
Within Reach
August/September 2025



Before . . . .



And After . . . .

The work, carried out by Impington Roofers, included a new roof for the original schoolhouse, removal of the old vents on the ridge line, renovation of the two chimneys and the addition of insulation. The project was financed by the Thalia WB Community Fund (via the Cambridge Community Foundation), the Reach Village Grant fund and through the generous bequest from the estate of Denis Millard

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From the Editor



This issue of the magazine includes some new contributors – two of whom are also new advertisers, which is very heartening. As you are aware, it is the advertising revenue that covers all the print costs and allows the magazine to be distributed free of charge. So if you talk to anybody who you think might be interested in advertising, let me know.

The two new advertisers are **Burwell Barkers** (you can learn more about them on page 25) and the **KD Academy** (who have contributed on page 26). They have adverts within our adverts section too, on page 11.

Diana Greer has provided a lovely article about bumblebees on page 17 - and she offers you the chance to go bumblebee spotting to provide input into a survey on the species.

On page 13 you will see a list of forthcoming events, taking place in the village from now until the end of the year. There is plenty for you to enjoy so please put the dates in your diary. The first one is a village **Tea Party on the green, in support of the Macmillan Cancer Charity** on Saturday 6th of September, which is also Sports Day.

And you should all be aware now that there is an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the village's response to a planning application for battery storage - on our doorstep. It's on Tuesday 5th September in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm and you are encouraged by the Parish Council to come along and give your views.

And finally, have a look at the before and after pictures of the Village Hall on the inside front cover. A lot was done to make the building watertight and warm – it really does look lovely – and we thank the Village Hall committee and their helpers for making it happen.

David Parr



About the Magazine

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

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

The Team

Editor	David Parr
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Cricket	Ross Clark
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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	David Thomas
Village Update	Alex de Giorgio-Miller
Wicken Fen	Ajay Tegala
Wildlife	Nick Acklam

Village Update



Hurrah for the summer holidays! It feels like we've been in summer mode for weeks, but we are dragging ourselves to the end of school term – hopefully the weather is still kind to us for the actual holidays. Below are a selection of the activities on over the summer…

Youth Fusion Events

Fun and free Youth Fusion events will be taking place at Ely and Isleham this summer. The drop in events, which last year attracted hundreds of young people, are returning to the district due to popular demand. They provide a unique opportunity for anyone under the age of 18 to try their hand at sporting events and clubs operating locally and find out more about organisations offering support and advice. There will be opportunities to scramble up a climbing wall, take part in a street art workshop, meet the fire service, try your hand at korfball or basketball, have a workout at a mobile gym or receive first aid training.

A bike mechanic will be available to offer advice on bike maintenance and carry out basic repairs on the day free of charge and the police will be offering bike security marking. There will also be opportunities to meet support organisations and ask questions about topics you may want to know more about, such as mental health advice, careers opportunities, how to maintain a healthy weight, and drugs and knife crime.

The Youth Fusion days will be held between 11am and 3pm at The Hive, Ely on Thursday 24th July and at The Beeches, Isleham on Thursday 21st August.

Burwell House – Summer Outdoor Theatre

This summer, Burwell House will be hosting two plays. With food and bar available (cash only), these should both be lovely events.

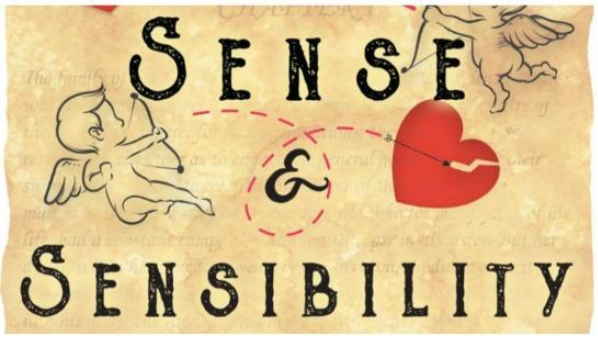
Robin Hood



Will Robin and his band escape the Sheriff's clutches? And whose side is Maid Marian truly on? Filled with Folksy's signature live music, audience interaction and delightful silliness, this adaptation promises to have you laughing and singing along! Don't miss this unforgettable summer adventure! Come dressed as a character from the show if you like!

Sunday 17th August - Doors open 3pm, starts 4pm. Tickets are available to purchase at: https://wegottickets.com/event/658952

Sense & Sensibility



2025 marks the 250th anniversary year of Jane Austen, and what better way to celebrate her life than to delve into the world of one of her finest novels. The Dashwood sisters have a very different approach to their love lives. Elinor has much more Sense, but Marianne has a great deal of Sensibility. Whilst uninterested in the affections of a middle-aged man, Marianne just can't help herself when a dashing young hero appears on the scene. Heros, heartbreak and debonair villains, all topped off with a dashing duel, will remind you why Austen was a master of her craft. A cast of five actors and DOTS 'renowned comedic style makes this comedy of manners a production not to be missed

.

Sunday 31st August - doors open 3pm, starts 4pm. Tickets available to purchase at https://wegottickets.com/event/658948

Library Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme is Story Garden - adventures in nature and the great outdoors.



Developed by The Reading Agency, this year's Challenge aims to encourage children to explore the magical connection between stories and nature.

The annual Summer Reading Challenge is open to pre-school and primary school aged children and is for all reading abilities. It is free to take part.

How to take part:

- Children sign up at their local library or mobile library where they'll be given a collector's folder and bookmark
- Read six library books of their choice during the holidays
- Collect a sticker for each book read

When they finish, they will receive a certificate and medal. Under-3s will receive a special sticker medal.

Enjoy a summer full of stories!

Sand Sculptures at Anglesey Abbey

Ever imagined what Anglesey Abbey would look like made out of sand?

'Sand In Your Eye's' master sculptors will be at work creating a giant replica of the Anglesey Abbey house out of sand. This live carving will take place on the Front Lawn in front of the house itself on 13th August – it will take all day so if you stop by at different times you can see all the different stages of the build. The sculpture will then stay in place for the rest of the summer holidays, weather permitting. Sand In Your Eye will also be running some sand sculpture workshops for children to participate in. See the Anglesey Abbey website for more details, times, and prices - plus lots of the other events they will be running over the summer!

Keep well and fingers crossed for more sunshine

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

Cambridge Fire and Rescue

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
Working together to improve community safety

Stay fire safe while enjoying the summer weather!

Staying safe outside is just as important as keeping your family safe from fire in your home.

As the Summer weather hopefully continues and the school holidays arrive, many will take the opportunity to get out in the garden and give it a tidy.
There are a few simple things to do which will help reduce the risk of having a fire:

- Dispose of garden waste using either a local waste pick up service, or take it to a local recycling centre. Do not light a bonfire!
- Ensure cigarettes are completely out
- Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground – the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire.

If you are planning to have a BBQ:

- Use barbeques on a hard, flat surface away from grass, shrubs or fencing
- Put disposable barbeques on bricks, do not place directly on grass.

Don't be tempted to swim in open water!

When the weather is hot and sunny it might tempt people into swimming in open water. It might nice and warm, but the water temperature can still be very cold, which could cause cold water shock making it difficult to swim to safety. The water might also be deeper than it looks, with hidden dangers under the surface.

We know water is tempting when it's warm outside and as friends gather looking for something to do it can seem great fun. But the fun can quickly turn to tragedy and that is what we are trying to prevent by ensuring everyone understands the risks and hidden dangers.

As much as we discourage people from doing so, we are aware that people will decide to swim in open water. If you get into difficulty, you should "Float to Live", by leaning back, using your arms and legs to stay afloat, and try and control your breathing. Once calm, either call for help or try and swim to safety.

Also, a really useful tip to help pinpoint your location is giving us a what3words reference. This is easy to do by downloading the app before heading out and encouraging everyone in your group to do the same, making a note of where you're swimming. The app is free and available to download on any mobile device.

For more information log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk, follow us on social media or call 01480 444500. Please do not reply directly to this email. If you wish to get in contact, please email: pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk.

PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

"The Little Chapel in the Fen"

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 5th October at 3pm

~

Traditional harvest service and hymns
produce welcome

~

Find us at CB7 5YJ, between Upware and Swaffham Prior.
arrive early to guarantee a seat.

For more information contact Nicola: 07968 658319

August Update from our MP

It's been a year since I was elected to represent Ely and East Cambridgeshire and I'm proud of what we've achieved together so far. From tackling local issues to standing up for our community in Westminster, I've been working hard to deliver real change.

Key priorities this year have included:

- Supporting residents through the cost-of-living crisis
- Campaigning for better access to NHS dentists
- Demanding action on sewage pollution in our rivers
- Pushing for more resources to tackle rural crime

I'm also continuing to fight for fairer funding for Cambridgeshire councils, especially for SEND services and road maintenance. And I remain committed to securing investment in the Ely Junction rail upgrade, a vital project for our region's growth.

Standing Up for Fairness:
I voted against the Government's Welfare Bill, which would have cut vital support for carers and vulnerable people. I'll keep campaigning for a fair, compassionate welfare system that protects dignity and independence.

Backing Local Pharmacies:
Rural and community pharmacies are under pressure. I've urged the Health Minister to ensure they receive the funding and staffing they need to continue delivering essential services.

Listening to Farmers:
After meeting local farmers at an NFU event, I raised their concerns, including hare coursing and machinery theft, with the Policing Minister and discussed how the rural crime strategy can better support our communities.

SEND Reform:
Many parents have shared their concerns about the Government's proposed Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms. I'm backing the Liberal Democrats' five principles for reform, which focus on putting children and families first, boosting capacity, and ensuring fair funding.

At home in the Constituency:
With Parliament in recess, I'm enjoying attending events across our beautiful area, like Burwell Carnival, where I got to sit in Burwell Print's "Formula 1" car! Community events are a lovely way for me to meet residents and hear your concerns.

As always, I'm here to support you:
If there is a private matter you need help with, please do book an appointment at one of my MP advice surgeries which are held across the constituency and also online. Book here: **bit.ly/bookasurgery**

Alternatively, phone my office on 02073 621601 or email me at **charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk**

Best wishes

Charlotte Cane

MP for Ely and East Cambridgeshire

Reach Fair: An Opportunity

The planning of Reach Fair 2026 commences in September and October 2025 so now is a great time to join the Committee. It's an opportunity to have your input into the Fair, meet some great people and contribute to a very historic event. The Committee meets just six or seven times a year and you can commit to as much or as little as you choose. Contact one of the Committee members and express your interest. Alex de Giorgio-Miller is the Chair.

For my part it is time to say Farewell and Good Luck.

I first joined the Reach Fair Committee in 2003 when I moved into the village with my family. I thought I was joining the Parish Council which is a little ironic. Reach Fair was then organised by the Village Hall Committee and my first task was to book the food and craft stalls. Sue Briscoe assisted me and we took over from Jen Holmwood, as Jen recently reminded me. I went on to run the Salad Stall and the Smash the Crockery Stall; the latter was my favourite.

I have witnessed first-hand the development of the Fair: the modifications, introductions and changes to what it is today. Years ago, I remember Jan Tabecki constructing the village games and Liz Tabecki decorating them so creatively. Andrew Towers flagged our charges which were like those of a village fete when Reach Fair was running on rather different lines. I have enjoyed being part of the thought process and admired the commitment and ability to improve the Fair year on year. The Top Field or Sports Field struggled with having an identity but now hosts high quality craft stalls, a variety of external food stalls, a real ale bar and local entertainment. The fantastically equipped playground is a bonus. The most recent innovation was in 2023 when Reach Fair was established as a Community Interest Company (No.14633050). It now has its own separate identity being no longer part of the Village Hall Committee, the Events Team, or the Parish Council.

Some people say the Fair is too big now and certainly it has grown year on year. Everyone is welcome to have their say as part of the review meetings which take place each year in May and September. Alternatively, just contact a committee member with your views.

The Committee are simply trying to reflect the wishes of the village for the benefit of the village.

The Fair retains many traditional elements and this is particularly important. The fairground is composed of traditional rides and such rides are becoming uncommon. The Mayor's Proclamation and Opening of the Fair are followed by Maypole Dancing and thereafter Morris Dancing. There is a Tea Tent, Coconut Shy, Tombola etc on Fair Green. One year the Beer Tent had `shrunk' and I was asked, what has happened to the Beer Tent? From the conversation I appreciated that the Reach Fair Beer Tent is the annual venue for hooking up with local friends and so is especially important not just for the alcoholic beverage it sells.

For the last two years the charge for the Car Park has risen to £10 but the costs for putting on the Fair rose in the order of 25% following Covid and it is essential that the Fair covers its costs, is safe and that the logistics (for example Traffic Management) are of a high standard.

Years ago, our PA Jezo, said the village should treasure what it has with Reach Fair. An extremely popular, much enjoyed, regionally renowned event which (with hard work) raises a good sum. Many communities are envious of what we have. The money raised by Reach Fair is passed directly to the Grant Fund which is distributed for the benefit of the village.

An interesting fact is that we do not need Street Trading Permission or an Event License from East Cambs District Council as the 1201 Charter from King John remains valid. Hoorah King John!

I sometimes think the Fair should award a `good service' medal to our longstanding contributors; they make my contribution seem lightweight. Amongst our oldest serving village members are Andrew Towers (currently running the BBQ) and Tony Jordan (still on the Coconut Stall after too many years to count). The Fairground people, Robert and June Mallyon have attended the Fair for over 30 years and they are nostalgic about the Fair; it is a very special event in their calendar.

For a committee to be successful it needs a regular input of new members who bring fresh views and innovative ideas, hence my reason for retiring. It has been a privilege and a blast, but it is time to say farewell. The new Committee members are committed to the enjoyment and success of the Fair and they are enthusiastic, full of energy and ideas. I wish them well, good luck and please continue to support them.

More than anything each year what impresses me about Reach Fair is, despite its size and the crowds, it has a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Long may it continue …….

Claire Halpin

Rosanna's Ramblings



Friends who know me well are familiar with my predilection for umbellifers. The family of plants have apparently now been renamed *Apiaceae* which comes from *Apium* used by Pliny the Elder for celery-like plants.

Why on earth they, whoever 'they' may be, felt the need to move away from a name conjuring lacy umbrellas I can't imagine! Whether frothy cow parsley, or hemlock, or the dreaded ground elder, I just adore the complex simplicity, or the simple complexity of the parasol-shaped flower heads. The cow parsley has long died down around here and the meadow by the wood is currently chock full of rather parched-looking Queen Ann's Lace, or wild carrot.



The flowers are gorgeous, but that gorgeousness goes badly wrong for me when they start setting seed and something ghastly happens. The flat parasol starts to curl upwards and inwards on itself in an admittedly clever way - but, BUT, the end result never fails to make me think of a dead spider, upside down on the carpet, like the squashed brownish one I picked at with my fingernail many years ago thinking it was a bit of dried grass. Horror. Horror of horrors. I'm an arachnophobe who has lived with not one arachnophile husband, but two. So I didn't get any sympathy on that occasion, just laughter from my kids. And I don't get any sympathy now when I shudder at the curled seed heads. It's a tough life.

But it could be a whole lot tougher. I've had much reason in recent weeks to ponder on the wonder of the Reach community, its network of friendship and kindness and support having been enfolding us as Charles was heading for surgery and I needed help with dog-sitting. And not just practical help, but moral support, care, concern, interest. My darling is used to being someone who offers that generously, because he is a kind and caring man for whom neighbourliness matters greatly. He has been hugely touched by the kindness that he has received – we have received.



Whether it's been Thomasina bringing a bunch of her beautiful flowers round and offering coffee or something stronger; Luke cutting the grass, or dried hay rather, before Charles got back from Addenbrookes; Gayle & Oli having Milo for 48 hours so I could do lots of hospital runs; and more people than I can mention offering dog walks or garden watering or a listening ear. It's been humbling, that sense of being respectfully held, watched over, shaded from the harshness of the sun or protected from the force of a rainstorm. Like an umbrella over us. A parasol. An umbellifer. A flower head, or a seed head. Beautiful, quietly there, appreciated more than it's really possible to express.

And then yesterday evening, when I took Milo out immediately after a wonderful dump of much needed rain, there was the shock of finding "Charles's oak tree" opposite the Hythe damaged. A big branch sawn off, debris everywhere, another smaller branch broken and dangling. It was the day that the two men convicted of felling the Sycamore Gap tree on Hadrian's Wall were sentenced to more than four years in jail.
My mind jumped to wondering – horrified – whether this could have been a smaller scale of arborial vandalism? Who could do such a thing? What if someone came back to finish the job? So many people would be distraught in our Reach community, because trees matter so much and they punctuate our space with meaning and significance and resonance. I've written about it before, but it's worth saying again, and again. I am filled with love for that tree every time I see it; and filled with love for my man who planted it when it was a pup. And it's extremely unusual form for an oak tree, growing right by the water and being free to spread out its limbs in all directions and offer shelter – another parasol, another umbrella, another umbel in form, just on a giant scale – is almost miraculous to me. 'Miraculum' in Latin means "an object of wonder", even "a marvellous event caused by God".

Well, I'm not sure a tree can be seen as an event, but it certainly can be seen as the culmination, to date, of an endless sequence of tiny events cumulatively allowing for the growth of root and heart wood and bark, of bough and branch and twig, of leaf and flower and acorn. Those processes are minor unsung miracles, each and every one of them. Just as are the microscopic and cellular processes that are right now allowing my darling to heal from his surgery after having a pretty rough time for a few days. He's by no means the only person in Reach who's been going through health challenges and crises. It's probably always like this, really, but in a village we perhaps get to find out more about what's happening to people around us. I know that we're not alone in feeling, palpably and movingly, the protective and supportive presence of the community in times of trouble.

When Charles was going into hospital, quite a few people asked me if I was going to base myself in Reach, or in my house in Ely. That didn't merit even a split second of thought! Reach, obviously, because of friends, and neighbours and the big dry garden and the dog walks and the people to walk the dog and the opposite of anonymity. Even when I came home, hot and bothered and tired out beyond words and saw or spoke to no-one as I watered the garden and pinched out tomato side shoots so that I could report back to my love the next day – even then, I felt the presence of support. It was priceless. Thank you, friends and neighbours. Thank you, Reach. And thank you to the good neighbourliness which told me, today, that the oak tree had been damaged by the wind, the felled branches had been sawn up, the drove tidied and a generous offering of cut up firewood had found its way to our garden. Anonymously. But networking pointed us to who'd done that kindness and a thank you to him too.

Rosanna Moseley-Gore



Burwell Belles Women's Institute

Burwell Belles WI: Game, Set and Match!

Gardiner Memorial Hall was transformed into the Wimbledon tennis Centre Court on 26th June 2025 , as we welcomed Alan Gray MBE, former Wimbledon umpire and line judge (1988–2012), for our annual open meeting. His talk, "You Cannot Be Serious!", was absolutely fascinating and very entertaining.



Alan Gray MBE and Alison Dodds, Burwell WI President

Alan's stories took us straight to the grass courts of Wimbledon, sharing behind-the-scenes insights from over 25 years in the All England Lawn Tennis Club as an umpire. We heard about iconic encounters with fiery John McEnroe to composed Andy Murray, amusing umpiring moments, quirky rule changes over time and how the role has changed with technology. We served strawberries and cream, freshly-baked scones with jam and cream and shortbread, bringing a little bit of SW19 right here into CB25!

Our open meeting gives us the opportunity to invite non-members, including men, to join us and join us they did as 29 guests came along, meaning we raised £145 @£5 per head towards the maintenance of the two WI defibs in Burwell. See below for more details about this.

At the beginning of July it was Burwell Carnival, another opportunity to raise money for our defibs (see the picture below of the WI Team at the Carnival).

Our WI stall was a roaring success again this year, with delicious cakes and savouries galore, all baked by our members! Thanks to your support, we raised vital funds to look after our two village defibrillators. We have one on North Street and one at Mandeville Hall. Maintaining these life-saving devices is an ongoing expense we have to consider, batteries and replacement pads can cost up to £300 per defibrillator every year, so your help and generosity keeps them ready for when they're needed.

Our meetings take place on the last Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Gardiner Memorial Hall, non-members are welcome to join us and listen to our talks from guest speakers which happen each meeting.

In September we have Tree Sleuths, a talk which looks at ways to uncover your family history. In October, we have Melanie Davies Hypnotherapist with Mind Solutions.

If you'd like to join an upcoming meeting, meet new friends, and have some fun do drop us a line to alisondodds@hotmail.co.uk, or just come along to a meeting!





The Swaffhams' WI

How quickly can you name 10 famous scientists? Now how quickly can you name 10 famous female scientists? Did you automatically think of men? Or did you think of both the men and women who for centuries have worked in the scientific field?



Our talk this month at the Swaffhams' WI was by Alison Giles (above) on Scientific Women at the Whipple Museum, Cambridge. Alison started by pointing out that over the centuries there have been thousands of women in science, but most people only think of men. Note that I wrote 'women in science' rather than female scientists. Alison talked, for example, about Caroline Herschel, 1750-1848, (the Whipple Museum has the Herschel telescope) and Ida Freund, 1863-1914, who studied at Cambridge and received the equivalent of a First-Class degree but could not actually be awarded her degree (being a woman) and therefore remained at Cambridge working as the first female lecturer in Chemistry. The list of the women in science which Alison talked about dated from Hypatia of Alexandria 350ish – 415 right up to Maggie Aderin-Pocock 1968 – present day.

So why are so many women in science not as prominent as their male equivalents? The most obvious reason is the discouragement of girls and women in education over the centuries. However, there are still so many women who managed to succeed in one way or another in this field.

There are many female astronomers (it is difficult to ban women from looking at the night sky) and many female botanists (drawing was a skill encouraged but to draw the inner workings of plants took more than just looking at them growing in the garden).

Ada Lovelace was taught maths, encouraged by her mother who wanted to discourage her from following the route of a romantic poet like her father, Lord Byron. Ada, with her exceptional mathematical ability and partly using her knowledge of lace making machines, was the first to recognise that Babbage's Analytical Engine had applications beyond pure calculation leading to current day computer programming. Ida Freund inspired her students by creating a large periodic table with each element represented by a cupcake decorated with its name and atomic number in icing to use as a teaching aid in her lectures (do read 'Lessons in Chemistry' if you have not yet done so!). Portraits of prominent women in science over the years usually show them in domestic scenes rather than in the laboratory. And more often than not a brother, husband or a male co-worker is credited before the woman is mentioned.



Astrolabe as manufactured by the female Muslim scientist Al-'Ijliyyah in the 10th-century

Alison is continuing her research into women in science and more women are being discovered all the time, usually through a brief reference in a letter written by a man to his male colleagues. So, if you ever get a chance to hear Alison speak on this subject (or any other topic), do please go along. You will find yourself hanging on her every word! And next time we are asked to name some famous scientists, let's hope we all include the women.

Our next meeting is on Monday 18 August at 7:30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Our speaker will be Kevin Boardman who is speaking on The Oregan Trail. Kevin has spoken at one of our meetings in the past and he is a highly entertaining. Do come along and join our thriving and friendly group. We have members from Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior.

We hope to see you in August!

Kate Muscroft - katemuscroft@gmail.com

Nature in Reach

The hot, dry sunny weather noted in the previous issue of this magazine, continued through late spring and early summer. According to the Met Office, England has had its warmest June on record with average temperatures 2.5C above the long term average.



However, the clear skies led to plummeting temperatures overnight on several occasions in late spring. An overnight frost on 23 May nipped potatoes, squashes and tomatoes at the Barston Drove allotments.

Rainfall in the east of England during June was below 50% of the long-term average, a trend which has continued into July. Interestingly, water levels in the Catchwater and Reach lode, important sources of water for local wildlife, have held up well as they are fed by springs and controlled by the Environment Agency pump at Upware. However, the chalk aquifers which sustain local springs are now depleting fast and will take time to replenish. So this drought will have an impact on the local environment well into 2026.

The impact of the hot, dry conditions can be seen elsewhere though. Some trees, limes in particular, are already shedding leaves in response to the stress. Smaller ponds and ditches are drying out. The reduced oxygen level, concentration of pollutants and increased temperature of the remaining water can kill fish and impact feeding and spawning and encourage toxic algal blooms. Lower water levels may expose burrows of water voles, which are present in several such locations in our parish, leaving them vulnerable to predators.

But it is not all gloom and doom, the conditions appear to have worked well for local butterfly populations as any walker along the path from Reach Wood to the allotments will attest. In recent years, my experience locally runs contrary to reports of long-term decline of UK butterfly numbers. This may be due to an increased area of land around the village that is no longer under intensive cultivation.

Swifts and swallows also seem to be prospering based on a straw poll of the numbers over the village. Ron and Penny report that greenfinches and goldfinches have bred well around their garden, as has a Jenny wren, nesting in a blue tit box and singing with a volume that belies its small size. On the insect front, Penny mentions that a hummingbird hawk moth, usually only seen in warm dry conditions, visits the pots around their pond regularly and sometimes has to be rescued from the conservatory.

She also mentions that wild honeybees which nest in the church come down in big numbers to drink at the pond. Penny comments that they are gentle bees and neither she nor Ron has been stung so far! Jonathan Latchford observes exceptional numbers of bumblebees (see Diana Greer's article on page 17) in the vicinity of his lavender plants.

The other nature reports are:

6 June: a tawny owl calls from the ash trees on the Hythe.

9 June: I spot a stonechat and yellowhammer perched close together on the wire fence at Hurdle Hall.

13 June: I see a carrion crow with no tail feathers flying quite competently over the Hythe. I had seen a crow in a similar condition two or three years ago and think that it is the same bird.

Charles Moseley reports a pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly on Straight Drove. He comments that it is not that rare, but is good to see nonetheless.

15 June: Our nature camera records a large dog fox in our garden followed a few minutes later by a rabbit. Shouldn't it be the other way round?

16 June: Nicky Tucker sees tawny owlets on the redundant sewage tanks at the Hythe. She felt that they had just fledged or 'branched'.

17 June and onwards: The scabious and knapweed plants beside the footpath between Reach Wood and the allotments are awash with butterflies with marbled white and meadow brown being most numerous initially. By early July peacock, red admiral and small copper are more evident.

21 June: Jonathan Latchford reports four bats flying above his garden. As the garden borders the Catchwater, which is fringed by mature willow trees, it is a bat-friendly habitat.

22 June: A predator has discovered a pheasant's nest close to the permissive footpath that runs through the 'pylon' field to the left of Straight Drove. A scattering of seven of so olive-green eggshells remain.

24 June: Pineapple weed or wild chamomile is flourishing on that part of Straight Drove that was badly cut up by vehicle traffic last winter. It delivers a strong aromatic scent when walked on, especially after the rare rain of the previous night. Pineapple weed is an alien species from Asia. The flower cones and young shoots can be used to produce a very palatable tea although probably best not sourced from Straight Drove! Wild carrot and vetch are in full flower on the rides around the edge of Tubney Fen. There is a solitary pyramid orchid in bloom under the orchard at the 24Acres.

Late June: Graham Lingley spots a little owl at the end of Blackberry Driveway close to the Swan Lake grain stores. He had also seen one on Weirs Drove a few weeks earlier, his first such sighting in two years.

Steve Boreham has produced his annual reviews of efforts by the village to improve plant diversity at the cemetery, on the edge of the meadow at Reach Wood and on the banks of the Catchwater by the Hythe. He is building a really useful body of information about plant species at these locations. The picture this year is mixed. Species numbers at Reach Wood meadow remain significantly higher than before volunteer scarifying and seed sowing in 2021. However, there have been declines in plant species at the cemetery and on the Catchwater banks. This year's dry conditions may well have had an influence. Furthermore, the deposit of silt dredged from the Catchwater channel may have led to the crowding out of more delicate plants. Some cutting back of the rank vegetation there may boost species numbers next year.

5 July: I watch two goldfinches drinking from my garden pond. Previously, only wood pigeons have been confident enough to do this - perhaps a sign other sources of water are drying up.

I evict a large emerald moth from upstairs. It is jade rather than emerald-green in colour but what a beauty when viewed close up!

A sparrowhawk flies across the pocket park and perches in a willow tree close to a wood pigeon which is completely unfazed by its arrival. The sparrowhawk rests only briefly before launching straight into the adjacent hedgerow, no doubt in pursuit of a small bird.

6 July: A common blue butterfly forages actively on the scabious on the edge of Tubney Fen.

13 July: Joss Goodchild is delighted to find four baby hedgehogs in her garden.

Mid July: birdsong has declined as usual in mid-summer. However, blackcaps haven't followed this trend and sing at volume from many patches of scrub.

Nick Acklam - acklam@reach-village.co.uk

Allotments are available at the Barston Drove site from this autumn. A standard plot is 15 metres by 12 metres although smaller plots may be available by negotiation. The soil is productive and rentals are very competitive.

If you are interested contact Nick Acklam n.acklam@reachparishcouncil.org

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

Our club meetings have ceased for the summer break, but quite a number of our members enjoyed a Club Outing to Felixstowe on Sunday 8th June. The weather was very kind to us with plenty of sunshine, although very windy and a little chilly near the Container Port. Images captured not only at the Port but at Landguard Fort, Dovercourt and Pin Mill will be entered in our projected digital competition for The Metcalfe Trophy to be held on 30 September 2025.

We now look forward to our new season which commences on the 9th September. This will be a social celebration of last season when we welcome new and returning members and Cups and Trophies will be presented to the award winners of our annual Print & PDI competitions. Members' prints and projected digital images from last season will be on display.

We have lots to look forward to in our new programme which runs from September to May and some of the highlights are shown below:

16 September - An Introduction to Deep Sky Astrophotography by Max Dobres, which will be held on Zoom.

23 September - An Evening of Panels by Chrissie Hart of Ipswich & Colchester Photographic Societies. Chrissie loves producing printed bodies of work and has produced numerous panels which have won awards at her local club which have also gone on to win the Chelmsford 4 C's Annual Panel Competition.

21 October - Passion for Scapes by Kevin Pigney, Burwell. A digital presentation on Zoom by this local professional photographer.

28 October - Dalmatian Pelikans of Lake Kerkini by Alison Jenkins of Ware & District PS.

We meet Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall (except the third Tuesday in the month when the meeting is on Zoom) and new members are always welcome. Visitors can attend a lecture for a small entrance fee of £4.00, which includes refreshments. Our annual subscription is £55.00 per Adult, £30.00 per Student, plus a weekly attendance fee of £1, which includes refreshments. For further information please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett by email at secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com or phone: 07722 388770.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB

Chairman

Anglesey Abbey



Summer of Play

From now until 31 August, come and have a play in the giant sand pit, take part in some seaside arts & crafts and challenge your friends to a game of badminton or volleyball. This year, we're having a seaside-themed Summer of Play at Anglesey Abbey, sponsored by Starling Bank.

In addition to five creative and interactive seaside play zones, **crazy golf** continues from now until 10 August, and you can enjoy weekly art & craft workshops too.

There will be a **live sand carving** of the house at Anglesey Abbey taking place on 13 August as well as workshops run by the master sculptors, Sand In Your Eye. The sand carving is free* and you can book onto the workshops via our website.

Every Friday from 25 July to 29 August, we will have **Fish & chip Fridays** at Anglesey Abbey, with tasty food available to buy from the popular local food van, Pimp my Fish.

Outdoor theatre: Twelfth Night

Pack a picnic and come and watch The Lord Chamberlain's Men perform Shakespeare's greatest romantic comedy, Twelfth Night, in the gardens on Saturday 16 and 23 August.

Sit back and enjoy one of Shakespeare's masterpieces performed in the open air next to Anglesey Abbey's Jacobean-style country house and stunning Rose Garden.

August bank holiday: vintage cars and pirate show!

On Monday 25 August, come and see a range of vintage and modern MG cars exhibited in the stunning gardens at Anglesey Abbey. The cars will be displayed in an iconic location within the gardens between 10am and 5pm, free* for visitors to enjoy for just one day.

For children and families, we will have an immersive pirate show on 25 August put on by The Walking Theatre Company in the Orchard – book now to avoid disappointment.

*Free for National Trust members, otherwise normal admission charges apply.

Plan your day: nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey

Wicken Fen



Two visitors listen to The Voices – courtesy of National Trust Images Mike Selby

In August, the nature reserve is alive with the colours of wildflowers and the buzz of dragonflies and butterflies. It is the perfect time of year to go on a **bike ride** across the wider Fen, take a relaxing **boat trip** along Wicken Lode, or take a stroll around the **Summer Nature Trail** to enjoy the idyllic fen meadow landscape (open until 30th September).

September will bring berries, perfect for migrant birds returning for the winter signaling the beginning of the next turn in the wheel of the year.

Evening is a lovely time to visit the reserve in summer. Like last year, we are **open late on Thursdays** until the end of August. The visitor centre and gift shop will be open until 8pm every Thursday and the café will be serving a special evening menu between 5 and 7.30pm with gluten-free and vegan options available.

Depending on the weather, there will be boat trips at 4.30 and 6pm, in addition to the normal daytime trips. There is also a program of events from walks and talks to activities including a **Fen Flowers Walk** on 14th August – check our website for other August Thursday evening events.

Thursday evenings are also a perfect chance to enjoy the new *Listen to the Voices of the Fen* **Sound Sculpture Trail** by artist Kathy Hinde in partnership with Babylon Arts, funded by Arts Council England. This immersive experience will enable you to see and hear the reserve in a whole new way; open 10am-4.30pm daily until 28th September (and until 7.30pm on Thursdays until the end of August).

During the school summer holidays, we have a programme of family-friendly events as well as an accessible themed trail and self-led crafts in the visitor centre. Our ever-popular **Pond Dipping** sessions will be running regularly throughout July and August and we also have a new **Dragons and Dipping** twist for slightly older children and families on 8th August.

If you're feeling creative, there's **Butterfly Wings** arty sessions running on 1 and 14 August and on 5 and 29 August a make your own **Paper Flowers Workshop**. Perfect for families that like to discover creepy crawlies under logs and catch crickets in the long grass, we have fun **Bug Hunters** sessions running on 7 and 18 August.

For children aged 7-12 years old, there's a chance to be a **Young Ranger for a Day** on 19 and 26 August - help check on the livestock and birds in the morning and survey butterflies or dissect owl pellets (to discover what Wicken's owls have been eating) in the afternoon. On 20 August there will be **Build Your Own Bird Box** sessions running, with all materials and tools provided (adult supervision is essential).

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

Events in Reach

There's plenty going on in Reach . . . .

Saturday 6th September

Sports Day will be happening on the Playing Field.

Saturday 6th September

During the afternoon there will be one of Reach's legendary **Tea Parties** on the Village Green, attendance is free to all villagers and villagers will have the opportunity to support the **Macmillan Cancer Charity**.

Saturday 18th October

Our **Harvest Supper** will be taking place in the Village Hall, starting at 7.00pm. It'll be a traditional dinner with vegan/veggie options. The cost will be £15 for adults and £8 for children, with all proceeds going to local food banks. Places are limited and bookings are essential and must be made by the 4th of October latest. **Tickets can be obtained from Helen Oliver,** helenoliver01@btinternet.com.

Friday 24th October

There will be a **"Wear it Pink" event** in the Village Hall, starting at 3.30pm. Breast Cancer Now's wear it pink day is one of the biggest fundraising events in the UK. Taking place during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, thousands of amazing people wear it pink in their communities, schools or workplaces for the UK's largest breast cancer charity, Breast Cancer Now. Last year's event was loads of fun!

1st to 24th December

We will again be having the delightful Village Advent Calendar. Debbie Quilter will again be organising things – more information will follow in due course.

Sunday 30th November

Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On from 5pm.

Thursday 11th December

Our **Senior's Christmas Lunch** will take place in the Village Hall, from 12.30pm to 3pm. It's always a lovely event and we are delighted that Catherine, Claire and Ian will again be preparing the food for us.

To get further details on all the above you can look at the village website at:
https://www.reach-village.co.uk/news.html.



Burwell Surgery
Patient Participation Group

Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)
Weight loss medications on the NHS

There has been a lot in the news recently about various weight loss injections, including an announcement by the NHS that one called "Mounjaro" will be available through GP Surgeries. The PPG thought it would be helpful to ask the Surgery to tell us more about who is eligible and how it will work.

What weight loss drugs are available through Burwell Surgery?

The specialist obesity service has used weight loss injections in diabetes care for some time. We are now assessing people against the new NHS criteria for the prescription of weight loss medications and those that are eligible are being referred to a service called Healthy You (https://healthyyou.org.uk/). This service can prescribe injections such as Mounjaro and Wegovy and offer the appropriate support to go with these interventions.

What is Mounjaro and how does it work?

Tirzepatide (also called Mounjaro) is a weight loss medicine that makes you feel fuller for longer and therefore less hungry. It comes in the form of an injection which you inject yourself, once a week. Another similar injection called Wegovy is also used. There are of course some potential risks (for example inflammation of the pancreas gland). But studies have shown a 10-15% weight loss with Wegovy and 15-20% with Mounjaro.

Is everyone eligible for Mounjaro on the NHS?

No. At the moment the NHS is prioritising only those with the highest clinical need. To be eligible, people must have both:

- a BMI of 40 or over (37.5 if from an ethnic background)
  AND
- 4 out of 5 of the following conditions: type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and vascular disease, high cholesterol and obstructive sleep apnoea.

Unfortunately, if you do not fulfil all the above criteria the Surgery will not be able to refer you to 'Healthy You' to access weight loss injections via this new service. However, it should be noted that this is a pilot service for much wider prescribing of these medications over the next 12 months, so watch out for further communication about this. The NHS will be gradually allowing more groups of people to access these drugs, recognising the constraints of budget (these are expensive drugs) and trained personnel to deliver the service.

If I am eligible, will the surgery tell me directly or do I need to contact the Surgery?

We are going to search out the patients we know of that fall into these (quite restricted) categories and offer a referral to Healthy You. It may well be that our records are incomplete in some areas – for example some people do not report symptoms of possible sleep apnoea (snoring with episodes of choking or stopping breathing).

If we have not contacted you and you think that you might qualify then please contact us via AskmyGP and we will refer you on as appropriate.

What should I do if I am concerned about my weight, but am not eligible for Mounjaro on the NHS?

Please do feel free to discuss issues with your weight with the practice if you would like to. There are a number of services we can access for you (see https://www.cpics.org.uk/weight-management-services).

These include:

1. Free Slimming world or weight watchers membership for 12 weeks

2. Some digital programmes like: https://www.england.nhs.uk/digital-weight-management/

3. Specialist health coaching, a variety of other programmes run by 'Healthy You' https://healthyyou.org.uk/services/healthy-weight/

4. Onward referral for specialist services like bariatric surgery.

Next PPG meeting – all welcome – why not join us online if you can't make it in person!

The next two meetings of the PPG will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 15th July and Tuesday 14th October at Burwell Day Centre – all welcome. If you would like to attend the PPG for the first time, or if you can't attend in person but can join via Microsoft Teams, then please contact cpicb.burwellsurgery.admin@nhs.net

PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

"The Little Chapel in the Fen"

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 5th October at 3pm

~

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produce welcome

~

Find us at CB7 5YJ, between Upware and Swaffham Prior.
arrive early to guarantee a seat.

For more information contact Nicola: 07968 658319

New Tiger Bus Routes Launched



Seven brand-new Tiger bus routes were launched on 27 May by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. These new services offer faster, more frequent buses, better rural coverage, and stronger connections between towns, villages, and key destinations, helping communities travel more easily, affordably and sustainably.

Great news for Reach residents:

The new Tiger 4 service provides a direct connection between Newmarket and Addenbrooke's Hospital, one of the region's most important health and research hubs. But that's not all. This service also stops at a number of rural villages along the way, including Exning, Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, Lode Crossroads, Bottisham, Little Wilbraham, Great Wilbraham, and Fulbourn, offering improved links for those previously underserved. After Addenbrooke's, the route continues to Hills Road Sixth Form College, making it ideal for students and staff alike.

Meanwhile, the new Tiger 5 connects Soham to Cambridge city centre, stopping at several shared points with the Tiger 4, such as Burwell, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, and Lode Crossroads, allowing for seamless transfers between the two routes. Thanks to the new Hoppa fare, you can change between T4 and T5 at key interchanges and pay only for a single, continuous journey. It's a great option for affordable and flexible travel across East Cambridgeshire.

Here's a quick overview of all the new routes:

- Tiger 1 (Huntingdon - Cambridge) – A fast, hourly link into the city via Fenstanton, Swavesey and Longstanton. Ideal for commuters, students and residents seeking a quick and direct connection.

- Tiger 2 (Newmarket P&R - Madingley P&R) & Tiger 3 (Fulbourn - Grantchester) – These new services link key sites around Cambridge including Addenbrooke's, sixth forms and colleges, science parks and hospitals - avoiding city centre traffic.

- Tiger 4 (Newmarket - Addenbrooke's) & Tiger 5 (Soham - Cambridge) – Serving East Cambridgeshire, these rural routes improve access to Cambridge from Reach, Burwell, Soham and more!

- Tiger 7 (Wisbech - Chatteris) – Hourly buses connect underserved Fenland villages like Manea and Christchurch, running early morning to late evening.

- Tiger 12 (Longstanton P&R - Sutton) – A new rural route linking Sutton, Earith and Willingham to the guided Busway at Longstanton, perfect for onward travel into Cambridge.

To view full timetables or learn more about the Tiger routes, visit: https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/tiger-bus-routes/



Charley Smith She/Her

Junior Communications Officer

charley.smith@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Bus Timetables

The timetables below came into force on Wednesday 26th May 2025 – and it is now the T4 (run by Stagecoach) which comes through Reach. We will be getting 8 extra buses coming through each day (Monday to Saturday – still no buses on Sundays).

The only negative is that the T4 does not go to Drummer Street – but the T5, which goes through Swaffham Prior, does. Below, you will see how the connections might work.

TIGER BUS ROUTES

T4 - NEWMARKET TO ADDENBROOKES - Monday to Saturday (no buses on a Sunday)

Newmarket Bus Station	-	07:30	08:40	09:40	10:40	11:40	12:40	13:40	14:40	15:40	16:40	17:40	18:40
Burwell Newmarket Road	06:50	07:50	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00
Reach Post Office	**06:58**	**07:58**	**09:08**	**10:08**	**11:08**	**12:08**	**13:08**	**14:08**	**15:08**	**16:08**	**17:08**	**18:08**	**19:08**
Reach Ditchfield	**06:59**	**07:59**	**09:09**	**10:09**	**11:09**	**12:09**	**13:09**	**14:09**	**15:09**	**16:09**	**17:09**	**18:09**	**19:09**
Swaffham Prior Bus Shelter	07:03	08:03	09:13	10:13	11:13	12:13	13:13	14:13	15:13	16:13	17:13	18:13	19:13
Lode Church	-	-	09:20	-	11:20	-	13:20	-	15:20	-	17:20	-	-
Lode Quy Road	07:10	08:10	09:21	10:20	11:21	12:20	13:21	14:20	15:21	16:20	17:21	18:20	19:20
Bottisham Bell Road	07:14	08:14	09:26	10:24	11:26	12:24	13:26	14:24	15:26	16:24	17:26	18:24	19:24
Fulbourn Babraham Road	07:31	08:31	09:43	10:41	11:43	12:41	13:43	14:41	15:43	16:41	17:43	18:41	19:41
Addenbrookes	07:47	08:47	09:59	10:57	11:59	12:57	13:59	14:57	15:59	16:57	17:59	18:57	19:57

T4 - ADDENBROOKES TO NEWMARKET - Monday to Saturday (no buses on a Sunday)

Addenbrookes	06:25	07:50	08:50	09:59	10:59	11:59	12:59	13:59	14:59	16:05	17:05	18:05
Fulbourn Babraham Road	06:46	08:11	09:11	10:20	11:20	12:20	13:20	14:20	15:20	16:26	17:26	18:26
Bottisham Bell Road	07:03	08:28	09:28	10:37	11:37	12:37	13:37	14:37	15:37	16:43	17:43	18:43
Lode Quy Road	07:07	8.32	09:31	10:41	11:40	12:41	13:40	14:41	15:40	16:47	17:46	18:47
Lode Church	-	-	09:35	-	11:44	-	13:44	-	15:44	-	17:50	-
Swaffham Prior Bus Shelter	07:15	08:40	09:43	10:49	11:52	12:49	13:52	14:49	15:52	16:55	17:58	18:55
Reach Ditchfield	**07:18**	**08:43**	**09:46**	**10:52**	**11:55**	**12:52**	**13:55**	**14:52**	**15:55**	**16:58**	**18:01**	**18:58**
Reach Post Office	**07:20**	**08:45**	**09:48**	**10:54**	**11:57**	**12:54**	**13:57**	**14:54**	**15:57**	**17:00**	**18:03**	**19:00**
Burwell Hawthorn Way	07:31	08:56	09:59	11:05	12:08	13:05	14:08	15:05	16:08	17:11	18:14	19:14
Exning St Martin's Church	07:41	09:06	10:09	11:15	12:18	13:15	14:18	15:15	16:18	17:21	18:24	19:21
Newmarket Bus Station	07:49	09:14	10:17	11:23	12:26	13:23	14:26	15:23	16:26	17:29	18:32	19.29

T5 - SWAFFHAM PRIOR TO DRUMMER STREET CAMBRIDGE - Monday to Saturday (no buses on a Sunday)

Swaffham Prior Bus Shelter	07:12	08:12	09:27	10:27	11:27	12:27	13:27	14:27	15:27	16:27	17:32	18:42
Cambridge Drummer Street	07:42	08:42	09:57	10:57	11:57	12:57	13:57	14:57	15:57	16:57	18:02	19:12

T5 - DRUMMER STREET CAMBRIDGE TO SWAFFHAM PRIOR - Monday to Saturday (no buses on a Sunday)

Cambridge Drummer Street	06:35	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:05	17:15	18:15
Swaffham Prior Bus Shelter	07:08	08:33	09:33	10:33	11:33	12:33	13:33	14:33	15:33	16:38	17:48	18:48

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11 am - 12pm Beginners T'ai Chi Health (£3.50)

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

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Contact Instructor Faradena Afifi (Fara) for more information
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T'ai Chi Health



Beijing 24 Step



Yiquan



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Bumblebees

Back in April, on a very wet morning, when honey bees were loath to venture forth, I went to a workshop of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BCT) in Haddenham. This organisation is trying to engage members of the public to help collect abundance and distribution data on British bumble bees. The morning was spent learning a little about these beautiful insects and in the afternoon conditions brightened enough to allow us to observe them nearby. I would like to share a little of what I learned with you.

The pollinating insects in our gardens and farms could be said to contribute millions to our economy and they are in decline. We have lost 97% of our flower-rich meadows since the 1940's, a huge loss of food for them. Of the 24 species of bumblebee in the UK (previously 26 but 2 became extinct in the 20th century) 8 of them are in serious decline. Others are now confined to small geographical areas and are endangered by the change in climate. There are also losses of habitat and the use of herbicides and pesticides. Extreme weather events such as droughts can reduce the amount of nectar and pollen available and floods can drown hibernating queens and underground nests. All belong to the genus Bombus, which is where the word 'bombastic' came from, originally meaning a loud hum.

Bumblebees are thought to have evolved in the Himalayas as this mountain range was forming 130 million years ago, when some wasps started to feed their young pollen instead of insect larvae. Amazingly, they can use the muscles in their thorax to shiver, dislocating their wings as they do so, enabling them to be out when temperatures are too cold for other insects. Unlike honeybees they don't make honey as bumblebees don't need a winter food source. The queens hibernate in the winter, the others die off.

Honeybees have relatively short tongues and so do not tend to pollinate longer flowers such as foxgloves. Compared with the one species of honeybee the variety of different bumblebees means that between them they are responsible for pollination of many of our garden plants.

They are less likely to sting than honey bees, being fairly docile and unlike honey bees they don't die when they sting. The drones don't have a sting at all and emerge from the nest later in the year than the workers, having been fed in the nest all summer. They hope to mate with a queen before they die.

It has been said that their flight challenges the laws of physics. They flap their wings up and down and in a figure of eight simultaneously to create lift.



Bumblebees on my globe artichoke

The BCT is looking for people willing to walk 1-2km on a set path each month between March and October to monitor the number of species of bumblebee that they see. This is a total time commitment of 1-2 hours per month. Their website www.bumblebeeconservation.org is full of ideas on what we can do to 'Bee the Change', from introducing insect hotels to planting a wide range of flowers and being a bit slower to weed out the dandelions in the early spring. There you can discover even more amazing things about these wonderful furry insects.

Diana Greer

24Acres Orchard

Because of the hot, dry weather the fruit in the orchard is ripening earlier than usual – but apples are also a bit smaller. The stone fruit trees (plums, damsons, greengages) are also maturing and starting to bear fruit in larger quantities – they aren't ready at the time of writing, but by the end of the first week of September some of them should be ready for picking.

Please go and help yourself. If you aren't sure whether apples are ripe yet, pick just one and take a bite – you'll soon find out whether it is ready for picking and eating! Apples on the ground under a tree is also a good sign that its fruit is ripe.

Maybe if you have a friend or neighbour in the village who you know isn't able to go and pick fruit themselves you could pick a few extra apples/plums for them? It is a 'good' year for wasps, so take care when picking fruit – make sure that the wasps haven't burrowed into the fruit to feed on the side that isn't easily visible.

David Thomas

Burwell Museum



The Museum has been very busy over the last 2 months with both normal visitor open days, events and private visits. We have had 2 school visits and 3 group visits (2 daytime and 1 evening), along with a private group visit with lunch for 27 people from a care home in Essex.

Our event days included our participation in National Mill's Weekend during May and our 'Made in the Fens' craft event in June. At the time of writing, we are hugely excited about getting ready for our popular 1940's event which this year is entitled '1940's Evacuation to Burwell'. This takes place on the 13th July and we hope that many of you were able to join us for this.

As mentioned in our May report, we have a new blacksmith, Ryan. We also have a spinner, Jane and together they bring our exhibits to life as 'living exhibitors'. They have been joining us on our special event days so come along and meet them to learn more about their crafts.





In June, we were saddened to hear about the passing of Andy Martin. He had generously donated many hours of his time to the Museum and our condolences go out to his family and friends. Andy's family collected donations at his funeral for the Museum and we would like to thank them and anyone who donated, it is truly appreciated.

Our event calendar continues with the following lined up in the next couple of months:

Classic Car Show – 17th August

Summer Holiday Workshops – 7th to 28th August

National Heritage – 14th September (free entry)

Entries for our Classic Car Show can still be made by emailing museum@burwellmuseum.org.uk for an entry form.

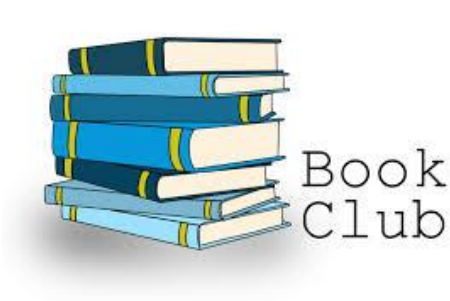
Booking for the Summer Holiday Workshops can be made on our website, but please note that we have a limited number of spaces for each session, so it is recommended you book in advance.

Finally, during the last couple of months we have been joined by several new volunteers and we would like to thank them for coming forward and to our existing volunteer teams for their continued support - without you we couldn't do what we do!

We hope you have a super Summer and look forward to seeing you at the Museum soon.

Burwell Museum Trustees

Dyke's End Book Club



Calling all bookworms! Join our new Dyke's End Book Club.

Here's what you need to know . . . .

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Letter from the Vicarage



I love the summer - more relaxed schedules, outdoor living, light evenings. It's a good time to unwind, connect with friends, family and perhaps at a deeper level, with God. St Etheldreda's church is kept open every day and is often the coolest place around, so do pop in! Our shop and drop-in on the Causeway, Burwell, CentrePeace, is also open during the week so come and browse the books and jigsaws, have a drink and a chat. Summer holidays can bring additional challenges for families with children off school and again this year we will be extending our usual Friday morning Refresh Café, to welcome families with children of all ages. Fun Fridays will be 10am – 12.00pm at St Mary's, from 25th July 26th to 22nd August, with outdoor and indoor activities, alongside our Refresh Café toddler area with refreshments, including a simple lunch. We are also holding a Connect Café session on Wednesday 13th August as another place for families to connect.

Pop-Up Pantry, supported by St Mary's, has run weekly for two years thanks to a team of four volunteers. Now with a smaller team, we are holding monthly Pantry sessions on the first Friday of the month, 2.00 – 3.00pm at Burwell Day Centre, with short life food items, cupboard basics, toiletries & hygiene products, for anyone in financial need to access support without the need for a voucher. In between sessions, we run Pop-Up in the Porch at St Mary's, when we have short life fresh food items to give away, advertised that day on our Facebook page. If you have spare fruit and vegetables from your garden or allotment, we would be happy to distribute via the Pantry, or at the church. Ely Foodbank is continuing to run a weekly session at the Day Centre, with 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.

Looking towards the autumn, we haven't finalised our plans for harvest in Reach. We're looking at an Open Day event, in the afternoon on Sunday 18th October and will publicize nearer the time. 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 3rd August and 7th September. 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.

Pop-Up Pantry
at Burwell Day Centre
First Friday of month
August 1st and September 5th
2.00 - 3.00pm
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Part of Burwell Food Support Group

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10.00am - 12.00pm
25th July - 22nd August
Activities for all ages
Refresh Café toddler area
Refreshments including simple sandwich lunch
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St Etheldreda's Reach
Loving God, Loving People



Open Day at St Etheldreda's Church
Sunday 19th October 2.30 - 4.30pm
- Refreshments
- Meet the team
- Find out about the history
- Explore the building and churchyard
- Harvest activities for children
- Collection for local foodbank
- Harvest songs & prayers at 4.00pm

A very special welcome
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Tales from a Reach Garden



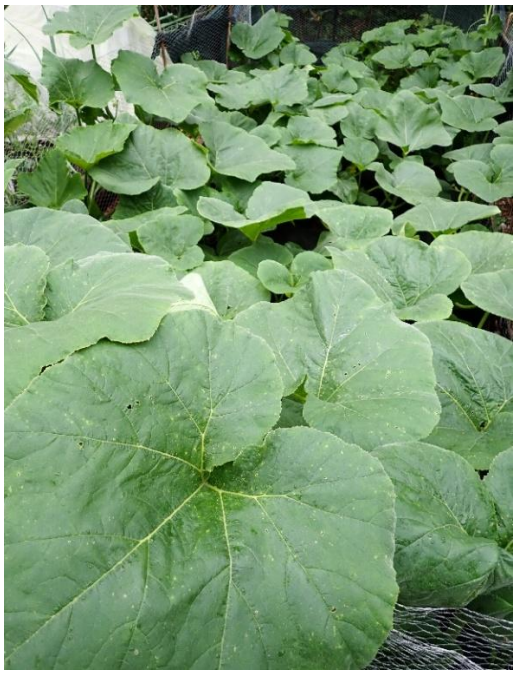
In July last year, we were coping with a very wet summer and a horde of slugs and snails destroying plants not just in our garden but around the country too. This year we're all concerned about the prolonged hot, dry weather and the possibility of drought, although I think we're all relieved to see a few rain showers in the last week. It is difficult to find plants which can cope with this combination of extremes from one year to the next. Many of our Hosta plants, which we have had in the garden for years, coped well with last year's heavy rainfall at first but succumbed to the remorseless attack by slugs and snails: a couple of plants recovered, but the rest have disappeared. The remainder may well die off this year because of the hot dry weather unless we keep them watered. Sun-loving plants – at least, those that survived the wet conditions last year – flower very quickly in the heat and need frequent dead-heading to persuade them to keep flowering; but even they benefit from some watering occasionally. On the other hand, deep-rooted, aromatic mediterranean herbs such as lavender, oregano, thyme, fennel etc., have benefitted from the heat and their flowers are often covered with a variety of bees and butterflies.



Sun-loving pinks appreciate a bit of rain too

In the vegetable garden a lot has happened since May. The first early potatoes have been lifted and many eaten by us – not by slugs this time! The salad potatoes (Jazzy) have also been dug up.

The peas have flowered, cropped and been eaten; the second crop has been eaten too. One crop of radish has been used in salads, the second is nearly finished. Radishes are fast growers – six weeks after sowing they're big enough for salads but it's important not to let them dry out while growing, or they become woody and unpalatable. I sow them in gaps between other, slower-growing vegetables. The strawberries flourished quite early this year and we finished eating them before Wimbledon had even started. The crop of summer raspberries is almost over, as well as the blueberries. We have already started picking autumn raspberries. Broad beans started flowering at the end of May and were picked by mid-July. The squash and pumpkin plants were planted at the end of May and we have butternut squash over a foot long maturing on the plants already. Last year we had to leave butternuts and pumpkins attached to the plants till October to help complete ripening. Cropping in the vegetable garden has been exceptionally busy in June and July this year because of the warm and sunny days since spring.



A mass of leaves ….



…. hiding a large Butternut squash

One crop that hasn't done well this year is the red-flowered runner bean. Runner beans love the cooler and damper conditions of the "typical" English summer of yesteryear (i.e. most summers up to the mid-2010s), but they struggled in the fight against slugs in last year's cool and wet conditions. This year it has been hot and dry and there are plenty of leaves and loads of red flowers on the plants, but if conditions are too dry their embryonic bean pods fall off or they go to seed very quickly – if that's not spotted or the distorted pods aren't removed, all the flowers can fall off.

They do need a lot of watering and Richard also sprays the flowers with water to help set the pods and with a little success, but they are temperamental divas compared to their continental cousins. We're also growing two varieties of French climbing beans: "Cobra" which produces long, slim, cylindrical pods, and "Algarve" a variety that produces long, flat bean pods. Both varieties are cropping much more heavily than the runner beans, even though we planted fewer of them. It's still possible for the runner beans to improve cropping if the summer weather cools down a little or if the weather becomes damper in the next couple of months, but in recent years the weather has become unpredictable and increasingly we're having to sow a mix of different beans in the hope that one variety will cope better with that year's weather conditions to ensure a surplus for freezing. All varieties of bean pods freeze well and they're a delicious vegetable to accompany meals during winter months. They also provide a big yield for a relatively small space so they're good to grow in small gardens too.



A small selection of this year's crop of "Algarve" beans

Danuta Gibson

Reach Cricket Club

I have been plodding over the Alps for much of the past month, so cannot be blamed for many of the defeats listed below – nor, I suppose, claimed credit for the victories. But neither was I witness to them, which never makes for great reporting. I feel like one of those war reporters who, too scared to don a tin hat and get in amongst the action, stays holed up in his room on the 15 floor of the Excelsior Hotel and files his reports based on what he watched on the telly. Except I haven't even been able to watch Reach CC's matches on telly, either. Oh, apart from the one played by the Motley Crew, who twice have turned up at our ground with a video camera and uploaded the whole thing online. You can watch the edited highlights by visiting the **Cricket Team page on the village website** (https://www.reach-village.co.uk/cricket.html), if you like, once the paint has dried in your downstairs loo.

Sunday 25 May Reach 224-7 beat Newmarket Hockey by 3 wickets

Sunday 1 June Motley Crew 296-6 (Ewen Cameron 3-39) beat Reach 287-8 (Michael Mead 62, Chris Mead 67) by 9 runs

Wednesday 4 June Wratting Lions 161-5 beat Reach 147-6 by 14 runs

Sunday 8 June Cam Ceylon 190-9 (Will Day 3-13) beat Reach 181 all out (Tim Davies 103 not out)

Wednesday 11 June Reach 170-7 (Gareth Summerskill 67) beat Haverhill 52 all out (Ben Cooke 5-21) by 118 runs

Sunday 15 June Reach 202-7 beat Theo Clark XI 142 all out by 60 runs

Sunday 22 June Journeymen 211-5 (Tim Davies 3-34) beat Reach 148-8 (Tim Davies 54) by 63 runs

Wednesday 25 June Chesterfords 148-8 beat Reach 143-5 by 6 wickets

Sunday 29 June Reach won 6 a side tournament at Milton for second year running!

Sunday 13 July Barrow 220-8 beat Reach 219-8 by 2 wickets

Wednesday 16 July Reach 103-2 beat Ickleton 101-9 by 8 wickets

Sunday 20 July Camden Casuals 192-7 beat Reach 112 all out by 80 runs

Wednesday 23 July Reach 82-4 beat Wratting Lions 80-8 by 6 wickets

Ross Clark

Village Hall

It won't have gone unnoticed by anyone passing the village green or using the hall recently that it has been a busy few months for improvements, maintenance and repairs to the Village Hall.

Over the years, a number of users have commented that the hall's acoustics can make it difficult to hear a conversation because of the way that sound echoes around its large and open space. To rectify this, noise reduction panels have been attached to the walls.

The restoration of the clock, installation of a full-length mirror (see previous issue of Within Reach) and installation of the acoustic baffles were all carried out following consultation of regular users of the hall to find out what improvements they would like to see.

Outside, the roof of the main hall has been completely retiled with new tiles (but reusing the original Victorian ridge tiles). We also used the opportunity of having the roof off to add insulation to the roof space, so hopefully this will reduce the cost of heating. Both chimneys also needed to be repaired – with a bit of luck they will now be good for another 100 years.

These repairs were financed through a grant from Thalia WB Community Fund (part of the Landfill Communities Fund) and through the generous bequest from the estate of Denis Millard. We will be installing a small plaque in the entrance hall to acknowledge their contributions.

The Village Hall committee would again like to thank David Parr for his contribution to the management of the roofing work and especially the liaison with both the roofer and the donor - and Andrew Towers for his expert advice on technical issues.

David Thomas

Football Report



Bottisham U11 Girls are looking for the next Mary Queen of Stops or to train someone to be that. Do you know anyone?

U11 Bottisham Girls Tournament photos (got to the semi final against Histon and lost in extra time) and end of season awards at The Playground (Waterbeach Barracks Army Assault Course).



Lacey Bridgeman from Reach, voted by the players of the team as Players Player of the Season



Elodie Brown from Reach - Top scorer for the season with 54 goals.

Nathan Bridgeman

njbridgeman78@gmail.com

Burwell and District Flower Club

We meet at the Gardinier Memorial Hall in Burwell, High Street Burwell at 7.15 pm on the second Wednesday of the month, except January and August.

Please join us for all things flowery!

Demonstrations by NAFAS demonstrators, workshops, and talks.

We advertise other events around NAFAS East of England area.

Please refer to our website www.burwellflowerclub.co.uk

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th September - we would love to see you there!

Doreen Robinson

Food Focus

Summery Chicken Options



Apologies to the vegetarians and vegans amongst you, but as ever I'm racking my brains for what to write in here and this idea came to mind after a particularly successful meal the other night and some other influences.

Please do send in possible ideas/requests/research options if you have any, I'm very happy to explore!

Coronation Chicken

So easy and so delicious – I used a good housekeeping recipe for this and bought chicken breasts rather than using left over chicken.

- 6 skinless chicken breasts
- 2 tsp. mild curry powder
- 150 g mayonnaise
- 125 g crème fraiche (I used a combo of this and greek yogurt – mostly the latter)
- 3 Tbsp. mango chutney
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 celery sticks, finely chopped (I hate celery so I didn't put this in)
- 75 g dried ready-to-eat apricots, chopped
- 50 g sultanas (I just stuck with the apricots – I thought it sounded too much)
- 50 g flaked almonds
- Large handful fresh coriander, chopped

Step 1

Put the chicken breasts into a large pan and cover with cold water. Bring to the boil, then turn down the heat and simmer gently for 15min or until the chicken is cooked through (slice a breast in half to check). Drain and leave until completely cool.

Step 2

Meanwhile, heat a small frying pan and toast the curry powder, stirring, until it smells fragrant (about 30 sec). Empty into a large bowl and stir through the next seven ingredients, along with plenty of seasoning.

Step 3

Cut or rip the cooled chicken into bite-sized pieces and add to the mayonnaise mixture, along with most of the flaked almonds and chopped coriander (I actually left these out and put in side dishes for people/fussy children to add their own). Stir well and check the seasoning.

Step 4

To serve, garnish with remaining almonds and coriander. I served it with plain basmati rice, Snakehall green beans, small chilli prepacked beetroot and a salad of roasted butternut squash, aubergine & shallots, cannellini beans, parsley and dressing…delicious if I do say so myself!

Chicken Tikka (from Annas Family kitchen)

Whether you cook these on the barbecue or in the oven, these skewers are a great way to get your takeaway fix at home. Serve them on a bed of rice with raita and Indian style bread and lemon wedges. You can marinade the chicken for up to 48 hours if you want to get ahead but it's not necessary. I typically just combine the chicken with the spices and yogurt, skewer, then cook. You don't actually have to skewer the meat (it can be laid on a lined baking tray and then blasted in a hot oven or under the grill for 25-35 minutes depending on whether you want to use thighs or breast meat) but if cooking on the barbecue it makes the chicken easier to turn

Ingredients for 4-6:

- 1kg chicken thighs or breasts cut into strips (thighs can be cut in half lengthways, breasts cut lengthways into 1cm wide strips)
- 75g Greek yogurt
- 4 garlic cloves crushed
- 1 tbsp chopped ginger
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 tbsp mild chilli powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp salt

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and marinade if you wish.

Skewer the chicken. Either cook on the barbecue for 20 minutes on a medium heat turning every 5 minutes or lay on a lined baking tray.

If using breasts, cook in a hot oven (200 fan) or under the grill for 25 minutes turning the chicken halfway through. If using thighs cook for 35 minutes.

For the Cucumber Raita:

- Half a cucumber chopped into 1cm cubes
- 2 tbsp green or natural yogurt
- 1/4 tsp salt
- Juice of half a lemon

Then simply combine!

Chicken Salad (Annabel Karmel)

I may have put this in Food Focus before, but it's still a regular and a favourite so it can go in again. So simple – left over roast chicken, avocado, tomato, cucumber – roughly in the same quantity in terms of volume or to suit your taste, chopped small and dressed with a couple of tablespoons of Greek yogurt.

Caesar Salad (Mary Berry)

I just roasted a chicken on the side – and put pieces on top before serving



Ingredients

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 slices of day-old white bread, crusts removed, cubed
- 1 romaine lettuce heart, sliced
- 30g/1oz Parmesan cheese, shaved
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the dressing

- 6 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 1½ tbsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ garlic clove, crushed
- a few drops of Worcestershire sauce

Method

1. Heat the olive oil in a non-stick frying pan, add the bread and fry over a high heat for 3–4 minutes until golden-brown. Remove with a slotted spoon, transfer to a bowl and season with salt and pepper.
2. Put all the dressing ingredients in a bowl and beat together until smooth with 1–2 tablespoons water.
3. Toss the romaine lettuce in the dressing and scatter with the toasted croûtons and grated Parmesan.

Catherine Gibson

Burwell Barkers



Danika with Murphy

My name is Danika and I am the person behind Burwell Barkers. I have always loved animals and have grown up around dogs. You'll usually see me out and about either with a dog or saying hello to one!

Burwell Barkers is a newly established business offering dog walking and pet sitting services in and around Burwell, inspired by my own dog Murphy.

We pride ourselves in offering a reliable and trustworthy service and ensuring your pets are happy and healthy while in our care.

Our walks are tailored to suit your dog's needs, varying from strolls through the woods to runs by the river or play sessions in local dog parks. We also offer drop-in services or pet sitting within your home.

Please check out my advert on page 11 of the adverts section of this magazine – it gives contact details . . . .

KD Academy

KD Academy offers high-quality, professional performing arts training for young people across Cambridgeshire and Essex.



Our popular academy runs every weekend during term time. Students are taught in age-specific groups and take part in three one-hour classes: **Acting & Performance, Vocal Technique & Musical Theatre,** and **Dance & Audition Technique**.

We provide exclusive performance opportunities, masterclasses with West End stars, and the chance to shine in full-scale productions. Our experienced and passionate team nurtures each child's unique talent in a vibrant, supportive environment.

Thinking of joining us? Come and experience the magic with a **FREE TASTER SESSION** — spend a week meeting our friendly staff and students and see what it's like to be part of *Team KD*!

Also, KD Academy has a summer school running in August and KD Theatre Productions are already building up to Panto season with Jack and the Beanstalk at The Maltings in Ely this year.

Your stage is waiting — and we can't wait to welcome you!'

Cally Gee

01353 725026
cally@kdacademy.co.uk
www.kdacademy.co.uk

KD are now advertising in our magazine, please have a look at their advert on page 11 of the adverts section of this magazine (Ed}

Know Your Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors are:

Nick Acklam	Councillor
Nathan Bridgeman	Chair
Hilary Fielding	Councillor
Catherine Gibson	Councillor
Edward Hall	Councillor
Tim Quilter	Vice Chair
Vacancy	Councillor
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor
John Trapp	District Councillor
Yannifer Malinowski	County Councillor

Meetings normally take place in the **Village Hall** on the first **Tuesday** of each month. They start at **7.30pm** and all Reach villagers are welcome to attend.

The Parish Council now has its own website which you can access at: https://reachparish.gov.uk/.

You can also get to it from the **Reach Village website** on the **Parish Council page**.

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

Mobile Library

The mobile library 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.





Able Community Care is a Norfolk, family owned, Home Care provider which was established in 1980. We are often asked by our clients, carers and members of the public, questions across a wide range of care issues. Care information is often time-consuming and difficult to access, so we are happy to share some of our questions and answers with you.

Question – I have an elderly relative who lives several hundred miles away from me and we rely mainly on phone calls to keep in touch, but apart from me, she has little contact with anyone else. Someone mentioned that the Silver Line is a support service for older people in her situation, what do they do?

Answer – The Silver Line Helpline run by Age UK is a free, confidential telephone service for older people. The following comes from their website:

We offer friendship, conversation, and support to older people aged 55 and over. Whatever the day or time, you can pick up the phone and speak to one of our friendly Silver Line team members.

Whether you'd like to exchange a quick "Good Morning" with someone, fancy a chat about how your day has gone, or need a trusted listening ear to share your thoughts and feelings with, we're here to talk.

Calls are free on **0800 470 80 90**

Question – Will Age UK help an older person with debts?

Answer - Yes, Age UK can help older individuals struggling with debts. They offer a free Advice Line and have specialist advisors at local Age UK branches who can provide support and guidance. The free Advice Line telephone number is **0800 678 1602, Open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year**, and you can get help with debt and other financial issues.

Angela Gifford, Managing Director

Able Community Care Ltd. The Old Parish Rooms, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TZ
Web: www.ablecommunitycare.com Tel: +44 (0)1603 764567 Fax: +44 (0)1603 761655

Able Community Care Ltd. is registered in England and Wales. Registered number: 07490736.
Registered office: The Old Parish Rooms, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TZ

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Nathan Bridgeman	Chair	Present
Tim Quilter	Vice Chair	Present
Nick Acklam	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Rowan Foster-Marian	Councillor	Not Present
Catherine Gibson	Councillor	Present
Edward Hall	Chair	Not Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present via Teams
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Not Present
John Trapp	District Councillor	Not Present
Yannifer Malinowski	County Councillor	Present

Apologies for absence
Received and approved.

Forum for members of the public
There were none.

Declaration of Interests
There were none

1. Planning Applications
There were none.

2. District Councillor Report
Annual Council meeting
This is the meeting at which the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Council and Committees are elected.
For the Chair of Council, the voting was 14 for the Conservative candidate & 14 for the Liberal Democrat & Independent candidate. The outgoing Chair used his casting vote to elect the Conservative Kelli Pettit.
In all subsequent appointments for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, and for the committees, the voting was fourteen-all, and each time the Conservative Chair used her casting vote in favour of the Conservative candidate.
A motion to the Government to include local opinion in planning was put forward and passed unanimously. The extra funding required for the building of the Mepal Crematorium was debated, and despite strong arguments against the spending of an extra £4m on this project, bringing the total sum to £13m, this was passed, again with the casting vote of the Chair.
Seminar on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
Councillors were presented with the work so far done on LGR; three options had been selected as being the most sensible from the six that were first proposed. Three unitary authorities in Cambs and Peterborough would be too small under the Government guidelines, and that proposal too was eliminated. The three options are:

1. Peterborough City, Huntingdon and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs and East Cambs DCs form another unitary; East-WestPeterborough City, Huntingdon, East Cambs and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs DC form another unitary; horseshoe
2. Peterborough City, East Cambs and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs and Huntingdon DCs form another unitary; North-South

Options 1 and 3 would be about equal in terms of population, whereas Option 2 would be unbalanced in terms of population, but might be acceptable soon since the area surrounding Cambridge is deemed to increase rapidly in size. Parishes will be consulted as to their preference, once more detail is provided.

3. County Councillor Report

Yannifer Malinowski attended the meeting to give an introduction and update on the first month at County Council. Yannifer is the Councillor for 7 PCs and hopes to attend as many meetings as possible. The Councillors appreciated this. Yannifer has been appointed the CCC for the Fire Authority and intends to scrutinise the plans for any BESS, which was very welcome. And also the Lib Dem member at CC on the reorganisation of local government. Unfortunately Central Government have provide a very limited choice for Cambridgeshire. Additionally, Yannifer has already been in contact with the A-B1102 group regarding the new bus service & will feed information both ways with the Combined Authority. The PC noted that Buses would be discussed at the July meeting.

4. Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct.

5.1 Finance

Nothing to report.

5.2 Parish Council Members

Nothing to report.

5.3 Play Spaces

Please see discussion below.

5.4 Rights of Way

Councillor Acklam has been corresponding with Highways with regard to getting more road planings at Straight Drove.

5.5 24Acres Committee

Nothing to report.

5.6 Friends Of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

5.7 A to B1102 Group

The 2 new services, T4 & T5 have started. There have been some reports of a few problems which seem to stem from some lack of driver familiarity with the new routes. A-B1102 are trying to monitor and coordinate these comments and feed them back to both the bus companies and CPCA. Please pass on any comments you receive.

There is also some uncertainty about a further road closure at Fulbourn and the impacts of this.
The CPCA are due to do a review of the new services in July with the aim of implementing any amendments in time for the new academic year. It is really important that we receive feedback as part of this process. This is unlikely to change the fundamental approach of having the fast bus into Cambridge but we may see tweeks around timings.

It was noted that there was Hopper ticket confusion with drivers and uncertainty regarding the continuation of use of the bus from Addenbrookes to Hills Road. An email will be sent and notices on Facebook and the PC website asking for comments regarding the service prior to the July meeting discussion.Nature Recovery Plan
Nothing to report

5.8 Hythe Restoration Group

Councillor Acklam reported that he had chased AW for a reply to the letter sent, and will continue to do so until a response is received.

5.9 Website & public communications

Please see discussion below.

5.10 Energy developments in the locality

Grenergy had provide good & really useful responses to the written questions sent. Available from ***The Clerk***. It was also noted that they are now fully engaged with the NT at reginal level, who are also commenting on a BESS and solar proposal by Burwell Lode. The NT are starting to put together a strategic plan, which is welcome. Additionally, Burwell PC now seem to be looking at the bigger picture, rather than each individual application.
Kingsway Aggressive behaviour by Kingsway officers to landowners with regard to accessing land for survey work has been reported locally and elsewhere in the proposed development area. Contrary to their assertions, Kingsway officials do not have an automatic right of access to private land.

It seems likely that Kingsway will propose a line of pylons running parallel to the existing pylons that cross Burwell Road and into the Weirs Drove substation. The proposed new line of pylons would very probably run on the Reach side of the existing pylons and would therefore be much more visible to villagers. Approval for the installation of these pylons and the construction of a second substation at Burwell would increase the likelihood of further solar panel and battery storage developments in our area.
An update had been received from West Wratting PC which is coordinating opposition in the areas where Kingsway proposes to install solar panels. The update contained invitations for the PC to join a suggested alliance of Parish Councils opposed to the scheme and the Kingsway Solar Community Action (KSCA) which is already actively campaigning against the scheme.
Although the PC was keen to stay up to date with activities in opposition to Kingsway's proposal and was willing to attend meetings, Councillors felt they could not commit to joining an alliance and KSCA without a clearer sense about how the village felt about the proposal, not least, as there would be financial implications in joining.
Councillor Acklam will respond to West Wratting PC accordingly. ***Councillor Acklam*** will also attend a surgery of Parish Councillors organised by Charlotte Cane MP to raise concerns about the manner in which energy schemes are being progressed locally.

6. Approve Annual Governance Statement
Agreed and signed.

7. Approve the Accountancy statement
Agreed and signed. ***Clerk*** to return the necessary papers to the external Auditor and make the required documents available for public inspection.

8. Play spaces annual inspection report
The inspection of the playground and swings on The Green had been carried out in May, and a report received. A quote for works had also been received. Most items on the report were low or very low risk. ***Councillor Bridgeman*** to report back at the next meeting, which if any, of the items are urgent now or would be financially beneficial to do now. Additional quotes will then be obtained. It was felt due to insurance and liability; professionals should undertake any work.
It was also pointed out that the large projects that take place within the village are very beneficial but also add additional maintenance costs for the PC.Communications to the village & the website
Communications to the village is still an ongoing & urgent issue. ***Councillor Quilter*** to look at the process of adding items to the website. Issues with the PC email accounts also need to be rectified. ***Clerk*** to liaise with Councillor Hall.

9. Payback workers, how can they be used
The Councillors are keen to take advantage of the payback workers scheme. ***All Councillors*** to suggest any areas of the village that may benefit and feedback to ***Councillor Acklam,*** who will contact the organisers and establish which tasks are appropriate and how the scheme works with regard to monitoring the workers and liability.

10. Payment

E.on – Power on the green	£17.64
CR Contracting - Mowing contract	£281.00
H.A.S – Audit	£486.00
Shaun Reader – Hedge works	£220.00
Fenland leisure - Play spaces inspection	£144.00

Payments approved. ***Councillor Hall*** to authorise. Councillor Bridgeman to be added to signatories. ***Clerk*** to arrange.

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7.30pm

Unfortunately, the minutes of this meeting were not available in time for this issue of the magazine..

The next meeting of Reach Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 5th of August in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Diary Dates

August	Event	Location	Time
Sunday 3	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 5	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 5	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 12	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 14	Book Club	Dyke's End Pub	7.00pm
Tuesday 19	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Wednesday 20	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Tuesday 26	Recycling Day (Blue)		
September	**Event**	**Location**	**Time**
Tuesday 2	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 2	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 7	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 9	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 16	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Wednesday 17	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Tuesday 22	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 29	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		

Grant Fund

The structure of the new Grant Fund team is as follows:

Chair: Hilary Fielding
Secretary: Grahame Radford
Treasurer: Edward Hall
Member: Catherine Gibson



They can be contacted by email using reachgrantfund@gmail.com

or you can call Grahame on 01638 742814 or deliver applications to 14 Ditchfield.

The team is in the process of reviewing and updating the paperwork and the village website will be updated accordingly in due course.

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

In Memoriam Andy Martin.

Andy posed for this photo for the Oct/Nov 2019 edition of the magazine. The older photo (c1960) is of 'Punch' King, the brother of Wilf King, the landlord of the 'White Horse'.

Both unique local characters of their time.

Chris Patterson

Contact Information

Parish Council – see "Know Your Parish Council"			
Village Hall			
	Chair	David Thomas	01638 742676
	Finance	Andrew Trump	01638 743335
	Bookings	Diana Greer	rvhcb25@gmail.com
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







