)
• Rationalising office accommodation (£1.5M in the next three years)
• Reviewing the highest cost children's placement costs, and home to school transport routes (more than £2M)
• Driving down the amount of bad debt (£0.5M)
• Reviewing income from permits and parking charges (Just under £1M)
ADULTS & HEALTH - Covid
Covid is far from over—as I write this, I'm on the Tenth Day of Covid, and I know many others who have also contracted covid over the festive season. Our EU neighbours now seem to be able to purchase over the counter or online multi-tests which test for covid, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) on a single test cassette. I've asked the Director of Public Health what the hold-up is in making these available in the UK.
Preventing Falls Falls and related injuries are a common and significant problem for older adults and a major public health issue. Falls are a major cause of disability and injury-related death in people aged 75 and over and have a large impact on quality of life—and as our population ages, this will become even more of an issue. Around one in three people over 65 years old and half of those over 80 experience a fall at least once a year.

In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2022/23, there were 2,699 emergency admissions due to falls and 1,015 admissions due to a hip fracture. The estimated combined total cost of these hospital admissions was £16.3M, an increase of over £1.9M on the previous year. These costs do not include wider health and social care costs such as primary care, ambulance, or adult social care costs. Cambridgeshire County Council's Adults and Health Committee has endorsed a three-year Falls Prevention Strategy and detailed delivery plan, working with a multi-agency Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Falls Prevention Strategy Group. The strategy includes a number of interventions that have been shown to be effective at preventing some falls and fractures, and its intended outcome is a reduction in the rate of hip fracture admissions, and an improvement to the quality of life of older adults who experience a fall or fracture.

COSMIC - Supermarket voucher scheme continues in Christmas holiday The council's supermarket voucher scheme continued to operate in the Christmas school holiday for all eligible families in Cambridgeshire. The scheme will run until the February 2024 half term, using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work & Pensions topped up with additional funding provided by the council. Over 20,000 vouchers were claimed in the October half term alone. Over seventy per cent of families said the vouchers had helped them cope with the rising cost of living. More than half said the scheme had reduced the need for them to seek other sources of support in the school holidays such as food banks.

Total spend in the October half term week was £317,000, with this expected to more than double to £660,000 in the two-week Christmas holiday. In addition to the holiday voucher scheme, there is further support available in response to the cost of living https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living

Libraries offer a helping hand to stay connected this winter A successful pilot scheme offering free mobile SIM cards to those unable to afford internet access is now available in eleven of Cambridgeshire's libraries, including Ely. Cambridgeshire Libraries have signed up to the National Databank, an initiative run by Good Things Foundation which provides free mobile SIM cards to anyone over the age of 18 who is on a low income. The SIM cards are donated to the National Databank by Virgin Media, O2, Vodafone and Three. They are then supplied to members of the National Digital Inclusion Network, including the eleven Cambridgeshire libraries, to be passed on to those in need of data.

Life-saving defibrillators installed at thirteen council sites Life-saving automated external defibrillators have been installed at thirteen county council offices for use by local communities as well as county council staff and visitors. The venues include Noble House in Ely, off Angel Drove. The council purchased the units, but all installations were carried out free of charge by the county council's maintenance contractor GSH as part of their commitment to support social value in Cambridgeshire.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT - Network Rail signs up to County Council biodiversity site

Network Rail is the first investor in the council's pioneering biodiversity and habitat restoration scheme at Lower Valley Farm in Fulbourn. Arable land is being transformed into a one-of-a-kind 345-acre biodiversity net gain site. Council land there will be used to replace habitat lost due to construction of the new Cambridge

South railway station at Cambridge Biomedical Campus. From January 2024, legislation comes into effect requiring new developments in England to not only provide for nature lost as part of works but to achieve a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10%. As part of the Cambridge South Infrastructure Enhancement scheme, Network Rail has purchased 65 biodiversity units at the Fulbourn site to create an environmental legacy that will complement their creation of Hobson's Park on the Campus. The Lower Valley Biodiversity Site is part of the council's commitment to a greener Cambridgeshire and helps tackle the ongoing country-wide nature crisis. It also supports the council's aim to become a net zero county by 2045, five years ahead of national targets.

Change to access at Royston and Thriplow recycling centres Cambridgeshire residents now need to apply for a digital permit to use Royston Household Recycling Centre in Hertfordshire. The change comes following the announcement last year that Hertfordshire County Council would be adopting a policy restricting access to non-residents at Hertfordshire's network of sixteen recycling centres. However, the county council has reached an agreement with Hertfordshire County Council that enables continued cross-border access to Royston Household Recycling Centre for Cambridgeshire residents living close to the county boundary, whilst allowing Hertfordshire residents access to Thriplow Household Recycling Centre in South Cambridgeshire. Resident-only policies are becoming increasingly common across the region and indeed the country, with many neighbouring counties having had this policy in place for some time.

Sunnica further delay A decision on the Sunnica application for a large solar farm spanning East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk has already been postponed from September to December. It has now been postponed again, to Thursday 7 March. This may mean no decision this side of a General Election.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

20mph speed limit for Ely approved A city-wide 20MPH zone for Ely, put forward by City of Ely Council and funded by the Government's Transforming Cities Fund, has been approved following a consultation and a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process. In consultation with local county councillors, officers agreed to install the 20MPH speed limit zone with a minor amendment to include the section outside Tesco and the railway station. A decision about the installation of speed cushions was deferred.

But not for Soham By contrast, county councillors for Soham said they did not want officers to proceed with Soham Town Council's request for a 20MPH limit. Officers are considering whether it would be possible to carry out further consultation.

Electric vehicle charging An estimated 10,000 public electric vehicle charge point sockets will be needed across Cambridgeshire by 2030, as motorists choose electric vehicles over more

polluting petrol and diesel cars. The sale of new petrol and diesel cars is set to be banned by government from 2035. Using up to £5M in Local Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding, the council is working with the Combined Authority on how to meet this need, with fewer than 500 public charge points currently installed. Officers will develop a plan informed by technical mapping and seek public engagement to find suitable charge point locations.

They will report back to the Highways and Transport committee in March, prior to a decision by the Environment and Green Investment Committee later in 2024.

**6. Minutes of previous Meeting**
Approved as correct.

**7.1 Reach Grant Fund**
Nothing to report

**7.2 Finance**
Nothing to report.

**7.3 Parish Council Members**
Councillor Cane will complete the Arms Forces Covenant Form and bring to the February meeting for approval. ***Clerk*** to add to agenda.

**7.4 Play Spaces**
Councillor Hall continues to look into alternation solutions to the surface issue. ***Clerk*** to add to the Agenda for the February meeting.

**7.5 Rights of Way**
Nothing to report.

**7.6 24Acres Committee**
Nothing to report.

**7.7 Neighbourhood Plan**
The NP group have been informed, by ECDC, that they are unable to publicise the referendum, although other Parishes had done so.
*"I have investigated this matter, by checking the relevant legislation and seeking advice from the Association of Electoral Administrators.*
*The Parish Council is not permitted to publish anything related to the Referendum at all.*
*I understand from Richard that the Neighbourhood Plan Group who have produced this document are one and the same as the Parish Council. Therefore, you should not publish the document nor distribute it to residents."*

The final document, available online, had had some mistakes highlighted to the NP. These will be edited by People4Places and the online version will be corrected by ECDC. Unfortunately, the hardcopy is unable to be edited. The NP group will ask permission from ECDC to send out an apology and explanation of the mistakes.

**7.8 Friends Of Reach Wood**
Nothing to report.

**7.9 A to B1102 Group**
Minutes of the group meeting of the AtoB1102 December 13th 2023 at Fen Farm.
Apologies Liz Swift, Steven O'Dell, Emma Fletcher, Colin Lizieri and Sam Chambers-Turner
Present Jonathan Cook, Andrew trump, David Greenfield, Martin Wheatley, John Austin, Tania Verdonk and Fran Platten.
Technical group Martin introduced himself. He lives in SB and is working with social housing. He, together with Jean and Ruth Edley had a meeting to plan what to do with the survey when it was complete. Jean had test driven the software, with heat maps of where people are coming or going. Ruth was looking at free text responses which have to be grouped into clusters and coded. Martin quality checked . There are significant geographical gaps, but he is not quite there with this, but there are no outstanding gaps though there was a thinner response from SB and SP. and he was checking that people could not do it twice. AT and JC found the survey monkey was well guarded to prevent that happening.
LW, GW and 6MB are all included in the survey, with lots of responses from Cambridge and wider villages, with a large response from FE students. Martin thought he might discard students from the wider area. AT says the data input takes 3 mins, but he was concerned that he had to edit some of the responses, but this was deemed to be inevitable. AT suggested we mark those with editorial comment, and this was agreed. All the data needs to be entered in the first week of January. To date we had 800 surveys. JC is hoping we can get it to 1000
Various people volunteered to collect the paper responses from different villages.
Parish check in - Reach. Reasonable survey response. Lode no news. Burwell £500 donated to the group. Well done, Burwell. S Prior DG A new access was proposed to the Greenways which the PC is not happy about. The GCP is not happy with the PC's proposal. SB significant issues with the Denny and they are taking legal advice.
Bottisham JA The survey is advertised in the Cresset. Some disagreements with the GCP but not too significant. The village needs to have their say. The no.11 bus. Stephenson's do not wish to have the bus diverted round Bottisham, and the CPCA are not planning for this to happen, so we need to come up with our own alternatives. Quy. No news
Meeting with key stakeholders CPCA after many emails to Neal Byers he replied saying he was leaving in Jan. They are appointing a new executive director for bus strategy, looking at the budget and no 11 bus. Try and find out how many people use it. Our point of contact is now Oliver Howarth. We will be in a strong position when the data comes out. AT

The info will be very useful so we should be able to extract something from them in return. JA They will have boarding numbers and the number of concessions, which are commercially sensitive. JC The data could help to design a decent intervillage service with guidance where hubs might go and the benefits from an interchange
Cambridge North station Claire Daunton concerned with limited car access. They might constrain the car parking area and there is concern that the congestion charge would include this station. JC says we must write to the GCP. DG thinks it is mad that the developments there are affecting the car parking area. JA thinks we

could be accused of being car dependent. Need to phrase our concerns carefully when challenging how they expect people to access the station if the changes go ahead. He prefers to go to Ely which has good parking. The station serves a rural community . Need a suitable letter to the GCP, Cambridge City Council, and the MP
Speed reductions along the B1102 The Greenways have the potential to change the speeds Quy to AA is 60mph. They are suggesting the speed limit from Lode to SB be reduced from 60 to 40mph, because of the dangers of exiting from Longmeadow. It is 60 from SB to SP whose speed limit is still 40mph along the main road through the village, despite concern from residents and the PC. Burwell wants to change the speed limit to 20mph which is for 2.7 miles. The time for travelling through would be significant, increasing from 9 to 17 minutes. Could be a problem for delivery vehicles. No response from CCC. AT raised concerns over the bridge over the railway line between Reach and SP, whose speed is derestricted. TV was asking whether it was someone's job to see when areas are dangerous. AT suggested if there were more people using the buses, then fewer cars might go even faster! DG commented that of the 3 electric taxis he used recently, they were all intending to return to diesel as charging costs had gone up from 21p to 71p in 3 months. Poor charging facilities. Cars are not going to disappear any time soon.
Finance Almost ready to use. They have signed the constitution
AOB AT wanted to know if the figure of £16 subsidy/passenger was acceptable. Would £19 be too high and obviously £13 would be better. Is it possible to know the figure, which could be useful.
JA He doubted that the CPCA would be monitoring on a continuous basis. Some historic records might be useful. JC says that the no 11 is not a route of concern. The CPCA is looking at tendering in April 2024
TV to do a doodle poll for the next meeting please.

**8. Grant fund charity update**
Nothing to report.

**9. Cemetery Fees**
Following discussion and a comparison to other local fees it was agreed that the fees would increase by 5% as in previous years. This will help to increase the cemetery restricted reserves which can be used should any maintenance be required. ***Clerk*** to add the cemetery to the February agenda and ***Councillors*** to visit prior to the meeting to allow a more informed discussion to take place regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery.

**13. Payments**

| | |
|---|---|
| E.on Next – power on the green | £42.75 |
| S Bailey – salary | confidential |
| D Parr – Christmas events | £736.81 |
| N Acklam – 24Acres – Tree stakes | £27.00 |
| D Thomas – 24Acres orchard | £113.76 |
| Village Hall hire – Christmas events | £72.00 |
| CR Contracting – 24Acres | £42.00 |

Approval of payments by online banking proposed by Councillor Cane, seconded by Councillor Hall. ***Councillor Hall*** to approve online.

## 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 me, 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 are easy to obtain through the scheme.

# Diary Dates and Bus Timetable

| February | Event | Location | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday 4 | Holy Communion | St Etheldreda's, Reach | 8.30am |
| Tuesday 6 | Recycling Day (Brown/Green) | | |
| Tuesday 6 | Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall | 7.00pm |
| Tuesday 13 | Recycling Day (Blue) | | |
| Saturday 10 | Call My Wine Bluff | Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 20 | Recycling Day (Brown/Green) | | |
| Wednesday 21 | Holy Communion | St Etheldreda's, Reach | 10.30am |
| Tuesday 27 | Recycling Day (Blue) | | |

| March | Event | Location | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday 3 | Holy Communion | St Etheldreda's, Reach | 8.30am |
| Tuesday 5 | Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall | 7.00pm |
| Tuesday 5 | Recycling Day (Brown/Green) | | |
| Tuesday 12 | Recycling Day (Blue) | | |
| Tuesday 19 | Recycling Day (Brown/Green) | | |
| Wednesday 20 | Holy Communion | St Etheldreda's, Reach | 10.30am |
| Tuesday 26 | Recycling Day (Blue) | | |
| Friday 29 | Good Friday Meditation | St Etheldreda's, Reach | 2.00pm |
| Sunday 31 | Holy Communion | St Etheldreda's, Reach | 8.30am |

***Stephenson's No. 11 – no service Sundays/Public Holidays - NS not Saturdays, Sa Saturdays only***

| | 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 |

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

A familiar sight near the footbridge on Straight Drove from around 1970.

**Chris Patterson**

## Contact Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Parish Council – see "Know Your Parish Council"** | | | |
| **Village Hall** | | | |
| | Chair | David Thomas | 01638 742676 |
| | Finance | Andrew Trump | 01638 743335 |
| | Bookings | Tash Bridgeman | 07920 516586<br>rvhcb25@gmail.com |
| | Secretary | Sue Elliott | 01638 742268 |
| **Tents and Village Games 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 | Rev David King | 01638 742924 |
| | Churchwarden | Dr Stephen Martin | 01638 611235 |
| **Emergencies** | | | |
| | Electricity (Eastern Electric) | | 0800 783 8838 |
| | Police (Emergency)<br>Police (Non-Emergency) | | 999<br>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 (Surgery) | https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/index.aspx | |
| | Website (Patient Participation Group) | https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/patient-group | |

# Then and Now pictures – see facing page







*Picture courtesy of Claire Acklam*





*The Reach Riders Christmas Ride to the 5 Miles was fun by all accounts . . . .*





*The snow machine is always well liked . . . .*