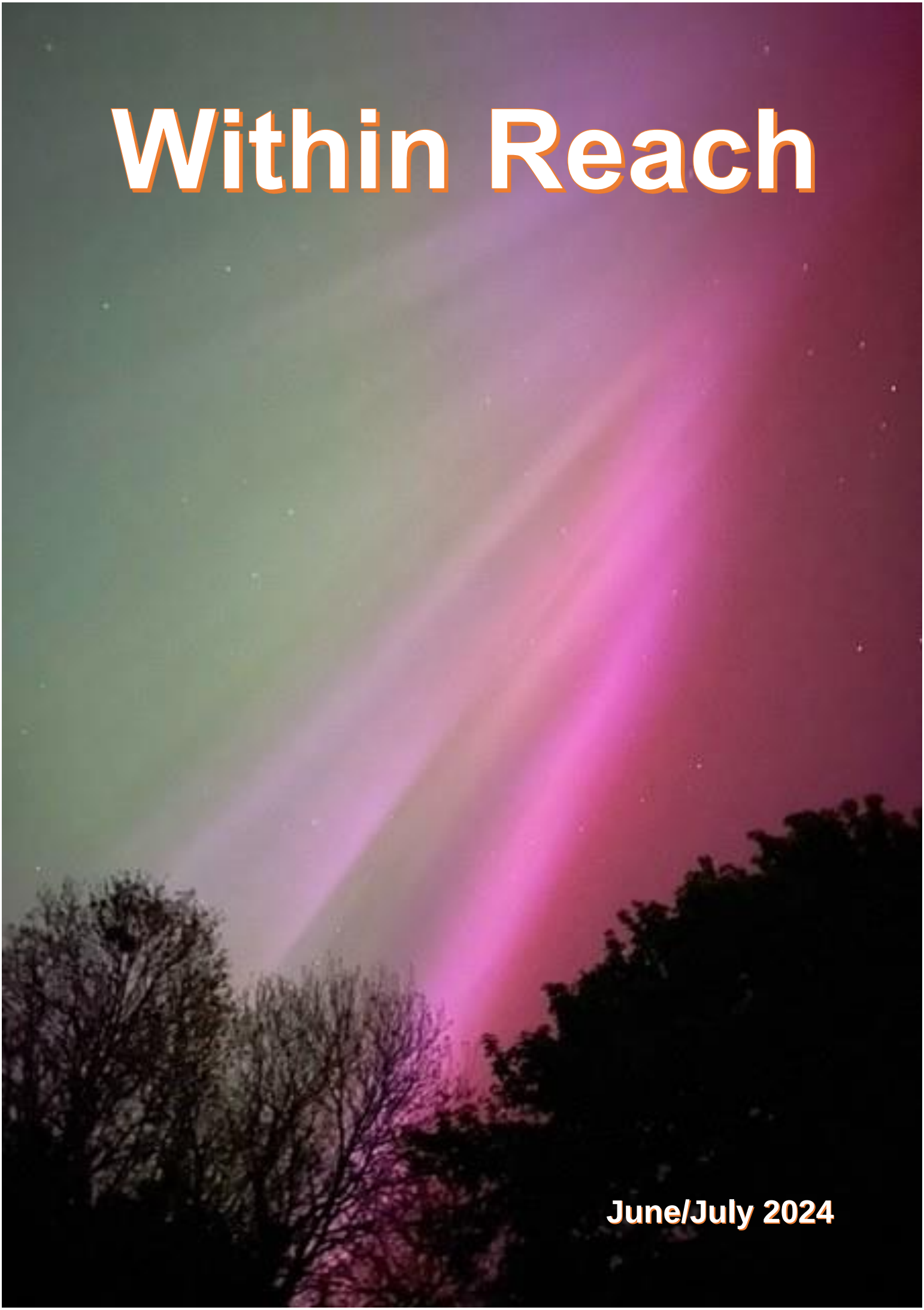
Within Reach



June/July 2024











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From the Editor



Interesting weather patterns that we are having nowadays with hailstones and thunder one minute followed quickly by sunshine. The main phenomena we have had recently, of course, is the visibility of the Northern Lights and Nick explains what these are all about on page 13 of his Nature in Reach article.

I asked you for your photos of the Northern Lights and ended up with 30 excellent photographs to select from. The one chosen for the front cover of this issue was taken by Graham Lingley – many thanks go to him – and indeed to everyone who contributed photos.

Pleasingly, we see from Eleanor's report that progress has been made regarding our church clock and bell in that a specialist contractor has been identified to carry out the work. In addition, quotations have been received for the repair of the boundary wall. So good news all round.

We have news from Ross regarding the pre-Reach Fair quiz, which as ever was well attended. The winning team was the "Fullers Red Toys" (no idea!), made up of Sue and Tony Jordan, Andrew and Janet Hall plus two friends from outside the village. They donated their winnings to Milton Hospice.

The Fair itself went very well, although the weather was a little unpredictable, resulting in fewer visitors than previous years. Having said that, the numbers were good, as can be seen on pages 4 and 5. A huge amount of work goes into the Fair and big thanks should go to the team that made it happen and all those that helped out on the day.

We have a new advertiser in **Christopher the Locksmith** – his advert can be found on page 16 of our adverts section. It is this income from our advertisers that covers the printing costs of the magazine and allows free delivery of it to every dwelling in Reach. So, if you are looking for tradespeople, do check out our adverts section and please at least include our advertisers in your selection process.

Finally, do check out It Takes All Sorts on page 24 – there are some very quirky people around . . . .

David Parr

Front Cover photograph courtesy of **Graham Lingley**

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	Issy Vetoshkina
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	Ajay Tegala
Wildlife	Nick Acklam

Village Update



What a difference a little bit of sun makes! My children had the paddling pool out at the weekend and declared it 'sooooo hot' – goodness knows what they'll be like when we actually get to summer!

Wellbeing Walks

There are so many good reasons to get out for a walk, especially with the promise of some fairer weather. The Ramblers Wellbeing Walks East Cambridgeshire offer a range of weekly, fortnightly and monthly walks taking in a mix of urban and rural locations ranging from 10-90 minutes in length. The walks are over easy ground and taken at a steady pace to suit everyone. They also have some special one-off walks that will be held throughout the year. There are walks to suit all abilities and each walk is led by one (or more) friendly and welcoming Walk Leader.

You can join the group for free and find out about upcoming walks at their website: https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/wellbeing-walks-groups/ramblers-wellbeing-walks-east-cambridgeshire) or on their Facebook page; @HealthyYouEastCambs.

If you love walking and would like to join their wonderful team of volunteer walk leaders, please get in touch at healthyyou@eastcambs.gov.uk.

Hedgehogs

Members of the public are being asked for their thoughts on new planning guidelines aimed at helping increase hedgehog numbers across East Cambridgeshire. The Hedgehog Recovery Design Guidance supplementary planning document – believed to be the first of its kind in the country – asks developers to put measures in place to help hedgehogs when planning new building sites. This could include incorporating small holes in fences to create Hedgehog Highways so hedgehogs can roam freely from one garden to another. The planning guidance also asks developers to provide planting and native hedgerows to create areas where hedgehogs can forage for food and hibernate, as well as installing hedgehog boxes where new homes are being built. The guidance is being brought in after residents in East Cambridgeshire voted hedgehogs as the animal they would most like the council to focus on as part of its Bring Back Nature campaign. Residents, developers, builders and businesses are being asked to share their thoughts on the proposals via the website : https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/supplementary-planning-documents



Vape recycling

Vape recycling has now been introduced at all nine of Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres. The new vape recycling bins offer a safe and environmentally friendly way for residents to dispose of single use and reusable vapes. Three million vapes are currently thrown away each week across the UK, and research by Material Focus shows that electrical items including vapes disposed of in the wrong bin cause more than 600 fires in refuse collection vehicles and at waste sites every year.

Find out more about recycling in Cambridgeshire: https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

Keep well and enjoy the sun!

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

Mobile Library

The mobile library is visits Reach on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10.10 to 10.30am. This is route F16 and it parks at the Fair Green Bus Stop. They have a great selection of books for all, free NHS hearing aid batteries and walking stick ferrules. You can join Cambridgeshire Libraries on the bus if you are not already a member.

Reach Fair



Once again, the team have pulled off another successful Fair. Numbers were low, but the weather held and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Costs have once again risen. We obtain quotes from our external contributors from October onwards prior to the Fair in May. It was evident from the outset that our costs would be considerably higher even with the increases last year. For the Fair to remain viable we had to respond by looking at our charges.

The principal changes that we implemented comprised the charge for the car park, which was raised from £9 to £10 (which was logistically easier for change too!) and the Tea Tent raised its prices for cakes by 50p. Whilst the traditional village games of past years do add to the atmosphere of the fair, most of these are aging now and present H&S issues and they do not generate much income, so we decided to trial a tombola stall instead. New and nearly new items were collected from generous villagers at the same time as bottles for the bottle stall and the Newmarket Explorer Scouts manned the stall for us to great success.

For this year, we continued to work with Jezo, who has been coming to Reach Fair for many years and does an excellent job, but as the cost of this has increased significantly, we plan to review the entertainment offerings for next year, in particular the need for the stage on the top field which fits less with the feel of a village fair.

We explored our sponsorship options further with two sponsorship levels introduced but found that many companies are also feeling the pinch and were unable to support us. We were delighted to once again receive support from Robinson and Claydon vehicle services who are based in Reach. The local estate agents, Pocock and Shaw, also took up a spot as one of our major sponsors and produced advertising boards for us which were displayed round the village and in Burwell. New sponsors included Harrisons of Burwell, Richer Spirits and Liqueurs and Xtreme360 Trampoline Park, for which we are very grateful.

Over the past few years we have has issues with the traffic management companies not performing as expected.

We investigated the possibility of taking the traffic management in house but the cost and logistics of obtaining the correct qualifications proved too much and so we looked at sourcing a new company to carry out the work. The company we appointed have proved excellent this year, being proactive and professional and so we would be pleased to work with them again in the future.
Recruiting volunteers has always been tricky for the road closures and car park. This year, we have made a donation to Reach Cricket Club for them to provide cover for our major slots. Many of the cricket club members have been hugely helpful in these roles in the past and so we were confident in their experience to get the work done. It was great to know that these roles were covered well and that we get to support one of the village organisations at the same time. Big thanks to the Cricket team!

While the weather was kind to us on the day, the threats of thunderstorms and the bad weather experienced by surrounding areas meant that many people were put off attending. We certainly had far fewer cyclists arriving with the organised CamCycle ride and numbers in the car park were lower than last year. But it made moving around the fair more comfortable without the dense crowds and those who came all seemed to enjoy themselves.

As usual, the Fair was opened by the Mayor of Cambridge and pennies were thrown to the crowd. Everyone in the mayor's party received a posy, prepared by Anne Emmett and assisted by Debbie Quilter and children from the village. The Maypole Dancing by the children of Swaffham Prior School was fabulous as always. Both stages entertained the visitors across the long afternoon. We welcomed back the ever-popular dance troop Performance Without Limits and had local band The Numbers on the Top field and Mark Stevens on Fair Green – both had great feedback and sounded brilliant!

Jezo was once again excellent with magic shows, Punch and Judy and a tug of war. We are grateful to all our contributors: Newmarket Explorers (on the tombola, football game and litter picking), Swaffham Prior and Reach Scouts (the BBQ), the Sea Cadets (the car park) and Reach Cricket Club (the roadblocks and car park).

Lastly, we thank the villagers of Reach, for their outstanding support and assistance leading up to the Fair, the day itself, and the clearing up thereafter. So many villagers and their families and friends contribute to the success of the day that it makes all the angst worthwhile.

Until next year…….

Alex de Giorgio-Miller, Claire Halpin, Gayle Chapman, Cristine Fletcher, Nev Fletcher, Oliver Rausch, Susan Hatley, Dan Marsh

Reach Fair CIC Committee

DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2024

Item		2024 Income	2024 Costs	2023 Income	2023 Costs	2022 Income	2022 Costs	2019 Income	2019 Costs
	Commercial Stalls								
1	Bars	£1,100		£1,045		£950		£950	
2	Charity Stalls	£0		£0		£0		£0	
3	Craft Stalls	£1,576		£1,520		£1,280		£1,560	
4	Entertainments	£310		£310		£280		£220	
5	Fairground	£3,200		£3,000		£2,700		£2,700	
6	Food Stalls	£2,925		£2,610		£2,090		£2,375	
7	Reach Residents Stalls			£0		£40		£20	
8	Sponsorship	£730		£950					
9	Donation from Mayor for hospitality			£0		£350			
	TOTAL	**£9,841**		**£9,435**		**£7,690**		**£7,825**	
	Village Activities								
10	BBQ	£2,852	£1,623	£3,884	£1,648	£3,550	£1,575	£3,123	£823
11	Bottle Stall	£581	£0	£404	£4	£594	£0	£675	£15
12	Car Park and Traffic Management	£5,384	£3,943	£5,557	£2,088	£5,508	£2,242	£3,334	£2,601
13	Coconut Shy	£220	£40	£218	£86	£258	£53	£136	£25
14	Football Game	£196	£40	£254	£50	£166	£17	£203	£25
15	Salad Stall	£1,317	£121	£1,396	£228	£1,198	£221	£872	£160
16	Tea Tent	£1,278	£212	£969	£253	£979	£309	£885	£109
17	Village Games	£269	£13	£125	£54	£177	£57	£174	£74
	TOTAL	**£12,096**	**£5,991**	**£12,806**	**£4,411**	**£12,430**	**£4,475**	**£9,402**	**£3,832**
	Other Costs								
18	Advertising/Programmes		£240		£416		£780		£367
19	Entertainments and PA System		£5,052		£4,318		£3,580		£3,434
20	First Aid		£576		£396		£360		£305
21	General Expenses		£1,073		£731		£543		£1,260
22	Refuse Collection		£972		£905		£676		£760
23	Straw Bales				£35		£152		£240
24	Toilets Hire		£1,128		£1,128		£948		£660
25	Insurance		£673		£673				
	TOTAL		**£9,714**		**£8,602**		**£7,039**		**£7,026**
27	**INCOME**		**£21,936**		**£22,241**		**£20,120**		**£17,227**
28	**COSTS**		**£15,705**		**£13,013**		**£11,514**		**£10,858**
29	**PROFIT**		**£6,231**		**£9,228**		**£8,606**		**£6,369**
30	**Donations to groups for services**		£1,775		£1,275		£1,275		£550
31	**Donations to Village Hall**				£4,953		£1,829		
32	**To carry forward in Fair bank account**				£3,000				
33	**To Grant Fund/CIO**		**£4,456**		**£0.00**		**£5,502**		**£5,819**
	Investments/Exceptional Items								
34	Tables								£556
35	Sumup machines		£284		£142		£320		
36	Signs (road, village, info)						£604		
37	New coconut shy				£195				
38			**£284**		**£336**		**£924**		**£556**

Notes:

Line 30 includes donations to Scouts, Cadets, Explorers and Cricket Club

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

Date 12-May-23

Village Hall



Reach Village Hall – Making Memories

There must be very few people living in Reach who have never stepped inside Reach Village Hall and those who have been here for as long as I have, will know how important it is to village life and the life of villagers. My daughter's christening party was held there as were several birthday parties subsequently. I've been there for harvest suppers, wine tasting evenings, curry nights, craft fairs, photography courses and lunches with the Mayor of Cambridge as well as for more sombre occasions following funerals. You'll all have your own memories of living in Reach, some happy, some sad, but our lovely Village Hall will feature in many of them.

We have this facility because of the hard work of many people who have served on the committee over the years, managing bookings, raising funds and overseeing improvements. Joining a committee isn't everyone's cup of tea, but there are other ways to support the hall, so please read on and maybe you will feel interested in one of the following three options:

1. **Take on a project or form/join a project team**. As good as the Village Hall is, it can always be improved! We have some initial project ideas, but the committee's capacity to deliver these is limited. Maybe you are someone who enjoys getting stuck into a project?

2. **Join an 'occasional help' group**. There are lots of small, regular jobs that keep the hall ticking over, from keeping the garden and lawn tidy, to checking the mailbox and helping out with an occasional spring clean of the storerooms. Are you someone who would be willing to join a list of contacts for such jobs?

3. **Join the committee**. We are still short of committee members – and we will soon need a secretary to prepare the agenda and minute our meetings (once every two months). If you can offer a more regular commitment and would like to help with the ongoing management of the hall we'd love to hear from you.

Whatever you decide after reading this, thank you for your support for the hall. Please keep booking it for children's parties and other family celebrations, please keep coming to harvest suppers, coffee mornings and basket weaving. It is good to know that the hall is being used and enjoyed by the community – and that new, happy memories continue to be made there.

David Thomas

david.thomas2000@yahoo.co.uk

Newmarket Town Band

Newmarket Town Band needs more players, we currently have 23 members. Wednesday evenings 19:30-21:30 at Kennett Village Hall is when we rehearse. It is free to come along and play! Where else can you go and make friends, socialise and practise playing the instrument you love for free.

We have a fantastic new musical director, Jamie. He is a brass instrument teacher by trade, and is very enthusiastic. The music we play is varied, if you want to listen to us play look us up online or contact us on the details below.

Are you having an event and would like a band there? Not just your traditional brass band, we can however play the traditional stuff, think Marches and the film Brassed Off. Organising a dance, wedding, festival, air show, garden party, Christmas function, works party, open day, carnival, beer festival, birthday party, school fetes, summer fayres, county shows? Get in touch!

You don't have to be a professional musician to play in our band, if you are just starting out please come along, equally if you are grade 8 cornet player we will make sure you are not bored. We have instruments that can be played by our members.

The band is divided into sections, cornets, flugel, horns, baritones, euphoniums, trombones, basses (most people know these as tuba's) and the percussion section consists of drum kit, timpani's and many other items.

We are very sociable, our band is for everyone, young and old. Speak to us about playing or hiring!

Charlie Kirk - Chairman Newmarket Town (Brass) Band
07923 191949

chairmanntb@outlook.com
https://www.newmarkettownband.co.uk/
Find us on Facebook and search Newmarket Town Band on Youtube

Reach Riders



We were delighted with the interest in the 'How to keep your horse healthy' evening, held in April in the Village Hall. Our local vet physio, Imogen Trump gave us a fabulous talk about her role and how she can support you to develop healthy muscles, tendons and fascia in your horse. This was amply demonstrated by two images of an ex racehorse Imogen acquired as a 3 year old straight from the tracks. The transformation in horse shape and muscle definition from the lean, long racehorse to a compact riding horse ready for all round activities was inspirational. As well as being a Vet Physio, Imogen runs a livery and rehabilitation yard. Do get in touch with her if you have need support.



Imogen Trump

Our second talk was by Lucy Grieve, formerly of Rossdales, who many of us know as our local Equine Vet. Lucy now works for British Equine Veterinary Association and educated us on the "do's and don'ts" of getting your horse vetted prior to purchase. As this process is costly, the advice was really valuable – and many of us spotted our mistakes!

It was a great evening and bought a flurry of new members and additional interest in the riding lessons we offer at the arena. We also raised £300, half of which was donated to World Horse Welfare

Sue Cameron

Cricket Report

Sunday 21 April Teluga Association of Cambridge (228-8) beat Reach (58 all out) by 170 runs.

Our opening match of the season was best forgotten, so I don't know why I am even mentioning it – except that the name of TAC's number 3 batsman, Chaitanya Chandra Sekhar Santhosh Kum Ruttala, was considerably longer than the Reach innings.

Wednesday 1 May Reach 116-0 (Conor Benton 3-15) beat Saffron Walden 115-6 by 10 wickets.

Our first competitive fixture of the year, in the midweek league, and all was changed. An easy victory.

Sunday 5 May Barrow 151 all out beat Reach 143 all out (Simon Harrington 63) by 8 runs.

Reach took to the field undersupplied with front-line bowlers, yet early wickets provided hope. Surely a line-up heavily weighted towards batsmen could deliver the goods? Alas, an early collapse seemed fatal until resistance by Tim Davies and Simon Harrington took us nearly all the way. We ended up falling only a little short.

Wednesday 8 May Reach 95-5 beat Wratting Lions 91-6 (Nic Huckle 4-8) by 5 wickets.

Another Wednesday league game and another triumph. Surely this can't go on…

Sunday 12 May Reach 239-9 declared (Tim Davies 81 n.o., Chris Bridgeman 50 n.o) beat Sharks 114 all out (Rob Steed 3-16) by 125 runs.

This match for noteworthy for two reasons. Firstly, Reach declared – in a one day match. That really isn't done, but Tim Davies was scoring too many runs and it was all getting a bit unfair. Secondly, Michael Mead took what would have been Reach's first ever hat trick – if, that is, he had actually been playing for Reach. But because the Sharks were short, he played for them instead. So we are still waiting.

Home matches coming up, supporters always welcome.

Wed 29 May	vs **Cam Kerala**	18.30
Wed 5 June	vs **Fulbourn Inst**	18.30
Sun 9 June	vs **Cam Ceylon**	13.00
Sun 16 June	vs **Theo Invitationals**	13.00
Sun 23 June	vs **Bottisham and Lode**	13.00
Sun 14 July	vs **Lidgate and Ousden**	13.30
Wed 17 July	vs **Saffron Walden**	18.30
Sun 21 July	vs **Camden**	13.00
Sun 28 July	vs **Journeymen**	13.00
Wed 31 July	vs **Balsham**	18.30

Ross Clark

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



We were treated to a very special print lecture on 27 February when Clive Tanner FRPS MPAGB APAGB AWPF visited the club from Kent. Clive specialises in church interiors and was awarded Master of The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain for submission of twenty colour prints of churches, not only in his county of Kent, but also in and around Cambridgeshire. It was unusual to gain an award in what people class as a 'set subject' of the inside of churches, but his work was of the highest standard and well worth the accolade.

On 12 March the club enjoyed a hands-on evening when our member John Wilderspin led a Portrait Workshop with model and lighting equipment. This was a chance for members to learn the technique of how to photograph a model in the best possible position in the best possible lighting, not an easy task!

One of the most prolific photographers in East Anglia is Roger Hance from Ipswich who gave us a zoom digital presentation 'All the Gear No Idea' on 19 March.

Roger advised how to get the best out of your camera equipment and to make sure that you take lots of photographs to learn your camera craft.

The Hanson Trophy PDI Competition was held on 9 April when Paul Radden from Hunstanton judged a very varied entry of digital images and commented on the high standard of work produced by our members, which was very gratifying to hear for such a small club.

I am very sad to report that Andy Hanson, for whom the Hanson Trophy is named, died in hospital on 22 March after a long battle with cancer. Andy was a founder member of our club and will be sorely missed. His funeral was held on 17 April when many of our club members, together with photographers across East Anglia and beyond, attended to celebrate his long and active life.

Our photographic season drew to a close on 7 May with '15 Minutes of Fame' when members were invited to talk about their most successful images entered during the year. Our last get together will be the Club Outing on 9 June to Norwich when photographs taken on the day will feature in our digital image competition The Metcalfe Trophy on 5 November 2024.

Our first meeting of our 2024-2025 programme will be Tuesday 10 September 2024 our Welcome Evening, a social celebration of last season when Cups & Trophies will be presented to the award winners of our annual Print & PDI competitions.

Our meetings are held 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 would like to join us for our new season we would love to see you. A copy of our new programme can be obtained from our Secretary, Debra Bennett, at secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB Chair

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.

Rosanna's Ramblings



I'm writing my ramblings at the dining table just a few days after Reach Fair. It was a bit unusual in that, apart from one occasion when we were away, the Fair has for me been dominated by helping Charles run the bookstall in the church. But this year, for various reasons which there's no need to go into, he wasn't running it, so our time was unattributed.

Well, actually, not quite as we tend to be visited by various people who take in a 'pop round to the house for tea' stop alongside their enjoyment of what is on offer up on the Green and top field. And one of the regular Morris dancers likes to park his rather fancy bike in our shed and a debrief at the end of his energetic labours, before being energetic again by cycling back to Cambridge.

The fair always gets me thinking about how I feel as a (mostly) Reach resident. I've never really been a community person, generally preferring my connections and activities to be based on shared interests and values rather than shared location – though I do understand and acknowledge that these things sketched out on a Venn diagram would have some overlap. I've enjoyed sitting at a table in the church surrounded by books, taking people's pounds and fifty pences and stashing them away in a takeaway container, because there could be pleasant bits of conversation and chance encounters out of the way of the noisy melée outside. But I start to feel unsettled and agitated among the noise and crowds near the funfair and the food tents. It's a wonderful village institution, I admire the hard work involved in its planning and execution, I support its aims and intentions absolutely. And I feel unwilling to plunge into it fully myself.

Every year this leads to some conversation between Charles and me. He, after all, was centrally involved back in the 60s and 70s in the reinvigorating of the fair into something resembling what we see today. So doing one's civic duty, or whatever the villagy equivalent of civic duty is, comes naturally to him. But it doesn't to me because it wasn't – couldn't have been – what I was brought up to engage with.

For those of you who don't know, I grew up in suburban London in a family entirely made up of refugees – my father having escaped Nazi Berlin on a Kindertransport in 1939, my mother having been born in Manchuria to Russian parents who had fled there after the revolution. When my parents died (in 2015 and 2017), I started to realise just how influential that background had been on the way I see the world.

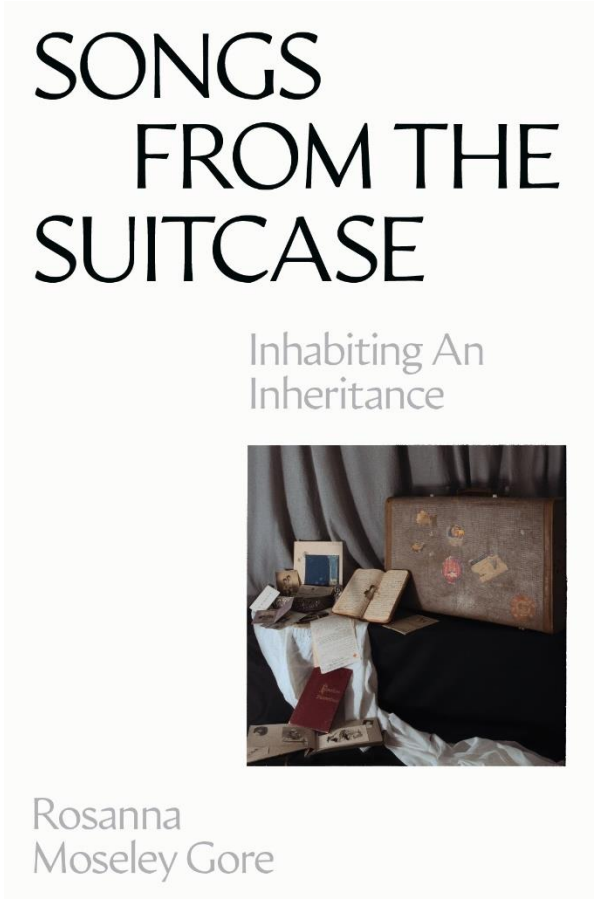
Not really belonging, or feeling like belonging, or knowing how to belong were very much present within me. So I started to write and write and write. That writing kept growing, particularly through the pandemic and as we emerged from it. It eventually grew into a book, and as some of you have been kind enough to tell me, you like my writing, I'm taking the liberty of rambling a bit about it. Indulge me. It's called *Songs from the Suitcase – Inhabiting an Inheritance* and all things progressing smoothly, it will be published in late June. I thought it might be pertinent to this piece to quote a bit from it, as a small village-based taster that might whet your appetite. So here it is:

"… the pandemic, with the imperative to stay put and stay present to a particular locality, also gave me a whole raft of new perspectives. The village where we live had up until that spring felt like a lovely campsite for me to stop and stay, admittedly for a protracted period – then getting on for five years. I didn't feel I could, or wanted to, stake out a more permanent claim because the house is the house my love and his late wife lived in for many decades, and the village was where they lived and raised their family, and had their grandchildren to stay. A family home, a home patch – but however lovely, not mine. I have deliberately trodden lightly on it, I respect and honour it as it is. And even though I have a column in the village magazine, and newcomers might as a result consider me to be one of the village characters (strange woman, writes a lot about vegetables), I am a 'blow-in' who belongs, really, only by virtue of my husband's having lived there longer than most people can remember. And then came the lockdown, with daily walks out onto the fen to see the sun rise, or to the wood to 'forest bathe' under branches that started out bare, then greened up delicately … then extravagantly … then fadingly. Twice a day, we tramped the ground – once separately, for contemplation; once together, for conversation. And we planted our seeds because, back then even more than in any normal year, the desire to make sure there would be food on the table was heightened. And the seeds grew, and the gluts of good things came in their seasonal waves, and the excess was laid down to store. Even my Ely freezer was filled up. We would not starve that winter. And slowly but surely, it dawned on me that I loved this land, the droves, the ditches, the trees my love had planted, the paths, the waterways, the giant skies, the sound of geese on the washes. Its tendrils had worked their way round my heart as surely as our beans had entangled themselves round their poles. And even if there came a day when my roots would be planted clearly elsewhere, this land would forever be my heart's home."

Our editor has kindly agreed to include a review the book for this magazine, and I'd be so pleased if some of you were thereby prompted to buy it! I'm hoping to do a little reading event at home sometime in the summer, so please, if you'd like an invitation, let me know. Send me an email to wisewomanwalks@gmail.com.

Rosanna Moseley Gore

Book Review – Gayle Chapman



When Rosanna asked me to read and review her book 'Songs from the Suitcase', I was both flattered and intrigued. I enjoy Rosanna's regular 'Ramblings' column in our village magazine and the chance to nosey into the life of my neighbour (and new friend) was impossible to resist! I'm not a writer; in fact, I'm a biochemist, just like Rosanna's Ma. I hope I can do the book justice.

'Songs from the Suitcase' is a beautifully crafted depiction of the human need to belong. Her story reflects our fundamental desire to know ourselves and our place in the world by understanding our roots and connections. At first, I believed the book to be a memoir, yet as I read on, it became apparent that it delves beyond Rosanna's personal narrative to encapsulate the collective memories of a displaced and reconstructed family.

Rosanna is the child of refugees. The daughter of a Kindertransport refugee father who found sanctuary in Britain and a Russian refugee mother who received similar refuge in Australia. Her grandmother was an educated woman fleeing civil war and famine after the Russian revolution. She writes of their traumatic experiences of dislocation and loss but also of their resilience and love which continues to shape her family in unexpected ways.

For me, the book weaves together multiple themes. Those of tradition, prejudice and compassion and finally that of love. It begins with a mouth-watering and entertaining journey through the culinary delights of a not-very-Jewish-German-Russian immigrant family and an amusing romp through their music, traditions and superstitions. It becomes poignantly evident that for those uprooted and transplanted far from home, the longing to remember, honour and preserve tradition is profoundly strong. I especially enjoyed reading about the blending of traditions that evolved into something uniquely theirs, their new normal……doesn't everyone enjoy the red conker-egg fight at Easter or the ceremonial counting of the twelve dishes on Christmas eve?! Many of us will recognise these 'unique to us' traditions in our own families, although maybe not those specific ones!

The second theme addresses the aftershocks of the Brexit vote, capturing her distress at feeling set adrift from the firm ground she believed was home, the place where she and her family were accepted. She confronts the 'fear of the other' and juxtaposes it with the warm welcome experienced by her displaced family all those years ago. The experience that allowed them to settle, thrive and contribute so richly to society. The final theme is that of love, so achingly apparent from the stories of Rosanna's beloved grandmother, Whaplik, whom she clearly adored and still misses. The love also shines for her children and for her Charles, bringing her story back to our beautiful village.

'Songs from the Suitcase' is a captivating, humorous, and frequently poignant book. It recollects and reflects the life of a family whose lives were shaped by momentous global historical events. It is a story that reminds us that belonging somewhere matters.

Gayle Chapman



Nature in Reach



My attention was caught recently by an article from the appropriately named Dr Tom Finch of the RSPB (and others) in the scientific journal 'One Earth'. The article examines the changes that would be needed in the way we live in order to meet the Government's 2050 net zero target and the impacts of those changes on bird life.

The article reveals that the required changes would extend well beyond how we power our cars and heat our homes, identifying a transformation of agriculture especially on peat soils as offering greatest potential for reducing greenhouse gas emission and/or adsorbing the emissions from other areas of activity. If the ideas of the article were to be taken up, then Reach would in the frontline in the fight against climate change. Agricultural land forms over three quarters of the land of our parish and peat based soils underlie a third of the parish.

The scenario, according to Dr Finch and colleagues, is a tough one. The parceling off of land for woodland and peat restoration and the transformation of agriculture to reduce its carbon footprint would reduce national food production by between 19 and 25 per cent. That impact, Dr Finch said, could be offset by a reduction in food waste, a shift away from meat consumption and a change in farming practices. Even so, he considers the country would face a net zero "calorie gap". No solution for this gap is offered. We could increase food imports but that would just shift the problem elsewhere.

I doubt that a government of any political hue is yet willing to implement such radical changes. Nonetheless, in coming years, I anticipate incremental changes in local land use and farming practice to mitigate climate change. The changes will create winners and losers within our local wildlife but, if undertaken cleverly, the overall impact should be positive.

Sightings Log

The cool, wet conditions that characterised late winter and early spring appear to have delayed the full-scale return of summer migrants. However the same conditions have created opportunities for other species. A pair of oyster catchers took up residence on the mud that was left by the retreating flood waters at the base of the cycle bridge. Several pairs of lapwing appear to be nesting in the same area.

14 May: Ron and Penny Greenhill report a frog croaking in their garden, an indication that the breeding season is underway.

25 March: Hilary Fielding spots a sparrow hawk with pigeon prey in the hedge of her stable yard on Little Fen Drove. She also sees three Egyptian geese on Tubney Fen.

27 March: Tim and Dafila Clutton-Brock hear their first blackcap.

30 March: I am able to get very close to a buzzard perched on a telegraph pole on Station Road, Swaffham Prior. The bird is remarkably relaxed and I am able to view it at length. The bird's plumage demonstrates the variability of buzzard markings. This one has a greyish hue and a distinct dark brown crescent on its breast.

31 March: Two Egyptian geese lift from Tubney Mere and fly into a stiff easterly breeze. Egyptian geese are naturally found in the Nile valley and south of the Sahara. They were introduced to wildfowl collections here but escaped and established populations in the wild. There is a small population in our area. Nearby a pair of shelduck, close relatives of Egyptian geese, wade in the extensive flooded area between Straight Drove and Reach Lode. A marsh harrier is briefly overhead at the Pocket Park whilst a green woodpecker yaffles unseen in the surrounding hedge. At home, 30 jackdaws congregate in a lime tree. The collective noun for such a gathering is a clattering - rather appropriate given the noise they generate.

1 April: Tim and Dafila note that a lot of ducks remain on Burwell Fen - a few wigeon, many shovelers and teal as well as gadwall and mallard. Their highlight is sighting two pairs of pintail and a single male. Again, the presence of so many ducks this late in the year may reflect the prevailing cool, wet weather. Tim and Dafila also spot a buzzard, a marsh harrier and in the far distance, a short-eared owl.

3 April: Tim and Dafila hear their first Cetti's warbler singing at the bottom of their garden.

5 April: Joss Goodchild sights her first swallows of the season. She comments that it is early and that only a single pair had returned.

9 April: Our wildlife camera captures a large boar badger exploring our garden. Thankfully it fails to locate our resident hedgehog.

10 April: Tim sights his first swallows of the season in the village. Dafila had seen swallows at Welney WWT a week earlier.

11 April: I hear a grasshopper warbler at Wicken Fen. As the name suggests, this bird's call is insect-like and unmistakable. These summer visitors arrive in April having over-wintered in northwest Africa. As with many other warblers, they are easier to hear than spot.

13 April: I see a single Chinese water deer in the field to the west of Straight Drove. On the 20 May I spot a pair of the same species in the same spot. As with muntjac, this deer is an alien, having escaped from Whipsnade Zoo in 1928. Unlike muntjac, Chinese water deer have not expanded rapidly from their point of escape and are limited to Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

14 April: I see my first swallow of the year on Heath Road, Swaffham Bulbeck. It is a further ten days before I sight swallows in Reach by Swan Lake Barns. This ties in with Hilary's sightings at her stable on Little Fen Drove - first seen briefly on 21 April and then as a permanent presence three days later. Overall, although Joss and Tim spotted a few early arrivals, the cool wet spring seems to have delayed the full-scale return of swallows to the village this year.

14 April: Graham and Debs Lingley photograph a terrapin basking at the lake at Pout Hall.



This is another exotic species living in our local environment. It is hard to make a firm identification from the photo, but I suspect it is a red-eared slider rather than a European pond terrapin (the two most common introductions). Both terrapins are present in local waterways, the result of releases as people got bored of/could no longer manage, pets acquired during the Teenage Mutant Ninja turtle craze of some years ago.

The impact on native wildlife of these introduced amphibians is mixed. A native of the southern United States, the red eared slider is classed as one of the world's 100 most invasive species. Growing up to 30cm in length, red-eared sliders are opportunistic omnivores, and will predate native amphibians, fish, water birds, invertebrates and amphibians. They are also known to bask on the nests of waterfowl such as moorhens and thus interfere with breeding. In contrast European pond terrapins were native to England in the early post glacial period and fulfil a valuable role in water ecosystems. Indeed, trial reintroduction programmes are underway in England.

15 April: Hilary observes two short-eared owls hunting close to Tubney Fen. Nine days later she spots another short-eared owl flying low over her stable yard.

18 April: A lapwing flies figures of eight over the island in the scrape by the cycle bridge. I assume it has a nest on the island.

21 April (and again on 7 May): Jonathan Latchford reports a water vole in Blackberry Drain at the bottom of his garden. He also spots a young pike and resident shoals of juvenile perch and roach. He expresses concern at seeming declines in insects and invertebrates by the catchwater but does not yet have a definitive explanation for this.

22 April: Rosie Almond sees a great white egret at Wicken Fen.



At distance great egrets can look similar to little egrets (which are now a frequent presence in our neighbourhood). However, they are much larger - similar in size to a heron. A few decades ago, great egrets were very rare in the UK but many now winter in the UK and a few pairs even breed here.

25 April: A barn owl, very pale beige with a dark cross marking its back, hunts over the rough pasture of Hurdle Hall. Although not strictly local, I am delighted to see an Osprey over the fens at Chatteris. It is flying north whilst mobbed by crows.

30 April, 4 and 5 May: Joss spots greenfinch, goldfinch, wren, robin, swallows, whitethroat, kestrel, blue and great tits and chiffchaff around Reach Wood. She marvels that chiffchaff which migrate here weigh less than a £1 coin. Joss also sees bats on Great Lane and uncovers snail eggs in her garden.

1 May: A warm calm day - the first of its kind this year and it coincides with hearing our first cuckoos of the year. The bird or birds are calling from the tall hedges of Hurdle Hall and around the fishing pits. Common and lesser whitethroat, blackcap, reed and sedge warbler are all singing loudly and brimstone, orange tip and peacock butterflies are visible, often in small groups.

6 May: On Reach Fair Day, Ron notes that two swifts have returned to his roof. Whilst this is a cause for celebration, Ron comments on the decline in numbers.

12 or 15 years ago his roof hosted 8 pairs of swifts. This summer he expects no more than 4 or 5 pairs. Ron also spotted a lone house martin and laments their steep decline locally in in recent years.

8 May: In a half hour period in her garden in Karen Turner identifies blackbird, cuckoo, collared dove house sparrow, wood pigeon, robin, starling, greenfinch goldfinch and chiffchaff using a birdsong app.

9 May: Claire Acklam sees three hares engage in a lengthy courtship chase on Tubney Fen.

9 May: Joss notes that the screaming calls of swifts can be heard across the village.

10 May: The village witnesses the most spectacular display of Northern Lights for many decades. Some residents comment that it was better than they had seen on trips to Norway and Iceland specifically for the purpose. The display was best seen on the northern side of the village looking across Tubney Fen. Graham Lingley's front cover photograph captures the event very well. Northern Lights or the aurora borealis occur when charged particles from the sun hit gases in the Earth's atmosphere. On this occasion an extreme solar storm was responsible. Atmospheric gases respond differently to the impact of the charged particles, oxygen atoms glow green while nitrogen atoms emit purple, blue and pink.

12 May: Ron and Penny report that a brood of blue tits in their garden has fledged. They also mention that a fox has twice visited their chicken run.

12 May: Hilary captures the moment a butterfly (a brimstone possibly) emerges from its chrysalis.



14 May: A red kite circles above east Reach before perching in a large ash tree on the droveway by the 24Acres.

14 May: Charles Moseley encounters a peahen on Blackberry Droveway. Although there were a number of peacocks in the village some years ago this is the first sighting in recent times (see Charles's description below).

I'd also like to remind readers that there are fresh allotments available at Barston Drove. Aside from being very relaxing, allotment gardening enables people to reduce their food carbon footprint, which rather ties in with this article.

Nick Acklam

Charles's Nature Note

Coming back along the drove, we turned the corner and Milo was faced with a problem. There in front of him was something shaped like a pheasant, but much bigger. He did not quite know what to do. When it moved, his hunting instinct kicked in and off he went after it and it ran faster and faster and Milo ran even faster and faster and was gaining on it, when suddenly it gave it up and took off into strong and beautiful flight, rising gracefully to clear the roof of Luke and Donia's house and then was lost to sight, still rising as it flew over the village.



[Ed:] Peahen (courtesy of the internet!)

That was Milo's first, and perhaps startling, introduction to a peahen. Does anyone know where she is based? Years ago, we used to have a lot of feral peacocks and hens in the village, but somehow they got eaten.

Dr C. W. R. D. Moseley, FSA, FEA, FRSA
Life Fellow, Hughes Hall, Cambridge
website: charlesmoseley.com

Wicken Fen



Courtesy of Rob Coleman

We've been enjoying some summer weather here at the Fen, perfect for our 125th anniversary celebrations in May. The Summer Nature Trail is the longest route around the Sedge Fen. It has been given time to rest to allow the delicate peat soils to recover and will open on 1st June. It's a special part of the reserve, full of lush green foliage and fen plants and flowers. This circular route is approximately 2¼ miles long and is a beautiful place to look out for marsh orchids, dragonflies and butterflies.

Boat trips and cycle hire are in full swing and are great ways to explore the reserve with friends and family. If you'd like more information about what we offer, our Visitor Centre team can always help; we're available from 10am to 5pm daily on 01353 720274.

We're celebrating **World Peatlands Day on Saturday 2nd June** with free guided walks at 10.30-12.00 and 14.00-15.30 with Peat Project Officer Ellis (normal admission to Sedge Fen applies). Find out about how important peatlands are for combating climate change and biodiversity loss. To find out more and book, please visit our website.

On Sunday 30th June, Wicken Fen officially becomes a British Dragonfly Society (BDS) dragonfly hotspot. We are delighted to be recognized as a hotspot for these amazing, winged creatures, which abound across the reserve in the summer months.

As usual, we have lots of family activities planned for the **Summer Holidays**: There will be **pond dipping** sessions on Monday 22nd, Wednesday 31st July, Friday 9th, Monday 12th, Wednesday 21st and Monday 26th August, **bug hunters** sessions on Wednesday 24th July, Friday 2nd and Monday 5th August, **creative dragonfly crafts** on Friday 26th and Monday 29th July and **creative butterfly crafts** on Wednesday 7th, Friday 16th and Monday 19th August.

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

Details of our events can be found on our website at https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on

Ajay Tegala
Senior Communications and Marketing Officer

Anglesey Abbey



Courtesy of Mike Selby

Anglesey Abbey is full of beautiful blooms and butterflies enjoying some of the long grasses and wildflowers after a month of No Mow May. The first few roses are beginning to flower in the Rose Garden and we're looking forward to an even more impressive display of roses this summer.

We're thrilled to be working with David Austin Roses to extend the much-loved **Rose Garden** at Anglesey Abbey by 20 beds, 19 new cultivars and some 180 roses. The team have carefully chosen the new roses for their colour, vigour, abundance of flowers and pest and disease resistance. You'll be able to see English roses such as 'Gentle Hermione', 'Elizabeth' and 'Queen of Sweden' this summer, flowering from June through to November. Many will be available to buy in the Anglesey Abbey Plant Centre too.

The **'Artists of East Anglia' Exhibition** is now open daily on the ground floor of the house, showcasing the works of Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable and Leonid Squirrel's local watercolours amongst other intriguing items associated with East Anglia. We're also looking forward to the opening of our brand-new Garden Office café this month – keep an eye on our social media channels for the grand opening!



Courtesy of Rob Stothard

As always, we have lots of exciting events planned in June and July for all ages. Our **Under 5's Gardening Club** is starting up from 3rd June on weekdays in the gardens and we will be celebrating Father's Day in style on 15th – 16th June – do drop by for some tasty food and family time that weekend. On 17th June, we're delighted to host **The Rose Society UK** who will be delivering a talk at 2pm and available throughout the afternoon to answer questions and share some valuable rose pruning tips with you. We will also be hosting a **'Masters of Mystery'** evening in the House in July – a series of magic shows performed by award-winning magicians. Please head to our website if you'd like to buy a ticket!

Issy Vetoshkina
Senior Communications and Marketing Officer

Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group

Support for Carers

The chances are that most people will become a carer or require care at home at some point in their lives. At the moment roughly 9% of the UK's population (about 5.7m people) are unpaid carers.

Caring is part of being human and at the heart of family life. A carer is anyone, including children and adults, who provides unpaid care to look after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction and cannot cope without their support.

It has been said that becoming a carer is getting a job that you aren't trained for, isn't paid, you didn't apply for and didn't necessarily want and it's a situation people often suddenly find themselves in.

Are you a Carer?

Without the right help and support, caring can have a devastating impact on physical, emotional and financial health. However, many feel it's just something they need to quietly get on with and still see caring as a private affair. This makes it difficult to identify carers and make sure that they can access the wide range of support available to them.

Burwell Surgery has received the "Carer Friendly Tick Award" which means that:

- It has a named member of the team who champions carers.
- Has developed a carers' agreement to help identify and support carers.
- Covers issues relating to carers in staff training and staff meetings.
- Displays information about support for carers on the screens in the surgery.
- Raises awareness during National Carers Week and on Young Carers Action Day and Carers Rights Day.

National Carers Week runs from 9th to 16th June and the theme this year is Putting Carers on the Map. Working closely together, Burwell Surgery and Burwell Carers do just that.

You may already have seen the advert for Burwell Carers on the rolling screen in the Surgery waiting area. Burwell Carers was set up in 1994. The group meets in Trinity Church on the 3rd Thursday of each month to offer support and information and also organizes social events and trips.

Burwell Surgery distributes a really useful information booklet for carers and will also make a referral on to Burwell Carers. The booklet includes information about medical or social service support and about courses where carers can learn useful and relevant skills. Carers may also want an opportunity to get away from their caring situation for a short while, but do not know what activities are available. The carers booklet covers this too. Registered carers also have access to a free quarterly magazine from local charity Caring Together which is full of other useful information.

If any of the above strikes a chord and you would like a carers information booklet or a referral to Burwell Carers, please contact Amy Clark, Patient Services Lead at Burwell Surgery on 01638 741234 or admin.burwellsurgery@nhs.net.

The next meeting of the Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group is at 6.30pm on 16th July 2024 at the Burwell Day Centre. If you would be interested in finding out more about the PPG and helping to support Burwell Surgery to give their patients the best service that they can then please contact admin.burwellsurgery@nhs.net.

Burwell Surgery

The Tale of Jean and June, two friends

Imagine if you will, Reach on the day war broke out in 1939. Not much had changed, except perhaps in the imagination of a little girl Jean, one of twins who lived at Manor Farm in Chapel Lane.

She was 12 years old and so frightened that when she went to Hurdle Hall to collect the eggs, she ran all the way there and all the way back again with Chum, the dog.

Although rationing came along, they were never short of food at Manor Farm, having plenty of eggs, home grown produce, goats for milk and they bred rabbits for meat.

As the war intensified and it was the time of the Blitz in London, evacuees started to arrive in the area. One such child was June Ambrose who came to Bottisham with her mother, as Mrs Ambrose wouldn't let June come to Cambridgeshire on her own. June was the same age as Jean from Manor Farm. June and her mother didn't like the lodgings in Bottisham for some reason and were asking around if anyone knew of anywhere else for them to stay. They moved to Reach to the White Horse pub, June's father and brother stayed in London.

June and Jean met on the Fair Green and played together. Soon, Mrs Ambrose and June moved to the spacious Manor Farm and lodged there. They went to school in Burwell and became life-long friends.

There were big shortages of foodstuffs in London and soon via Mr Ambrose a spiv type character (like Walker in Dad's Army) used to come to collect fresh eggs from Manor Farm to sell on the Black Market in London. He brought sweets and nougat from the Bassetts factory and nylon stockings.

Soon another evacuee and her mother arrived at Manor Farm. This was Susan, with long ringlets of golden hair, posh frocks, socks and shoes. June and Jean teased and ganged up on her a bit at first, but they all got along in the end.

June, now in her nineties, lives in Canterbury, Kent. She was adopted by Mrs Ambrose as a baby, so she was very precious.

Jean and her twin brother Reg didn't have the best of starts as their mother Jane died of toxaemia on the day they were born at Wicken on May 1st 1927. They were so small, they were christened at birth and not expected to survive. Jean was looked after by her maternal grandparents in Hilton, Reg by paternal grandparents in Wicken.



Jean on her wedding day



June

Their father, A J Housden later remarried and bought Manor Farm and the family moved to Reach. Emma Badcock was the kindest stepmother to Jean and Reg.

Jean and June remained friends long after the war had ended and would visit one another on a regular basis. Their husbands, Eric and Len, got along and they never lost touch, even going on holidays together and June and Len bringing their touring caravan to East Anglia so they could visit Jean and Eric.

Hilary from the pub

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Food Focus

Cheesecake



While the girls are huge cheesecake fans, possibly because of the no-cook element, I'm not normally so taken. The ones they make are so sweet and sickly, a forced taste is usually enough.

However, I was recently sent this recipe from Greekish, Georgina Hayden, via the Guardian online as exceptional and being a baklava lover, gave it a try the other night. It is certainly in a different league, perfumed and textured, not sickly or overly sweet, but it comes with a warning, it is quite a faff to make. Unfortunately, I couldn't extract mine from the tin I had a made it in and it didn't look nearly as impressive as this photo, but it is a delicious pud and worth the effort.

Baklava cheesecake, I love you

"I don't want to gush too much about this recipe, but I must. I'm obsessed. It combines all my favourite flavours (honey, nuts, rose, cinnamon) and textures (crunchy, creamy, chewy). And it looks so great. I'll never forget the first time I made it and presented it to my family, my harshest critics. First there were intrigued looks, then lots of nodding. My yiayia, usually the first to dish out constructive criticism, was speechless – she had nothing. Nothing but smiles. That was it, that was when I knew I'd hit peak baklava".
Georgina Hayden

Serves 12 – Ingredients:

caster sugar 225g

lemon 1

rose water 1 tbsp

unsalted butter 60g

walnuts 100g

ground cinnamon 1 tsp

filo 250g

white chocolate 200g

feta 200g

full-fat cream cheese 280g

double cream 200ml

honey about 3 tbsp

chopped pistachios to serve



First, make a syrup. Place 100g of the caster sugar in a small saucepan with 125ml of water and two strips of lemon zest (use a peeler for this). Bring to the boil on a medium heat, swirl to dissolve the sugar, then reduce the heat a little. Simmer for 5-8 minutes, until you have a thick, but not coloured, syrup. Stir in the rose water and leave to cool completely.

Preheat your oven to 180C fan/gas mark 6. Grease a 20cm springform cake tin with a little of the butter. Place the walnuts in a dry frying pan and toast for a few minutes on a medium heat. Once they start to smell nutty, stir in the ground cinnamon and 25g of the caster sugar. Let the sugar caramelise slightly, then tip the nuts out on to a chopping board. When they're cool enough to handle, finely chop.

Melt the rest of the butter in a small pan. Lay two sheets of filo over the cake tin, overlapping slightly, so they completely cover the base and sides, then brush all over with the melted butter. Sprinkle a quarter of the chopped walnuts over the bottom and repeat the process twice more with filo then butter and walnuts (keep the remaining walnuts aside). Top with a final layer of filo, really push it into the bottom and sides, then brush with butter. Trim off any excess pastry around the top with scissors and bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, until crisp and golden.

When the filo shell is ready, remove from the oven and drizzle the cold syrup over the hot pastry, particularly down the sides. Leave to cool.

For the cheesecake filling, break the white chocolate into small, even pieces and place in a heatproof bowl. Either melt in a microwave or over a pan of simmering water – be careful that the bowl doesn't touch the water in the pan or the chocolate will seize up. Stir occasionally until the chocolate is just melted.

Meanwhile, break the feta into pieces into a large bowl. Add the remaining 100g of caster sugar and blitz with a stick blender till smooth. Add the cream cheese and finely grate in the remaining lemon zest. Beat with a whisk, not a stick blender, until smooth (electric beaters would be best if you can handle more washing up).

Add the double cream, whisk until light and then finally stir in the melted white chocolate.

Spoon the filling into the baked and cooled filo case, loosely cover and chill in the fridge for at least 4 hours, overnight if possible. Just before serving, drizzle with a little honey and scatter over the reserved walnuts.

Greekish by Georgina Hayden

I'm also enclosing this as another good solid recipe and another type of cheesecake I like – a baked one. I haven't actually made this myself but have eaten and enjoyed it.

New York Cheesecake – Nigella Lawson

For the Base: 250g digestive biscuits
150g butter, melted
3 tablespoons caster sugar

For the Filling: 225g caster sugar
1 lemon, zest of, grated
2 tablespoons cornflour
½ teaspoon salt
6 egg yolks
6 egg whites
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
150ml heavy cream
150ml sour cream
750g full fat soft cream cheese (like Philadelphia)

To Serve: Icing sugar raspberries or blackberries

Directions:

1. Crush the digestive biscuits to fine crumbs in a blender or food processor. Add the melted butter and sugar and mix. Press onto base of greased 24cm springform cake tin. Chill for 1 hour in the refrigerator.
2. Mix the cornflour with the sugar and beat in the cream cheese, egg yolks and vanilla extract with an electric mixer (or by hand).
3. Slowly pour in heavy cream and sour cream, beating constantly. Add the lemon zest.
4. Clean and dry your whisk. In another bowl, beat the egg whites with the salt to stiffen peaks, then fold into the cheese mixture carefully.
5. Scoop cheese onto base. Bake in a 170°C oven 1 to 1 1/2 hours without opening the oven door until golden brown on top. Turn off the heat and let the cake stand in the oven for two more hours. Open the door, stand a further hour. Then chill it in the refrigerator for a few hours.

Catherine Gibson

Letter from the Vicarage



As summer approaches, I'm sure we're all looking forward to better weather (we hope!) and spending time outside. Work on the churchyard at St Etheldreda's is progressing well, with the remains of the former pulpit now made into a raised planter and a mowing pattern in place that encourage wildflowers and increase the number and quality of habitats, for the benefit of wildlife. One aspect of this is to delay mowing in some areas. At St Mary's, Burwell, we are working towards a Silver Churchyard Conservation Award from the Wildlife Trust and are looking at how to achieve a Bronze award for Reach.

I am pleased to report that we have finally found a specialist contractor to repair the clock and get the bell working again. The clock mechanism was found to be rusted up, presumably explaining why the clock hasn't been working since well before the pandemic. We hope that both the clock and the bell will be back in operation soon.

We have also now received quotations for repairs to the boundary walls and hope to be able to report a start date in the near future.

Carers Week this year is June 10th – 16th and is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support. This year the theme is 'Putting Carers on the Map' highlighting the invaluable contributions of carers across the UK and ensuring their voices are heard loud and clear. We are holding a Thanksgiving Service for Carers on Sunday 16th June at 3.00pm at St Mary's, followed by tea, all are welcome.

Sadly, we have decided that it is not realistic to plan for a Church Fete this year, due to a number of significant constraints, including regular helpers being on holiday and unexpected changes to practical arrangements. Events like this take time to prepare and need a lot of volunteer helpers, before and on the day. We hope to have several smaller events during the year. We will also be holding events for families and children at St Mary's, including an end of year Messy Church Family Party on Sunday 14th July, Refresh Café from 10.00am on Friday mornings for pre-school children and their grown-ups, and Fun Fridays during the school holiday, welcoming older children as well for these extended sessions.

Other news: we are very pleased that Revd Virginia Moggridge will be ordained priest on Saturday 29th June at Ely Cathedral, after which she will be continuing her curacy with us for about the next two years.

Pop-Up Pantry is held Fridays 2.00 – 3.00pm at Burwell & District Day Centre, supported by St Mary's, with short life fresh food items, cupboard basics, toiletries & hygiene products, as available. We would be delighted to receive any surplus garden or allotment produce over the summer and are also hoping to provide school holiday food packs for families. Anyone in financial need is welcome to access support, without a voucher, to help them get back on their feet. Ely Foodbank has also been operating alongside, with a weekly Foodbank Centre and monthly Citizens Advice support. Check on social media for the latest updates or get in touch if you would like help or can offer donations.

To find out more about what's going on at St Mary's or St Etheldreda's in Reach, please see our Facebook pages and website. Most weeks, we aim to livestream our weekly 10am Sunday service on Facebook. Café Church is usually the first Sunday of the month, beginning with refreshments, time to chat and themed activities, followed by a short service. Next dates are 2nd June, 7th July and 4th August. Please get in touch if you would like more information about these or any of our events or services, including weddings, christenings and baby thanksgivings, or if you would value an opportunity to chat.





Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams
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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.

Tales from a Reach Garden



A few years ago, we used to have a leylandii hedge at the front of the garden and only ivy was capable of growing in the gloom immediately behind it. Eventually, one-by-one, the leylandii succumbed to honey fungus and we removed the rest of the hedge and replaced it with hornbeam, to match the one we had planted a few years previously on the other side of the front gate.

We also had a couple of ash trees cut down; they too had died thanks to the honey fungus. With the conifers gone, we realised we had other deciduous trees present, lime, cherry, field maple, hawthorn, dogwood - growing amid them and a couple needed a bit of care, but they responded well to the fresh influx of light. We knew that the ivy was doing a job providing ground cover and holding the soil in place. We also knew that if we removed the ivy a lot of dormant “weeds” would make their presence felt.

So, what to do, and when? This was not going to be a quick job. Trees, even deciduous trees, create shade, and they suck moisture out of the soil, so plants growing near trees need to be able to cope with the dry shady conditions, especially when the tree canopy closes in late spring. It does help if the tree canopy provides dappled shade rather than dense gloom.

Back in the days of the first Covid lockdowns of 2020 and 2021 Richard decided to retire and needed a project to keep him busy, as if growing vegetables wasn’t enough. So, we created a woodland border behind the new hedge amid the remaining deciduous trees, but first we needed a path to provide access to the hedge and the border. When that was completed, we removed the weeds which had taken root as the ivy was gradually removed. The soil between the trees was very dry and dusty and needed enriching with leaf mould, which Richard had made from all the leaves we collect every autumn. This also helped to retain some moisture in the soil.

Then it was a case of finding the plants which would cope with dry shade. In fact, many of our native plants do very well: foxglove, bugle, bluebell, snowdrop, snowflake and lily of the valley provide colour in spring. They also spread quite well, either by seed (e.g. foxglove), bulb (e.g. snowdrops) or forming creeping mats (e.g. bugle), so I felt there was no need to plant more than a couple of each, with luck they would eventually fill in the gaps. We also needed plants that would provide some interest during summer and autumn, such as different ferns and any herbaceous perennial which had interesting leaves.



The woodland border and path



Foxgloves self-seeded in the border

We chose pale-pink flowered geraniums, and variegated varieties of “Brunnera Macrophylla” which has the added bonus of providing sprays of flowers like forget-me-nots in spring. When all of these were planted, Richard mulched the area in a mix of leaf mould and bark chips to keep moisture in the soil but also to feed the worms and eases weed removal.

During the first couple of years, the woodland border looked a little sparse and the plants endured a couple of very hot and dry summers plus the glacial winter of 2022-23. However, this last winter was very wet, followed by a gloomy and damp spring, but temperatures have been mild. The border has filled out with self-sown foxgloves, carpets of bugle with their blue flowers and light-leaved Brunnera scattered amid the different ferns. It looked its best in April when almost everything was in flower and the fern fronds were unfurling. Now as the other flowers are fading, tall spikes of foxgloves are in flower, just as the tree canopies are closing over. It has become our favourite area of the garden and provides a longer “scenic route” to the veggie patch.



Brunnera Macrophylla “Jack Frost”



One of the Dryopteris ferns

Almost all the beds in the veggie patch are full; just the pumpkins, brassicas and some beans are yet to go in the ground. We finally finished picking broccoli last week and had to freeze a lot of them for eating later in the year. Currently, we are picking a lot of rhubarb and asparagus for the kitchen. Asparagus cropping is as fickle as the weather. We had a glut when the weather warmed up, but cropping dwindled when the weather turned cooler. So, we have to keep an eye on them. A small rise in temperature and the five asparagus spears barely poking their heads gingerly above the soil, becomes twenty ready-to-pick overnight if the weather warms up.

Almost all the vegetables in the ground perked up as the weather warmed up. Two weeks ago, barely a few leaves of potatoes were showing and some of these were a little damaged when the overnight temperatures were close to freezing. Now with a bit of sunshine, and some more rain, they are flourishing.



Two rows of potatoes: salad potatoes “Jazzy” on the left, first earlies on the right.

Danuta Gibson

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Catherine Gibson	Councillor
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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**
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Know Your District Councillors



The Operational Services Committee agreed the Council's Vulnerable community strategy. Charlotte asked why no formal assessment had been carried out of disabled parking spaces across the district, why restrictions on disabled spaces ceased in the evenings and how disabled parking spaces were enforced. Answers were unavailable at the meeting.

After the meeting the Council simply confirmed that it had not carried out a survey and that it accepted no responsibility for on-street parking.

During the past municipal year, the waste collections have largely happened on schedule, but street cleansing is still not meeting targets and the service has overspent again by up to £200,000. Costs have now risen from £3m in 2022/23 to £4.6m in 2024/25. Charlotte, John and colleagues asked some robust questions about increased agency costs, unrealistic fuel costs and other elements of the ECSS budget. Over the new year we will press for further improvements to the service and better financial controls.

There will be major changes agreed to the refuse services over the coming year. Residents will finally get black bins instead of black sacks and a food waste caddy which will be collected every week, hopefully putting an end to the horrible sticky mush at the bottom of green bins and the fly problems in the summer. There are lots of details to be decided and these are currently being considered by a working group before the recommendations come to committee, with a timetable for implementation in 2026.

The budget for the Health & Wellbeing strategy was confirmed to be just £5,000 and questions were asked whether this was sufficient for the actions in the strategy, and what the service could do with more money.

The ECTC business plan for 2024/5 was approved by a majority. Charlotte, John and colleagues voted against the plan but were defeated. The company is not delivering more than thirty per cent affordable housing, which is what is required of any commercial developer, and it is not delivering a surplus for the council.

Work has finally started on a new Local Plan, but no sooner had this begun than Government threw a spanner in the works. Members had asked the officer to draft a climate change and nature restoration chapter which included higher environmental standards than the minimum set out in national planning policy. East Cambs has extra challenges, such as water shortages during hot dry spells and waterlogging and flooding during wet spells – like this winter. So climate change with increased severe weather and rising sea levels is a major risk to people locally. Members wanted to ensure that new buildings did not add to climate change pressures and would withstand the effects of predicted climate change. But in December the Government revised planning policy to prevent local Councils from enforcing higher standards than are set down in national policy. This is being contested through the Courts, as it contradicts the policy set out in an Act of Parliament, so it may be overturned allowing Councils once again to set higher standards. Members have therefore asked Officers to put this piece of work on hold and concentrate on other aspects of the Local Plan.

Charlotte proposed that the council should ask officers to update us regularly on how far other councils are able to move the dial on this and that we should ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister pointing out the short-sightedness of his announcement, but we were defeated. Consultation on the new chapter will take place in due course.

Hedgehogs were chosen by public vote to have their own Supplementary Planning Document. This proposed policy contains a number of measures such as creating 'hedgehog highways' via gardens through simple measures such as small holes created at the bottom of fences. For larger developments, the policy seeks wider habitat creation suitable for hedgehogs.

May is always a quiet month for Council meetings, because of elections. Locally, we had the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections and a District Council by-election in Ely, as well as two Ely City Council by-elections. Congratulations to Darryl Preston (Conservative) for his re-election as our PCC and to Ross Trent (Liberal Democrat) for his election as a District Councillor for Ely West. The turnout for the PCC elections here in East Cambridgeshire was only 21%, in contrast to a 33% turnout for the Ely West by-election.

Although many people complain to us and other Councillors about unsafe and illegal parking, the administration have still refused to take on responsibility for parking enforcement. This leaves the responsibility with the Police, who do not have the resources to routinely enforce parking regulations. East Cambs will shortly be one of just three local authorities who refuse to accept responsibility for parking. We do raise specific concerns with the Police, who try to fit a visit to problem areas into their schedule, but they cannot be as effective as wardens who can enforce the regulations regularly.

Our next Councillors' Surgery will be on Thurs 20 June at 6.30pm in Reach Village Hall and then on Tues 23 July at 6.30pm in Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion.

Charlotte Cane and John Trapp

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

It Takes All Sorts . . . .

On Sunday May 12th I received this email:

David
Is it possible to purchase a single physical print copy of issue 62 of Within Reach dated August/September 2020? If so will you please provide the price including UK postage and details of how to make payment. Thanks, Jeff

To which I responded:

Jeff. Yes, that can be done.
The total cost including second class postage would be £8.50. Bank details are (etc). If you're happy with that, please make payment and provide me with an address. Best regards, David

Jeff replied:

I have made payment of £8.50 via bank transfer. Please send to (an address in county Durham). Thanks again, Jeff

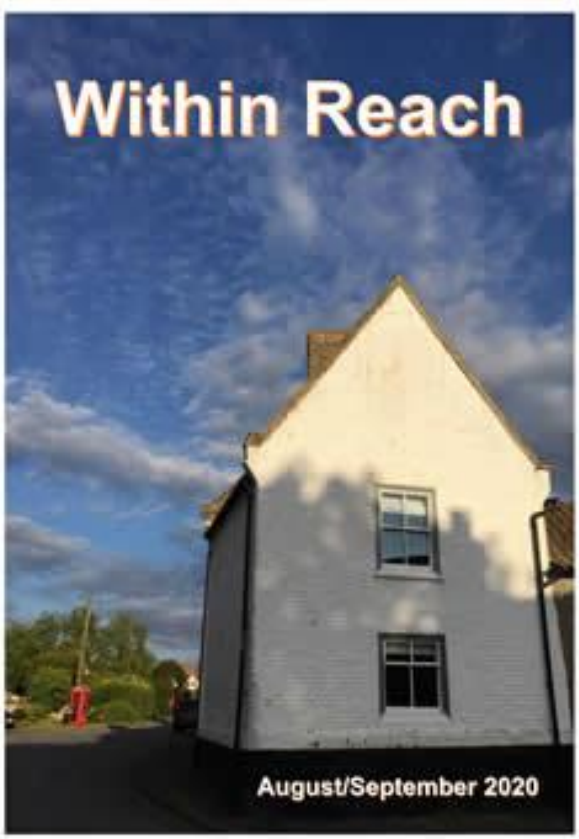
I couldn't help myself and sent:

Thanks Jeff, it'll be in today's post. And forgive me for being nosey - but I'm intrigued about how you know Reach and why you wanted this specific issue of the magazine? Best regards, David

To which Jeff responded:

I must admit I have no connection to Reach and have never visited the area. I collect books, magazines etc which include a post box on the front cover and an internet search is how I became aware of Within Reach 62. By enlarging the cover and from other photographs of the area I confirmed that along from the telephone box the red dot is a lamp box adjacent to a bus stop.

Somebody has to . . . . thanks again, Jeff



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7pm

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Vice Chair	Present	Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Rebecca Fordham	Councillor	Present	Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Present
Catherine Gibson	Councillor	Present	Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present
Edward Hall	Chair	Present			

Apologies for absence – there were none.

Forum for members of the public – there were none.

Declaration of Interests – there were none.

1. Yearly Tree Inspection Report

The Pc thank Nick Acklam & Steve Boreham for carrying out the inspection. And Nick Acklam for collecting and planting the Coronation Oak trees.

Following discussion, the PC agreed that the Council would accept Nicks offer of tackling actions b & c, cutting back of bramble and blackthorn growth at the bases of limes 112 to 124 on Swaffham Road) to facilitate access and monitoring of the trees. And pruning of privet growth around a lime on Swaffham Road (71).

Councillor Gibson agreed to organise a work party to tidy up the Hythe as suggested." *A partial clearance of scrub, especially cherry seedlings ivy, elder & dead wood from areas of the Hythe. The under-storey around trees 10 to 15 and 144 to 147 has become very overgrown. Some elder shrubs have collapsed against the trees, most notably a walnut (14), providing a pathway for ivy into the crown of the tree. The scrub is also crowding out daffodil, snowdrop, & primroses at the bases of the trees. However, the scrub provides valuable habitat for a range of birds & small mammals. Accordingly, we advocate targeted removal around the base of our trees. We recommend occasional strimming of a metre wide strip adjacent to the roadway to prevent further scrub encroachment & to encourage a mixed sward of native grassland species."*

Clerk to obtain quotes for the pruning of epicormic growth on lime trees in the cemetery & the removal of overhanging branches on two of these trees (37 and 40). The epicormic growth will restrict access to the cemetery when it comes into leaf.

2. Planning - 24/00258/FUL & 24/00259/LBC Hill Farm, Fair Green

Following discussion, it was agreed that ***Clerk*** should send the below to ECDC planning.

Discussion with applicant/site visit 22 March 2024

Local Plan The site lies inside the development envelope of the village as defined by the Reach Neighbourhood Plan 2024. And inside the Conservation Area as defined by the East Cambs Local Plan 2015. It has a prominent place in the village, being very central and the site of the Proclamation of the annual Reach Fair.

Previous applications/appeals 00/00398/FUL & 00/00399/LBC Convert existing single storey brick/clunch barn to two storey dwelling Approved 12.09.2000, 22/00255/LBC Replacement of an existing window with a door Permitted.

Loss of sunlight N/A

Overshadowing/loss of outlook N/A

Overlooking and loss of privacy - There does not appear to be overlooking or loss of privacy, but there should be conditions on the Velux windows to ensure no overlooking or lack of privacy.

Highway issues: Traffic generation, Vehicular access, Highway safety - Parish Council has no concerns about the proposed moving back slightly of the existing gate to the courtyard.

Noise or disturbance resulting from use, including proposed hours of operation N/A

Smells and fumesN/A

Capacity of physical infrastructure N/A

Deficiencies in social facilities N/A

Storage and handling of hazardous materials and development of contaminated land N/A

Loss or effect on trees - No trees to be removed. The protection of the existing tree should be made a condition.
Adverse impact on nature conservation interests and biodiversity opportunities N/A
Effect on listed buildings and conservation areas Hill Farm itself is a listed building (Grade II) and in a Conservation area. The side extension would affect the view of the building from the Village Green and the highway. As discussed below, the Parish Council do not consider the side extension would have an adverse impact if appropriate building materials are used. The other proposed changes would not be visible to the public, so the Parish Council expresses no views on those.
Incompatible or unacceptable uses N/A
Local financial considerations offered as a contribution or grant N/A
Compliance with Reach Design Code Most of the proposed changes would not be visible to the public, so the Parish Council expresses no views on those. We do have comments on the proposed side extension.
The size, shape, roof slope and materials of the proposed side extension are not in keeping with the main Hill Farm building. However, the size, shape and roof slope of the pro-posed side extension does roughly mirror the existing side building to the south-west of the main building. The proposed weatherboarding also almost mirrors the existing side building although we query whether it should be horizontal rather than vertical in keeping with the existing building and Vine House across the other side of the Village Green. Horizontal black weatherboarding is included in the Design Code as a material which contributes to the local vernacular of Reach. The proposed zinc roofing does not appear to be in keeping with the existing buildings. Nor is it included as a material which contributes to the local vernacular of Reach. The proposed side extension does appear to be in keeping with the building assemblage of which it will form a part in size, shape, and roof slope. But the Parish Council suggests that the weatherboarding should be horizontal rather than vertical and painted black. We do not think a zinc roof is appropriate and suggest tiles or slates would better reflect the local vernacular and the main Hill Farm building.
Compliance with Reach Landscape Analysis N/A
Conclusion of outcome: No objection, but submit comments

24/00292/FUL Fair Green Cottage 21 Fair Green, Single storey rear extension replacing an existing conservatory
Following discussion, it was agreed that no comments were required.

3. District Councillor Report
The Chief Executive and Finance Director are preparing to recruit an Independent Member for the Audit Committee. The role should be advertised soon, with the intention to appoint the person at Annual Council on 23 May.
Internal Audit reported “some weaknesses and inconsistencies in the application of controls [over Community Infrastructure Levies], particularly in relation to timely issuing of demand notices; charging of late payment surcharges/interest; and prompt and consistent recovery action.” They recommended that changes were made “to ensure that monies due are collected in full and in accordance with the respective agreements.” There is therefore a risk that some developments will go ahead without the correct monies being paid. If the CIL monies are not collected, the District Council will lose out and Parish Councils will also lose their share (15% for most PCs, 25% for those with a Neighbourhood Plan).
Operational Services reviewed the service plans for 2024/25 and the delivery against the plans for 2023/24. Many of the services reported that staffing recruitment/retention/training were one of their top 3 risks. We

agreed to give additional grants for home adaptations, as the mandatory £30k grant was often not sufficient.
These are grants towards making a home suitable for a resident with disabilities. Sadly, in some cases the applications had been closed when the adaptations could not be done within the mandatory £30k and those applicants will now have to start the process again. We agreed strategies for vulnerable communities and health & wellbeing. We asked that the officers working on Health & Wellbeing should bring forward suggestions for how they could use additional funding when we are looking at the 2025/26 budget, because their current budget of £5,000 seemed very small compared to their ambitions (although other parts of the Council, and its partners, also deliver aspects of this strategy). The Waste Services Review working party is considering charging Parish Councils for dog bins which ECDC considers additional to requirements or optional. We raised concerns about this, particularly for those parishes with many public rights of way.
The Committee agreed the Business Plan for ECSS, despite concerns that budgeted costs were overstated – eg fuel rates significantly higher than current charges and staff costs budgeted in full plus full costs for Agency staff to cover for vacancies.
Finance & Assets reviewed the service plans for 2024/25 and the delivery against the plans for 2023/24. As with Operational Services, many of the services reported that staffing recruitment/retention/training were one of their top 3 risks. We agreed to delay our Local Plan chapter on Climate Change because of the uncertainty caused by government announcements. Planning law allowed Local Authorities to set higher standards for energy efficiency on buildings than the minimum required by law. ECDC had asked officers to consider higher standards for our new Local Plan. However, in December Government issued a Written Ministerial Statement effectively preventing us from setting or enforcing higher standards. It is therefore unlikely that a Local Plan with higher standards would be approved by the Inspector. We proposed an amendment to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister asking him to rescind the December written statement and reaffirm that Local Authorities could set higher energy efficiency standards.

The Conservative majority voted against this, so ECDC will make no formal complaint to Government about them removing the right for local people to set higher standards for local buildings in our Local Plan. We approved a draft Hedgehog Design Statement to go out for consultation. The ECTC Business Plan was approved, although we voted against it. We noted that it was still unclear what purpose ECTC was fulfilling – it had delivered no more than the 30% affordable housing required of all developers and had made losses in many years.

4. County Councillor Report

The Council met on Tuesday 19 March, & received reports on senior manager pay, pay policy, & gender & ethnicity pay gaps. Five motions were proposed.

1. To work with partners to ensure our Armed Forces Covenant Officer is properly resourced; and write to Government about support for veterans, Afghan refugees, and dependents of Commonwealth veterans (PASSED)
2. To ask the Government to disband the Greater Cambridge Partnership and transfer its functions to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority but still let us keep the money (DEFEATED)
3. To oppose any new 'locally imposed forms of taxation', cost up lots of 'ambitious transformational strategic infrastructure interventions', and discuss with the Government how to pay for it (DEFEATED)
4. To ask the Government to introduce a proportional voting system for Police & Crime Commissioners and Mayors, and work with partners to encourage greater understanding of our tiers of local government and increase young people's participation in local elections (PASSED)
5. To ask the Government to commit to making the benefits and opportunities created by growth in Greater Cambridge accessible to all residents of Cambridgeshire and to commit to essential infrastructure and services to deliver growth, establish ambitious targets for affordable housing, and invest in training and education (PASSED)

I was asked a public question by a Fenland district councillor about why the county council had 'gone back on its resolution to do everything in its power to oppose the incinerator' at Wisbech. I explained we were still waiting for Fenland District Council to inform the county council of the advice it had obtained from its legal counsel about the prospect of success at judicial review. (Fenland has subsequently announced that it plans to seek a judicial review of the minister's decision but at the time of writing we do not know on what grounds.)

Council composition changes again

The Liberal Democrat candidate won the by-election for the vacancy in Yaxley & Farcet on Thursday 21 March. For the first time ever, the Liberal Democrats are the largest group on the council. The composition of the council is as follows. Liberal Democrats 23, Conservatives 22, Labour 9, Independents 4, Non-aligned 3

Development Corporation to decide future of Cambridge

The Government has set out more details of its plans for a huge expansion of Cambridge and the areas around it. Originally called Cambridge 2050, then Cambridge 2040, it has now been set out in a document called The Case for Cambridge with plans for 150,000 more houses in and around Cambridge.

The Government's spring budget included £10.2M for the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and transport to it (the Cambridge South East Transport or CSET project).

A major obstacle to growth in and around Cambridge is water scarcity, to which the Government's answer is to pilot a new system of 'water credits' where 'developers can offset their development through the purchase and sale of water credits to ensure they have a neutral impact on water scarcity within Cambridge'. To describe my view on this idea as sceptical would be an understatement.

Last year, the Government appointed head of Homes England Peter Freeman to lead a new Development Corporation called the Cambridge Delivery Group to deliver the Government's vision for Cambridge. This will add yet another layer of local government to our already toppling structures, and a new and unaccountable body deciding the future of the city. Some locally elected representatives will be on an advisory board, but it appears that decisions will be taken elsewhere.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE - Household Support Fund and supermarket vouchers

The Government's budget included an announcement that it would be extending the Household Support Fund for six months. This is the funding that helps the council pay for supermarket vouchers during the school holidays for families entitled to support, as well as other payments to households in need.

The Government did not announce this in time for local councils to include it in their budgets, so the council's Strategy Resources & Performance Committee has agreed to modify its spending plans. The supermarket vouchers will therefore continue to be issued at the current rate for the next six months.

ADULTS & HEALTH - 'High intensity users' of A&E services

Cambridgeshire County Council will host the 'High Intensity Users' team working with patients who frequently attend hospital A&E departments. Last year the NHS in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough spent an estimated total of £28 million on emergency care for 4,500 people who attended A&E departments between
five and ten times a year. Many of these patients have complex needs, and identifying and supporting them early can save the NHS at least forty per cent of these costs.

ASSETS & PROCUREMENT

The council's Assets & Procurement Committee has approved a new Land & Property Strategy to guide the management of its diverse portfolio of land and property.

This strategy will implement actions for change and improvement highlighted in a Property Asset Management Health Check commissioned by the council from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
The committee has also approved a Commercial, Commissioning & Procurement Framework and made arrangements to reprocure water and waste water services when its current contract comes to an end in Oct.

COMMUNITIES SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC) - Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund

The council's Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund was hugely over-subscribed. Twenty-six applications were awarded funding, but none of these were within the Bottisham ward.

Cost of living

The council's Communities Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee (COSMIC) has approved an additional £150,000 to Cambridge Housing Society to deliver the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme, which supports Cambridgeshire residents facing unexpected financial difficulties.
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/parenting-and-family-support/cambridgeshire-local-assistance-scheme
The council has also allocated £400,000 to Citizens Advice to deliver income maximisation across Cambridgeshire. By the end of the third quarter of 2023/2024, Citizens Advice had supported 2,251 people, against an annual target of 2,400. This resulted in a total additional income gain of over £1.5 million.

'Closer to Communities'

The council is proceeding with a series of pilot projects to bring decision-making closer to local communities. One of these projects is in East Cambridgeshire, involving a community led environmental initiative. A consultation event will take place at The Maltings in Ely on Wednesday 24 April.
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-communities-to-benefit-from-the-energy-transition-stakeholder-engagement-workshop-tickets-868896872937

Safe accommodation

The committee has also refreshed its Safe Accommodation Strategy for victims of domestic abuse for the next three years.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT - Flooding cases

Officers from the Flood & Water team and the Drainage & Resilience team are meeting weekly to review the many cases across the county of water problems arising from Storms Babet through Henk, and the saturation arising from an exceptionally wet winter.

Flood risk enforcement

The council has refreshed its policy and protocol for enforcement under the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Fens 2100+ is a new programme of work launched in 2023 to enable the Fens to adapt to the challenges of climate change both now and into the future. It is a partnership project between the Environment Agency, Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA), Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), National Farmers Union (NFU), and Anglian Northern and Great Ouse Regional Flood & Coastal Committees (RFCCs).
Its aim is to develop a Fens-wide flood resilience investment strategy, & develop a strategic case for continued investment in flood risk management across the Fens. The project will set out the flood risk management investment choices needed so that the Fens can flourish and adapt to climate change.
The programme will develop a Fens-wide flood resilience investment strategy so that Flood Risk Management Authorities can plan for the next twenty-five years. The writing of the strategy will be completed in 2025.
Over the next 100 years, an additional £4.5 billion will be needed to manage flood risk in the Fens—based on today's costs and not accounting for climate change. Under current flood risk management funding rules half of that investment would be funded, the rest is not. The Fens 2100+ programme has been developed to address that gap.
https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/fens2100/

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The council is working with partners on the production of this strategy. Natural Cambridgeshire is continuing to develop an engagement and communications plan to support this piece of work.

Decarbonisation of council buildings

The council has been successful in its application for Government grant to decarbonise nine more of its own buildings including libraries and youth centres. This will help the council meet its target of 2030 for net zero for its own operations. Government funding of £1,244,550 will be added to £3,793,741 from the council's own decarbonisation fund. The works to these buildings will remove 178.44 tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Clean energy at Park & Rides

Work is progressing on the installation of solar panels at St Ives and Babraham Park & Rides. These will provide power for the operation of the sites themselves, while also making energy available to commercial customers via a private wire. Several electric vehicle charging points are being installed at each site, with some of these designed specifically for the access requirements of drivers with disabilities.

North Angle private wire

Work is also finally under way on the project to connect North Angle Solar Farm to the Swaffham Prior community heat network by means of a private wire.

Swaffham Prior named as finalist in international award

Meanwhile the Swaffham Prior community heat network has been named as a finalist for an international award, the Ashden Awards, recognising ground-breaking climate solutions. The project won the prestigious Edie Net Zero Award for Renewable Energy Project of the Year last November. The Ashden winners will be announced at a ceremony in London on Thursday 27 June.

Connecting Cambridgeshire

Connecting Cambridgeshire attended the Timebank coffee morning in Sutton at the end of February to talk about the upcoming national Digital Switchover. The switchover will affect not only landline telephones but also a range of telephony-dependent devices including many alarms. More information at https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9471/

Gigabit-capable broadband coverage in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough has hit 85 per cent a year early, meaning we are above the national average and ahead of Government targets. Work is ongoing to bring future-proof connectivity to homes and businesses in harder to reach areas.

Connecting Cambridgeshire will be launching its Digital Inclusion Strategy in May. District Digital Overviews for each district in Cambridgeshire are available at https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/about/digital-connectivity-strategy-2021-2025/district-digital-overviews/

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT -Gully clearing

The cyclical gully clearing programme, reinstated by the Joint Administration, reached this area recently, with an estimate of over a thousand gullies to be cleared in Coveney, Witcham, Mepal and Sutton. Where works have been completed elsewhere, the number of gullies cleared has been considerably higher than the estimate.

20MPH schemes

The 20MPH speed limit in Ely went live on 29 March, and a 20MPH limit has also been approved for parts of Huntingdon. Applications for fresh schemes across Cambridgeshire closed on Friday 22 March. Speed reduction schemes such as these are being funded from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Transforming Cities Fund allocation from Government.

Hemlock management

Hemlock has been gradually establishing itself and expanding across areas of Cambridgeshire. While it is invasive, and highly toxic to livestock and humans, it is a native plant species. In public spaces under the council's control, it instructs its contractor to treat hemlock using professional equipment and glyphosate. The Highways department's Green Infrastructure Team can offer advice and guidelines to private owners and occupiers on managing hemlock on their land. Meanwhile, the council continues to carry out treatments for injurious weeds such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Guided buses resume two-way running

Work on a section of the Guided Busway between Cambridge Railway Station and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus to install a new safety measure is now complete and buses returned to two-way operation from Saturday 30 March.

EV charging cross-over pilot

A trial will take place across the county on a first-come first-served basis of EV car charging solutions that involve cables crossing the highway. I have encouraged council officers to be ambitious in this. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough will need ten thousand public plug-in stations by 2030, as more and more residents without off-street parking and charging capacity will be wanting to make the switch to electric vehicles.

PLANNING (including consents) - Envar inquiry

An eight-day Public Inquiry to hear the appeal against the refusal of permission for Envar's proposed incinerator at Woodhurst closed on 1 March. The inspector is expected to make his recommendation within three or four weeks, and the Secretary of State to issue a decision a month after that.

Sunnica solar farm

The statutory deadline for the Secretary of State to decide this application was reset to Thursday 11 April.

East West Rail

EWR are planning the first stage of their statutory consultation in the first half of this year.

Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation

The Examination of this application is due to finish on Wednesday 17 April.

Fens reservoir

Anglian Water and Cambridge Water are to consult on proposals for two new strategic reservoirs for the East of England region. One reservoir is to be located in the Fens and the other in Lincolnshire. The 'phase two' non-statutory consultation will start in May 2024, and will run for eight weeks.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Combined Authority Board will be tendering for a contracted bus service to replace as much as possible of the No9 service from Littleport via Ely and Stretham to Cambridge, following the cutbacks by Stagecoach. The Combined Authority is also working on its plans for bus network improvements, £1 youth bus fare, and bus shelter improvements.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

6.1 Reach Grant Fund
It was noted that the new Grant fund charity was moving forward. It was agreed that an initial payment of half the funds would be transferred to the new charity account on set up and bills would continue to be paid from the old account until it was confirmed that the new charity account was properly operational.

6.2 Finance
Nothing to report

6.3 Parish Council Members
Councillor Cane reported that the Burwell solar farm had appointed a company to manage the funds payable to the two villages, and that a meeting would be held in the near future.

6.4 Play Spaces
Nothing to report. ***Clerk*** to arrange the annual inspection and ask for a quote on the surface work required.

6.5 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

6.6 24Acres Committee
Nothing to report.

6.7 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

6.8 A to B1102 Group
The proposed new bus routes continue to move forward and are presently going to tender and consultation.

6.10 Nature Recovery Plan
A meeting of the new Hythe Restoration Group will be held on Monday 8th April.

7. Parish Council Communications
Three local Parish Council websites were looked at and discussed. ***Councillor Hall*** to contact the website builders and hosts to establish what service they offer and a cost. A limit of £900/year was agreed, and the decision delegated to the Clerk & Chair to allow things to progress

8. Defibrillator – safety check and location website
A resident had highlighted to the PC that the village defibrillator did not show up on the recommended Defib finder website. ***Councillor Fordham*** to check the defibrillator to ensure the batteries & pads are still within date and to arrange its listing on the website. ***Clerk*** to add the defibrillator maintenance to the November Agenda.

9. May Annual Parish Meeting Date
The scheduled date for the May meeting would be the day after Reach Fair. Following discussion, it was agreed that this was not a good date to hold the Annual Parish Meeting. ***Clerk*** to liaise with the Village Hall committee as to the availability of the hall the following week.

10. Payments

E.on Next – power on the green	£30.45
N Acklam – Tree guards 24Acres	£24.00
Village Hall – Shed storage	£720.00
Gallagher - Insurance	£1440.87
S Bailey – Clerk Salary	Confidential



Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7pm

Attendance

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

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

2. Election of Officers; Chairman, and Vice Chairman.

Chair – Councillor Hall was proposed by Councillor Cane, Seconded by Councillor Gibson. Approved.

Vice Chair – Councillor Cane was proposed by Councillor Hall, Seconded by Councillor Gibson. Approved.

3. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

4. Planning - 24/00309/LBC, Replacement oil tank and re-location. 21 Great Lane.

Following discussion, it was decided that this should be left to the conservation officer & other ECDC experts.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

6. Election of additional officers

Rights of Way – Hilary Fielding
Play Spaces & IT – Councillor Hall
Trees, Nature Recovery Plan, the 24 Acres/National Trust, Swaffham Prior Parochial Charity – Nick Acklam
Burwell Solar Farm Liaison Group – Councillor Hall & Councillor Gibson
FORW – Steve Boreham
Village Hall – Councillor Cane
AtoB1102 – Andrew Trump
Reach Fair – Alex de Giorgio Miller

6. Payments

CR Contracting – mowing	£331.00
CAPALC – Affiliation fees	£300.05
Npower – Streetlight electricity	£1527.21
D Thomas – Tree guards 24Acres	£143.49
RA Farm Services – Christmas tree – Grant fund	£195.00
E.On next – Power on the green	£57.85
Reach Village Hall – Yearly hall hire	£211.20
HAS & Co. – Y/E Accounting preparation	£462.00

Draft Minutes of Reach Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.30pm

There is not enough room for these minutes to be included in this magazine, however they can be downloaded from the Parish Council website area at:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/j7ov75jn4t86kv4lc3i3o/AKHMhfgcjp3j_qrBEHrAv8A?rlkey=bh8rvbr84f78zcorg03zmdvbu&e=2&dl=0

Diary Dates and Bus Timetable

June	Event	Location	Time
Sunday 2	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Tuesday 4	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 11	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Sunday 16	All Age Service with Baptism	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.00am
Tuesday 18	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wednesday 19	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Tuesday 25	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		

July	Event	Location	Time
Tuesday 2	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
Tuesday 2	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Sunday 7	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 9	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 16	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wednesday 17	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Tuesday 23	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 30	Recycling Day (Blue)		

STEPHENSONS

Service No. 11 - Newmarket to and from Cambridge

Monday to Saturday only	NS	SO	NS	SO										
Newmarket, The Guineas Bus Station	--	--	700	700	820	920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1520	1620	1745
Newmarket, Academy	--	--	703	703	823	923	1023	1123	1223	1323	1423	1523	1623	1748
Newmarket, Studland Park Centre	--	--	710	710	830	930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530	1630	1755
Burwell, Ness Road	639	649	721	721	841	941	1041	1141	1241	1341	1441	1541	1641	1806
Burwell, Hawthorn Way	641	651	723	723	843	943	1043	1143	1243	1343	1443	1543	1643	1808
Reach, Great Lane	653	703	--	--	855	--	1055	--	1255	--	1455	1555	1655	1820
Swaffham Prior, Cage Hill	658	708	737	737	900	957	1100	1157	1300	1357	1500	1600	1700	1825
Lode, Fassage Close	--	--	--	--	--	1004	--	1204	--	1404	--	--	--	--
Stow cum Quy, Station Road	708	718	751	747	910	1012	1110	1212	1310	1412	1510	1610	1710	1835
Fen Ditton, Cambridge Airport	718	728	804	757	920	1022	1120	1222	1320	1422	1520	1620	1720	1845
Cambridge, Drummer St Bus Station	732	742	816	811	934	1034	1134	1234	1334	1434	1534	1634	1734	1859

NS = Not Saturdays, SO = Saturdays Only

Cambridge, Drummer St Bus Station	650	750	850	950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1550	1715	1815	1915
Fen Ditton, Cambridge Airport	702	802	902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1727	1827	1927
Stow cum Quy, Station Road	712	812	912	1012	1112	1212	1312	1412	1512	1612	1737	1837	1937
Lode, Fassage Close	--	--	920	--	1120	--	1320	--	1520	--	1745	--	--
Swaffham Prior, Cage Hill	723	823	926	1023	1126	1223	1326	1423	1526	1623	1751	1848	1948
Reach, Great Lane	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, Studland Park Centre	752	852	952	1052	1152	1252	1352	1452	1552	1652	1817	1917	2017
Newmarket, Academy	759	859	959	1059	1159	1259	1359	1459	1559	1659	1824	1924	2024
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)*

Burwell Road corner and one of the entrants to the horse sale.

The sale was revived for the early 1970's Reach fair and festival. Press cuttings from the Newmarket Journal list some of the attractions as 'exception dog show, tug-of-war, horse sale, road cycle race and clay pigeon shoot'.

Chris Patterson

Contact Information

Parish Council – see "Know Your Parish Council"			
Village Hall			
	Chair	David Thomas	01638 742676
	Finance	Andrew Trump	01638 743335
	Bookings	Tash Bridgeman	07920 516586 rvhcb25@gmail.com
	Secretary	Sue 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) Police (Non-Emergency)		999 101
	Water (Anglian Water)		08457 145145
Doctors, Burwell			
	Contact Phone Numbers	01638 741234, out of hours dial 111	
	Surgery Hours	Mon to Friday, 8.30am to 6.00pm	
	Website (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







Posy people at Reach Fair



Courtesy of Sue Cameron