Within Reach



October/November 2025





It was a superb day - and huge thanks go to Cris and her helpers.

Reach (and Cris!) know how to party; and the weather was kind to us.

£765 was raised and sent to Macmillan, thanks go to all those who donated the lovely prizes.

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From the Editor



As I write this, the sun is shining buts it is clear that autumn is on its way. We can soon start looking forward to our Christmas Events but in this issue we also look back very fondly at our two recent village events, firstly our Afternoon Tea on the Green (front and inside front cover) closely followed by Sports Day (back cover). This village is very good at enjoying itself!

Very shortly we have Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th October, followed on Sunday 19th October with an Open Day at the Church and then "Wear it Pink" in the Village Hall on the afternoon of Friday 24th October. To see more details of what is going on during the remainder of the year, have a look at "Events in Reach" on page 14 and the "News and Events" page of the village website.

On a more mundane note, check out Alex's Village Update on Page 3 where she is talking rubbish. I don't know about you, but I love wheelie bins – they have to be in my top ten of useful inventions. And now we're going to get another one! Exciting!

And on a more serious note, please check out the Flyer in this issue which will bring you up to date with the Kingsway Solar Farm. Please pay attention to the "What can we do?" section and act accordingly should you so wish.

On a much lighter note, it'll soon be the Panto season and recently I was lucky enough to attend an event in the Poet's House Ely, where KD Theatre launched their 2025 Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. If the event itself (12th December to 4th of January) is anywhere near as good as the Press Launch that I went to, then people are in for a real treat! Their advert is on page 15 and it shows you how to book (website or phone).



David Parr

About the Magazine

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

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

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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



Probably because I've always been linked to the school year, but this time of year always seems like the start of a new chapter. This September I've been having a good clear out to start fresh – I've even sorted the loft! The boots and thicker coats are out and I'm loving watching the changing colours in Reach wood. Plus, there's something very comforting about the cosy evenings and extra blankets! Hurrah for autumn!

Changes to our bins coming next June

Residents across East Cambridgeshire are being asked to plan ahead for new bin changes coming in next June. The aim is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, cut carbon emissions and prevent litter escaping out of black sacks onto the streets and into our environment. From June 2026 residents will benefit from:

1. Weekly food waste collections. The council will send a kitchen caddy to collect food waste and a larger outdoor caddy to transfer it into for collection.
2. The first year's supply of caddy liners, for free.
3. A new black wheeled bin for any rubbish that cannot be recycled, this replaces black bin bags and will be collected every 2 weeks.
4. Soft plastics like carrier bags, film lids, salad and vegetable packaging can be added to your existing blue household recycling bins.
5. The council will continue to collect garden waste for free, but from 1 June, all food waste will need to go into your new food waste caddy.

There are over 40,000 properties affected by the changes so deliveries of the new bins will start from mid-March 2026. You'll get a full information pack and if there are any changes to the collection day, the council will let you know.

In the meantime, residents who need to talk to the council about any of the following, are asked to get in touch by 30 November 2025, so it can resolve any issues before the bins are delivered:

- **Not enough space for bins** - Most households can easily accommodate the bins. If you don't have room, please get in touch.
- **Help with moving the bins** - If no one in your household is able to move the bins, there is still time to apply for an assisted waste collection. If you already receive an assisted collection service you don't need to register again, the council will ensure your new bins are covered.
- **Request a larger black bin** - Your new black bin will hold around 3 bags of rubbish which should be enough for most households. The council appreciate some households are larger or have additional needs and despite recycling all they can, produce more rubbish. It can provide a larger bin if there is a clear need and certain criteria are met.



More information about the new bin service, along with details on how to get in touch about issues, is available on the waste and recycling pages of the council's website. Anyone who is not online can call 01353 665555. The council may not be able to give you an immediate response, but all enquiries will be processed by 31 January 2026.

Quality of Life Survey reveals how residents are feeling

Cambridgeshire County Council conducted its third Quality of Life survey which shows that Cambridgeshire residents continue to feel happy and safe in their communities with a strong sense of belonging. This year, 6,796 residents shared their views from across the county. The results provide valuable insights into residents' wellbeing and how they're feeling about the communities and public services around them.

Key findings from the 2025 survey:

- 84% of residents say they feel happy – this figure has remained consistent over three years.
- 85% feel safe in their community.
- 76% feel a sense of belonging to their local community.
- 30% say they often feel lonely and 28% reported struggling with their mental health – younger age groups were more likely to report these concerns.
- 87% of residents reporting that they personally feel concerned about the cost of living

Key findings about the County Council this year, included:

- Residents continue to be very satisfied with library services (89%), registration services (87%), and waste management (82%).
- 58% of residents trust the council to make decisions about local services - a 6% increase on last year and higher than the national benchmark of 50%.
- 47% believe the council provides value for money – up from 41% last year.
- Satisfaction with roads and pavements has risen to 28%, up from last year's figure of 21%.

While concerns around cost of living, climate change and access to jobs remain high, many residents also recognised improvements in council services and reported having greater trust in the County Council. The survey showed that loneliness and mental health are also areas of concern for some residents, particularly for young people and the council will be looking to undertake further analysis in the coming months to gain more of an understanding of these concerns.

The survey highlighted residents' top priorities for improving quality of life, with better road maintenance, more affordable housing, improved public transport and easier access to GP's.

You can read the survey at:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey

Plans for network of farm reservoirs to solve water shortage

East Cambridgeshire District Council is spearheading a new campaign to take decisive action to address the region's urgent water supply challenges. Working with local farmers, it wants to see a network of new and existing agricultural reservoirs set up to capture excess winter water, currently pumped out to sea. Linked by existing drainage systems, the reservoirs would have the potential to provide millions of litres of much needed water during the dry summer months. This practical, nature-based approach also aims to reduce flood risk and support agriculture during times of drought, all while enhancing biodiversity and helping to restore the unique landscape of the Fens. The council estimates new reservoirs could be delivered in under three years for a cost of between £2 and £3 million each. The council has commissioned a report into the feasibility of the initiative, which has been undertaken by the Eastern Powerhouse supported by evidence from a team at the University of Cambridge as well as feedback from parish councils and local farmers. Rather than waiting for major national infrastructure projects that may take decades, the proposal focuses on capturing excess winter water - currently pumped out to sea - and storing it in mid-sized reservoirs.

There are already more than 80 reservoirs operating across the district and many are fully licenced and integrated into the Internal Drainage Board network. With modest investment, several could be upgraded and others newly built to provide vital water supplies. These would be faster, cheaper and more environmentally friendly than the large-scale alternatives. The council are working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and others to develop a full feasibility study and business case, as well as lobbying government and industry regulators to back this local initiative.

Keep well and enjoy the autumnal colours!

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

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

Sports Day

Blessed by gorgeous weather and cakes left over from the tea party the day before, this year's sports day had a fantastic turn out for a really fun afternoon. Races ranged from the standard sprints and a marathon to the traditional three legged and wheelbarrow races, to the more bizarre slow bike race and the potato race (which involves taking shoes off and the rules change every year!).



It was so lovely to see all the children taking part in some good old-fashioned silliness and the attitude and kindness of all the competitors was fabulous – no one was ever left without a partner and all the smaller children had oodles of helpers. Such a wonderful display of sportsmanship from all – thank you!

After the highly exciting egg toss event, we headed back to the Village Hall to finish up with some sausages and burgers and the all-important prizegiving. Thanks go to Tash and Lisa for their help with organising and cooking and Lacey who painted the lines for us!

Photos of this lovely annual event can be found on the back cover of this magazine.

Well done to our winners – and to everyone who took part!

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

Cambridge Fire and Rescue

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
Working together to improve community safety

Stay fire safe in your kitchen

More than half the fires crews attend in the home start in the kitchen. This can be down to a number of things. Below are some simple safety tips to help you stay fire safe in the kitchen:

- Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking on the hob. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking.
- Don't store items on top of hobs.
- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out – so they don't get knocked off the stove.
- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.

Come along to one of our Older Driver Workshops

We are hosting a series of Older Driver Workshops throughout October and November. These are free sessions designed for those over 65 and currently driving, to help them keep driving safely for longer. We discuss how driving can become more challenging as we get older and what simple checks we can do at home to keep ourselves fit to drive. This interactive, two-hour session covers:

- Age-related changes when driving
- Eyesight and driving
- Conducting a vehicle check
- License renewal
- Signs to be aware of
- Alternatives to driving

Visit our website (https://bit.ly/4n4hBoG) to find out more and book your place.

Get your chimney swept and keep your home fire safe!

The Service attends around 50 fires a year involving chimneys, most of which could be avoided by following some simple safety tips:

- Appoint a skilled and technically competent chimney engineer. To find your nearest local HETAS Approved Chimney Sweep visit: https://www.hetas.co.uk/find-chimney-sweep/
- Keep the flue shafts clear and ensure they are well maintained
- Only use properly treated wood to build a fire
- Always use a fireguard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers
- Make sure embers are properly put out before you go to bed.

We always advise getting your chimney swept at least once a year, preferably before lighting it for the first time when the cold weather arrives. There could be a buildup of debris that's accumulated over the year, which can be set alight when heating the home and could cause a significant fire.

Some will also be looking at using a chimney for the first time, that may not have been used for many years. It is really important to make sure it is swept and inspect the brickwork before lighting it for the first time.

Help your local community – become an on-call firefighter!

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking to recruit more on-call firefighters to help local communities by responding to emergencies.

On-call firefighters are a vital part of your fire and rescue service. They respond to a wide range of incidents, from fighting fires and attending road traffic collisions to recuing people and animals in need. They also respond to medical emergencies.

In addition to responding to emergency incidents, on-call firefighters support their communities by providing a range of safety advice helping people to keep safe in their homes.

Being an on-call firefighter has many benefits. As well as being paid an annual wage and for the time spent at incidents or training, there are also opportunities to develop first aid skills and heavy goods vehicle driving qualifications.

Find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter by visiting our website: https://bit.ly/CFRSOncall

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.

MP Update

I've been working hard both in Westminster and across Ely and East Cambridgeshire to champion the issues that matter most to our communities.

One of the biggest concerns I continue to hear about is poor broadband and mobile signal. I raised this directly with Minister Chris Bryant and the Chair of Building Digital UK, sharing your frustrations and concerns about the conduct of contractors working on Project Gigabit. I've secured a commitment from BDUK to investigate, and I'll be following up to ensure your voices are heard.

Transport remains another key issue. I've joined fellow Lib Dem MPs in calling for a freeze on rail fares. With services often delayed or cancelled, it's simply not fair to ask commuters to pay more. A fare freeze would be a step towards a more reliable, affordable rail network.

In Parliament, I've spoken up for families and children in several important debates. I called for better support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and urged the Government to reverse cuts to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund. These are lifelines for many families in our area and I'll keep pushing for long-term certainty and fairness.



I also led a debate on supporting neurodivergent people into work (pictured above). I shared inspiring examples from our local schools and businesses that are already making a difference. Everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive and I've asked the Government to update its guidance so that disclosure and support reflect real-world experiences.

Closer to home, I joined Cambridgeshire's Rural Crime Action Team on shift during Rural Crime Action Week. It was a valuable insight into the challenges they face and I've called for more funding so they can provide a 24-hour service to keep our rural communities safe.

I've also been advocating for our environment. I visited the dried-up River Snail with Cllr Yannifer Malinowski and raised the issue of chalk stream protection in Parliament. These unique waterways are vital to our biodiversity - and I'll continue pressing for action. I also challenged the Prime Minister to commit to a Land Use Framework, something that would help balance the needs of farming, housing, energy and nature.

Supporting our local economy is another priority. I visited Cambridge's Biomedical Campus to hear about their expansion plans and the infrastructure improvements needed to support growth. I also visited a local sugar beet farm to discuss the future of British farming and visited the East Anglian Air Ambulance to learn more about their vital work.

My team and I have now closed over 7,400 cases where constituents have asked me for help, information or advice and we're always here if you need support. Constituents are warmly welcomed to book a slot with me at an upcoming surgery, booking online here https://bit.ly/bookasurgery or by getting in touch using the details below.

Finally, if you haven't yet taken part in my local health survey, there's still time, your feedback helps shape my work on improving NHS services in our area. It's possible to complete the survey here: ecld.org.uk/healthsurvey.

P.S. Keep up to date with my work for Ely & East Cambridgeshire by signing up to my newsletter here: bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte

Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire
charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601

Rosanna's Ramblings



It's dawn and I'm on the Isle of Skye. We've come here for a week, staying in the house generously offered for our use by a friend, to rest and recuperate after a challenging and exhausting few months.

What is it about getting away from home that makes such a difference? Of course, I've taken a week off work. And Charles, having already written and sent off to his publishers another book since his surgery on 3 July, hasn't even brought his laptop with him! Milo, having had his 7am breakfast, has been let out the back door for a comfort break and has added to his comfort by rolling delightedly in some sheep poo – so he's enjoying the change of scene too. So much, so obvious.



But there's more to it. My mind is constantly casting back five years. Almost to the day, we were leaving our beloved Iona to head back to Reach in one long, long day of ferry (masked), drive across Mull, ferry (masked), 12 hour drive back from Oban avoiding service stations. We had been overwhelmed with excited relief to discover that the island had opened up to visitors in the autumn of 2020 and had immediately booked and undertaken the 575 mile journey with some trepidation after those long months of sequestered localism. I remember writing about it in Rosanna's Ramblings 16 (this one is number 61, how apposite!).

I remember describing that feeling of seeing home life from afar, diagonally across Scotland and England, as if through the wrong end of a telescope. A microcosm revealed in all its treasured detail, like looking close-up at the ground under one's feet and seeing the wonderful variety of plant life previously under appreciated. Because back then, when our lives were so tipped up and bewildered by the pandemic, from Iona, Reach looked like a marvel and thing of wonder. All that kindness and community support. The food deliveries, and talking to friends across the river, the care and concern. The ease of stepping out of the door and walking for miles without having to worry about being in potentially dangerous close contact with others.

Vaccines were still being developed, hopes and plans for the future were still unsettlingly on hold, confidence in normal expectations was at an all-time low.

That view from afar was exceptionally nourishing and reassuring, but I needed to have pulled that boot out of the deep patch of squelchy Reach mud and walked on wet white Hebridean shelly sand for a bit in order to get my perspective back and return home glad to be there.

So, given that we've been back up to Scotland every year since 2020, why is my mind sending me back to 2020 so much right now? I suspect it's because 2025 has had quite a lot of the same vibe to it for us, on a personal, domestic level rather than a global one. We'd had to cancel not one, but two holidays planned for earlier this year, while waiting for Charles's diagnosis, surgery and possible (but in the end not needed) chemo. And in fact, it wasn't just holidays jettisoned. It was the necessity of pausing any plans at all for months on end and living a much more muted and contained life, that reminded me so much of the early months of the pandemic. We had booked to go away to Orkney, Achiltibuie and Skye for three weeks in May and I had of course blanked out my work diary in order to do this. When it became obvious that we couldn't make that trip and we were in the midst of so much uncertainty, I decided to stay off work anyway and we rather hunkered down. It felt so much like the first lockdown. Plans cancelled. Great anxiety about what was ahead. Strange feeling of calm. Although there was one big difference. Traffic. It made me nostalgic for that beautiful peacefulness which meant that a passing car caused up to look out of the window in confusion. Who was that? Where were they going?

So here we are on Skye and I'm trying to put a bit back into my very depleted energy bank balance. In bed at 8pm with a book last night, asleep by 9pm, up at dawn to feed Milo and write this. Such a lot to do today! Wash, dress, have breakfast.

Get into the car, at some point, to catch a ferry for the island of Raasay just across the sound (you can see it in the photo). A walk. Some fishing for Charles. Some knitting in the car for me. Catch ferry back. Make dinner. Early to bed. Sigh. Repeat tomorrow, minus the ferry. In fact, I might just suggest to Charles that he go off fishing somewhere on his own and leave me here to walk the dog, read, knit, snooze. I'm so aware that it's Tuesday and next Tuesday I'll be back at work. I feel an urgent imperative to get that rest in. But it's not so straightforward, insomniac that I am, to be able to guarantee rest. So, I might have to settle for the benefits of the 'change' part of the change being as good as a rest. I'm trying very hard to keep off social media as much as possible, because of the horrors in Gaza. The political world continues to be dangerously troubling; the climate emergency is unaffected by our break away. And … and … the dawn here has been heartbreakingly beautiful; the torrential rain of last night has turned into a morning that promises a dry, bright day of manageable wind; my walking total is 1,567km out of the 2,025km I've set myself to walk this year; and right now, my heart and mind are, nearly, in a state of grateful ease. I'll take that as a grand start to my day!

Rosanna Moseley-Gore

Able Community Care



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 1

I feel I have a hearing problem but cannot afford to purchase hearing aids. Can I get them for free from the NHS? I am a pensioner.

Answer – The first step to take is to contact your GP who can refer you to a hospital or a local audiology service for a hearing test and assessment. In some NHS areas, if you are over 55 you can directly refer to the audiology service.

If you are assessed as needing hearing aids, then the NHS will provide. If you have NHS hearing aids, you can get free replacement batteries from any hospital audiology or ENT department.

There are often waiting lists for the audiology service. There is also the opportunity to purchase hearing aids privately if you are able to do so.

Question 2

I have a life insurance policy; when I die, will the proceeds of the policy be tax free?

Answer - The payout from a life insurance policy is typically tax-free and not subject to income or capital gains tax. However, if the payout is part of your estate, it might be subject to inheritance tax unless it's set up in a trust. (Money Saving Expert.Com).

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The Swaffhams' WI

For those of us lucky enough to have got away for a few days this summer, just think about how much preparation this took: booking the tickets and the place to stay, packing while making sure that the case is not overweight, organising the cat, making sure the fridge is emptied out, packing for the children etc etc. Now spare a thought for those courageous people who took up the challenge to travel 2,000 miles from the east coast of America over to the relatively uninhabited west coast in the mid-1800s. Between 1843 and 1860, starting in April and arriving in October, thousands of families crossed America in wagons to start a new life. Kevin Boardman, in full Oregan trail regalia, brought to life at our August WI meeting just how dangerous and difficult this challenge was.

In the mid-1800s America was very much settled in the east but the middle and the west were relatively uninhabited. The American Government bought the middle section off the French for a pittance and then started planning how to coax people to move to the west. The plan was to encourage married couples to make the 2,000-mile trek. To enable this, married couples were allowed to claim up to 640 acres at no cost and in addition to this, half of the land would be in the husband's name and half in the wife's – very unusual for the time.

Each family took two wagons which contained everything they needed for the 6-month journey: enough food supplies for 6 months, tools, weapons, spare parts etc. The wagons were 12ft long and 3.6ft wide and were pulled by oxen or mules. The families walked by the side of the wagon (2,000 miles!) with just the driver sitting up top. These families on the Oregan Trail were not cowboys but were doctors, farmers, midwives, carpenters, blacksmiths etc. and more than 20,000 people died on the trail. The biggest dangers were from drowning, crush injuries, disease (cholera and dysentery), firearm accidents, adverse weather and snakebites. In opposition to the Hollywood portrayal, very few of these travellers were killed by the native Indians.
The trail began relatively flat but the last stage was over the Rockies and the Blue Mountains. Kevin stressed that there was more chance of dying in the last 2 days, where the wagons had to be put on a raft and sailed down the rapids, than in the previous 182 days. On arriving in Oregan, life was still hard: you would stake your claim, build a log cabin, clear your land and try and survive for the first year until the crops could bring food and money. Over 20 plus years, thousands of people made this journey leaving loved ones and possessions behind, knowing that they would never be reunited. Could you have been one of the trail blazers preparing the way for future generations? Would you have had it in you to survive?

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th September. This is our annual outing and this year we are visiting the Cambridge Mosque. Our October meeting will be on Monday 20th October and our speaker is Gareth Davies who will be talking on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire Bellringer'. Gareth is a highly entertaining and knowledgeable speaker and it is set to be a fun and inspirational evening. Do please 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 October!

Kate Muscroft

katemuscroft@gmail.com

Thames Bridges Trek Ultra Challenge Complete!



On Saturday 12th September I went on a walk. It was probably one of the longest day walks that I've done, 15 miles from Putney Bridge to Tower Bridge along the river Thames and across the 12 bridges in between. I did it because I quite like a good bridge or two, needed to get fit and because I wanted to raise awareness and if possible, some funding for the Teenage Cancer Trust (TYA) Teenage Cancer Trust | UK Cancer Charity.

I think I achieved all of that and in the process raised over £1,000 for the TYA. I owe a BIG thank you to everyone who contributed their support in a variety of ways, you are all amazing! And it was a really nice walk as well!

Kate Day

Nature in Reach



The shift from summer to autumn is now well under way with cooler and damper conditions and with wildlife actively and visibly preparing for the winter. However, much of the period was characterised by exceptionally warm, sunny and dry weather.

Summer 2025 was the warmest on record, building on the warmest and sunniest spring on record and driven by static high-pressure systems, warm seas and dry soils. The period was marked by several persistent heatwaves.

Anglian Water has reported that the East of England had seen its lowest spring and summer rainfall levels since 1976, making it the third driest season since 1899. The unsettled weather and heavy rain showers from late August, whilst welcome, will not have corrected very low ground water levels.

In previous articles I have taken a gloomy view of the impact of exceptionally hot dry weather on wildlife. The impact of the summer is certainly visible; limes, oaks and maples have gone into autumn-mode early, shedding leaves and occasionally branches. Local oaks have generated abundant acorns and fruit trees have generally cropped very heavily this year. Many commentators have seen this as signs of stress. Kevin Walker, Head of Collections at Kew Gardens, has noted that whilst early leaf drop works well as a survival strategy if droughts arise once a decade, the long term health of trees facing these conditions every two or three years is much more uncertain.

However, in the short term, the reports below suggest that nature in Reach managed to get by, with some species prospering.

I start with mention of white admiral and silver washed fritillary butterflies in Bradfield Wood in Suffolk on 13 July. This is, of course, well outside our parish but the memory of so many beautifully patterned insects lingers and a similar abundance of butterflies was also observed in Reach.

19 July: The pungent remains of a large fish sit on the banks of the catchwater opposite the Hythe. It is pale beige in colour with large scales but, as much of it had been eaten, hard to identify. I suspect it is the work of an otter. Nathan Bridgeman suggests that the fish was probably a Zander.

Our soft fruit picking draws out more wasps than in recent years. 2024 seemed virtually wasp free. A YouGov survey of 2021 identified wasps as the most disliked insect in the UK. I may therefore be in a minority but I am glad to see this seeming recovery. It is good for agriculture and the environment to see this apex insect predator recover.

In mid-August Penny Greenhill reports at least twelve visits from hornets, all at night when the insects are attracted to the light of her conservatory. Hornets, both European and Asian or yellow legged, are increasing in numbers and expanding north although I am not aware of any Asian hornets being seen locally.

22 July: A pair of wall brown butterflies decorate our garden.

23 July: In the late evening a bat flies low past our open kitchen door taking insects drawn to the light. The hedgehog resident in our garden is active in the gloom.

24 July: A female sparrow hawk has a young wood pigeon pinned to the tarmac in the centre of the Burwell Road outside the Manchetts' house. I sit in the car waiting for it to do something. It had begun plucking the pigeon but paused on my arrival. A stand-off ensues. Cars pile up behind me and as I get out to explain the blockage, the sparrow hawk and the pigeon take flight.

25 July: Michael Allan reports seeing a hummingbird hawk moth on Burwell Fen. He is very taken by it's ability to hover and change direction at will. Charles Moseley sights a hummingbird hawkmoth and a Jersey Tiger three days later. On 30 July Hilary Fielding spots a Jersey Tiger in her garden. Both species migrate into England in warmer summers and it is no surprise that these reports come during a spell of higher temperatures and a prevailing southerly breeze. I spot a hummingbird hawk moth on 3 September, taking nectar from sedum flowers in the borders in front of the Greers' cottage. Butterflies continue to flourish on the knapweed and scabious on the track between Reach Wood and the allotments (see below).



28 July: In short succession, I see a yellowhammer and a yellow wagtail in the Pocket Park. The first is a robust common resident, the second, a delicate and rare summer visitor. Both are very yellow.

29 July: There is a large and noisy flock of blackbirds in the trees at the tip of the Hythe. This is unusual. Blackbirds are not reported to gather in numbers at this time of year, it being more of a winter phenomenon. I can see no reason for the gathering.

Dafila Clutton-Brock mentions that it has been a good year for insect and arachnids. Having left half of their lawn to rewild, the Clutton-Brocks have very much enjoyed seeing more butterflies and other insects. As autumn commenced, they see beautiful large webs of garden spiders, sometimes with the spider in the middle but more often not. In August, they found a wasp spider, only two centimetres long, but very striking to look at.

4 August and for several days thereafter: A red underwing moth takes up residence in our dining room.

10 August: Large flocks of jackdaws are visible, combing the harvested fields around the village. The local jackdaw population appears to be increasing strongly.

11 August: We evict a strikingly large and almost entirely black bumblebee from our kitchen. I would like to think that it was a ruderal bumblebee which is very rare in the UK but, as no expert, I have to conclude that it was probably the commoner garden bumblebee which can sometimes look very similar.

18 August: The chinking alarm call of a Cetti's warbler hidden in a hawthorn on Straight Drove in the twilight.

19 August: The swifts, whose screaming calls and scathing flight characterise summer in Reach, seem to have disappeared overnight although Dafila subsequently reports that one pair stayed on until 9 September, presumably with a late brood. Overall, the view of human hosts is that it has been a good breeding year for swifts. Dafila mentions that about a dozen nested in their swift hotel, although she can't be sure how many of them fledged young.

25 August: Two unidentified finches mob a sparrow hawk over the catch water in the early dusk

26 August: My Merlin birdsong app identifies a linnet and a bearded tit calling from lode-side reeds close to the cycle bridge. Bearded tits are present at Wicken Fen but this is a rare identification in our parish.

30 August: Swallows are gathering in large groups over Burwell Road. Nearby there are also large flocks of goldfinches.

31 August: Penny reports a huge female sparrow hawk flying very close and onto the Greenhills' bird feeders. She comments that luckily the sparrow hawk spotted her and flew off without a greenfinch or goldfinch.

1 September: A flock of long-tailed tits calls from the hawthorn hedge of the edge of Tubney Fen. A sign that autumn is on the way.

6 September: Large numbers of young swallows (identified by the lack of elongated tail feathers) circle over the village, presumably a prelude to migrating south.

8 September: After a notable lull during the height of summer, bird song has resumed. Robins and Cetti's warblers are prominent. Dafila also reports the return of robin song, seeing it as a herald of autumn. Chiffchaffs continue to be heard around the village. Formerly this would have been the last sounds of what was previously considered a summer visitor. However, recent warmer winters have led to growing number of chiffchaffs staying in England. I have yet to see or hear any locally in winter though.

10 September: I see a large dead hedgehog on Great Lane and curse its ill luck. It had clearly been caught by one of the few vehicles travelling through the village overnight. I draw some comfort from the growing number of hedgehog sightings in the village and my hope that they are making a slow recovery.

Joss Goodchild summarises her experience of local wildlife this summer:

'We have a healthy returning rabbit population in and around the field with youngsters surviving the latest pox. The usual squirrels and hares are seen on the field margins and muntjac, roe and foxes are all seen around the village. A barn owl and tawny are spied near Reach Wood. We have a large flock of vocal house sparrows in our garden along with the usual dunnocks, blue tits, wood pigeon etc. There are, though, noticeably fewer collared doves and blackbirds'.

Nick Acklam

Reach Riders

The arena is being well used by our members and lessons continue with Lucy Tuck on a Saturday morning.

We are having terrible trouble with the rabbits and our committee members have been working hard to keep filling the holes.

In the meantime, Claire Halpin has been looking to get a quote for some rabbit fencing which we know is expensive, but we are hoping to apply for a community grant to help with funding this.

It's lovely to welcome new members and we have had a few recently, so welcome and enjoy the facilities

Sue Cameron

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



Our club meetings commenced on Tuesday 9th September 2023 with a Welcome Evening for returning and new members. This was a special Social Celebration of last season when Cups and Trophies were presented to the award winners of our Annual Print and Projected Digital Image competitions. The award-winning print photographs were displayed and the digital images projected, together with a selection of work entered in the internal competitions during the year.

As we continue our meetings for the new season, we look forward to many great speakers who will talk about a varied range of subject matter from Deep Sky Astrophotography, An Evening of Panels, Passing for Scapes and Dalmatian Pelikans of Lake Kerkini. There will also be internal print and projected digital image competitions which will be judged by independent judges travelling from the north and south of East Anglia. Our forthcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

30th September: Taken on the Club Outing. A competition of 4 images taken on the day of our outing on 8th June to compete for The Metcalfe Trophy.

7th October: PDI League Competition No. 1

14th October: Portrait Workshop led by club member John Wilderspin ARPS AFIAP

21st October: "Passion for Scapes" – lecture on Zoom by Kevin Pigney DPAGB, Burwell

28th October: "Dalmatian Pelikans of Lake Kerkini" Projected images presented by Alison Jenkins ARPS DPAGB CPAGB/AV BPE1

Our meetings are held Tuesdays at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD, from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, the third Tuesday in each month being held via Zoom conferencing. If you are interested in joining us, please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett, email: secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com or visit our website www.bottburpc.org where you will find more detailed information and a gallery showing a selection of our members' work.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB

Chairman

Anglesey Abbey



Earth Photo 2025 exhibition

Come and see a bold photography exhibition of shortlisted works from the international Earth Photo competition, displayed in The Orchard at Anglesey Abbey from 11 October to 23 November. Developed by Forestry England, the Royal Geographical Society and Parker Harris, the Earth Photo 2025 exhibition not only aims to stimulate conversations about our environment and the impact of climate change but is also a wonderful opportunity to engage with art and photography outside in nature.

Anglesey Abbey Halloween Trail returns

The Anglesey Abbey family-friendly Halloween trail is back again this year, with even more riddles and clues to solve. Come along for an immersive half-term adventure from 25 October to 2 November with plenty of spooky challenges along the way. Trails are £6 per child, which includes a prize at the end of the trail. Booking in advance is advised to avoid disappointment.

The Snowman™ trail

We're really excited to announce another fabulous Wild in Art sculpture trail coming to Anglesey Abbey this autumn and winter! Join us for an adventure with The Snowman™ trail from 8 November 2025 to 4 January 2026, inspired by Raymond Briggs' heart-warming picture book, *The Snowman*.

Enjoy a magical day out with the whole family in search of the twelve giant sculptures, each painted with designs inspired by the English carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. The trail is free (normal admission to Anglesey Abbey applies).

Did someone say Christmas?

Father Christmas tickets are now live on our website – this year Santa will be making himself at home in the Lower Gallery inside the Anglesey Abbey house, surrounded by paintings and statues all festively decorated for Christmas. The decorated house will be open from 17 November (closed 1 to 16 November) and children can enjoy listening to the story of The Snowman™ read in the Library every Thursday morning from 20 November to 18 December at 10am before the house opens to visitors. Head to our website to find out more and plan your visit! nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey.

THE SNOWMAN™ © Snowman Enterprises Limited 2025. Photo credit: © Historic Royal Palaces.
Plan your day: nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey



Issy Ventoshkina

Harvest Supper 2025!

As per previous years, this will be a traditional dinner with all funds raised donated to local food banks

Saturday 18th October

7pm Reach Village Hall

Traditional dinner (vegan/veggie options)
£15 adult; £8 child
Please bring own drinks

Book tickets with helenoliver01@btinternet.com

We will need volunteers to donate/make casseroles, etc. (reduced tickets prices for those who can help with this) . . . .

We hope to see you there!

Andrew (Trump), **Debbie** (Quilter) **and Helen** (Oliver)

Wicken Fen

Winter is approaching, a magical time on Wicken Fen. Hedgerow fruits and berries are food for thrushes, while the wetland hosts hundreds of ducks, geese, swans and wading birds. Sometimes, murmurations of thousands of starlings swirl above the reedbed before dusk. And sparkly, silver dawns are a beauty to behold. So why not wrap up warm and head for a walk on the Fen?



Winter Dog Walk on the Fen – courtesy Justin Minns

Once you've blown the cobwebs away, head to our café for a warm drink, soup, scone or sweet treat. Throughout winter, the Docky Hut Café and Visitor Centre are open 10-4.30pm every day except for Christmas Day.

As always, we have themed activities at the Family Discovery Area in the visitor centre and there will be a new winter trail around the boardwalk. Why not browse the gift shop or second-hand Book Nook for festive gifts. Our popular Father Christmas at the Fen events are running each weekend.

Father Christmas at the Fen spaces are disappearing fast! Step into a festive wonderland in the charming Fen Cottage, where children can join the Elves for a Christmas craft, then meet Father Christmas himself and receive a gift. New for 2025, drop into our Family Games Station to play a festive board game and transform into an Elf for a fantastic photo opportunity. This popular event is almost sold out, so book now to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £14.50 per child.

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, but first, confirmation of the outcome of the recent **Afternoon Tea on the Green** from:

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

*Thank you, **Reach Village**, so much for your donation of **£765**. Your kindness and commitment are inspirational and we hope you are all rightly proud of your achievement - we simply couldn't have done it without you.*

It was a superb event; huge thanks go to Cris and her helpers.

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. **Tickets can be obtained from Helen Oliver,** helenoliver01@btinternet.com.

Sunday 19th October

Open Day at our Church from 2.30 to 4.30pm, when you can meet the team, explore the building and the churchyard and find more about the history of the church. There will be refreshments and harvest activities for the children.

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!

Sunday 30th November

Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On from 5pm.

1st to 24th December

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

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.

Wednesday 24th December

Carols around the Christmas Tree from 6pm.

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) – HAVE YOUR SAY!

The PPG is a group of patients and GP practice staff who meet for 90 minutes, four times a year, to discuss practice issues and patient experience to help improve the service. We also act as a consultative group for any changes at the practice.

Our next meeting will be at 6.30-8pm on Tuesday 14th October at the Burwell Day Centre with an option to join online via Teams.

ALL WELCOME!

If you would like to be part of the group please contact the Surgery on 01638 741234
or by email at cpicb.burwellsurgery.admin@nhs.net.

For more information, including a wide range of articles about Surgery services such as weight loss injections, health checks, social prescribing and health and wellbeing coaching, please visit: https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/patient-group/about-our-ppg/

Burwell and Reach Car Scheme



The Burwell and Reach Car Scheme offers those with travel restrictions or mobility issues a drive to the doctor, dentist, hospital, optician, hairdresser, shopping or just a visit to a friend, at a cost of 30p per mile. Just leave a message on 07399 154913 with your requirements and someone will get back to you. Or contact me, Pam King in Reach on 07484 852889. If anyone in Reach would like to volunteer to drive we are always grateful for extra people. Just leave a message on the answerphone 07399 154913.

Jack and the Beanstalk



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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Wednesday Morning: Burwell Sports Centre
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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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Burwell Museum

Well, we have had a busy Summer!

In July, we held our very popular 1940's – Evacuation to Burwell event. Where Sarah Mai and Michael Antony sang and we were entertained by the swing troupe and Mr & Mrs Churchill. We were blessed with lovely warm weather and as you can see, everyone seemed to have a great time! Thank you to all those who attended.

In August, we held our Classic Car event. Again, it was another lovely warm sunny day and we had over 50 cars and 20 motorcycles. They ranged from utility vehicles to pure speed machines! Thank you to all our exhibitors for supporting this event and for those who attended to take a look!





The 2nd half of our season is also going to be just as busy. By the time you get this magazine, we will have taken part in the Heritage Open event. This event allows people to access heritage not normally open to the public, all over the UK, for free. We are delighted to be able to take part in this initiative and hope that anyone who attended enjoyed themselves but maybe learned something new!

We are now looking towards our next event (a first for the Museum), a Halloween Hunt with spooky goings-on! This is taking place on the **25th and 26th October**.

We are having lots of fun planning for this event – there will be craft activities, face painting, real live bugs, sensory boxes, a Halloween hunt, story time and lots more! See our website for more information and prices.

In November, we have another first for the museum. We are delighted to have the award-winning cake decorator, Liz Ungless joining us to hold a cake decorating workshop on **Saturday 15th November**. Take home at the end of the day, a completed Christmas cake. Everything you need will be provided in exchange for your entry fee of £35! We can only accommodate 10 people so you need to get on and book if you want to come!

It's also not long now before Santa and his elves come and visit us in our Mill. They are staying with us for 2 days this year - **6th and 7th December**. There will be free access to the barn where we will have mulled wine, story-telling and Christmas goodies. All visits to Santa are by timed appointment only. Tickets are now available on our website – get yours soon, as Santa only has limited availability.

Behind the scenes, our maintenance teams have continued to create, maintain, repair and improve our exhibits and we are starting to plan our Winter Maintenance.

Our mill team in September completed the renewal of their IPAF operator training. This is an essential bit of training which enables them to use the access equipment to check the sails, etc and which needs renewing every 5 years. Unfortunately, it doesn't come cheap and this training has cost the museum nearly £1,000 for the 4 people who attended.

Other back of house jobs we've completed include the replacement of out of date fire extinguishers and those which no longer meet the new regulations, emergency lighting repairs, installing a drinking water station, installation of a new fence between us and the allotment (with the help of the Parish Council) and progressing our IT/cloud storage project.

The Trustees of the Museum were saddened to hear the news that Frank Hobbs had passed away. Frank made a pair of sails for our Mill in the 1980's. They had to be made outside his workshop because they were too long to get out of doors as these were on the side of the building. They were the first sails on the mill after it was rescued from dereliction in the late 60's/early 70's. When the current sails were made, some parts of Frank's sails were re-used. I was fortunate enough to meet Frank last year – he had so many stories to tell! We would like to extend our condolences and thanks to Frank's family for their support of the Museum.

We hope you will be able to join us at one of our Autumn/Christmas events and thank you in advance for supporting us.

Burwell Museum Trustees

Dyke's End Book Club

Next meetings: **Thursday 9th October and Thursday 13th November at 7pm**
Location: **Dyke's End Pub**
How to join: **Simply turn up** – you don't need to have read the current book - and you can influence the choice of the forthcoming one!

The last book we reviewed was **Catch-22** by **Joseph Heller**. One of our regulars, Mark, summarised our thoughts as follows:

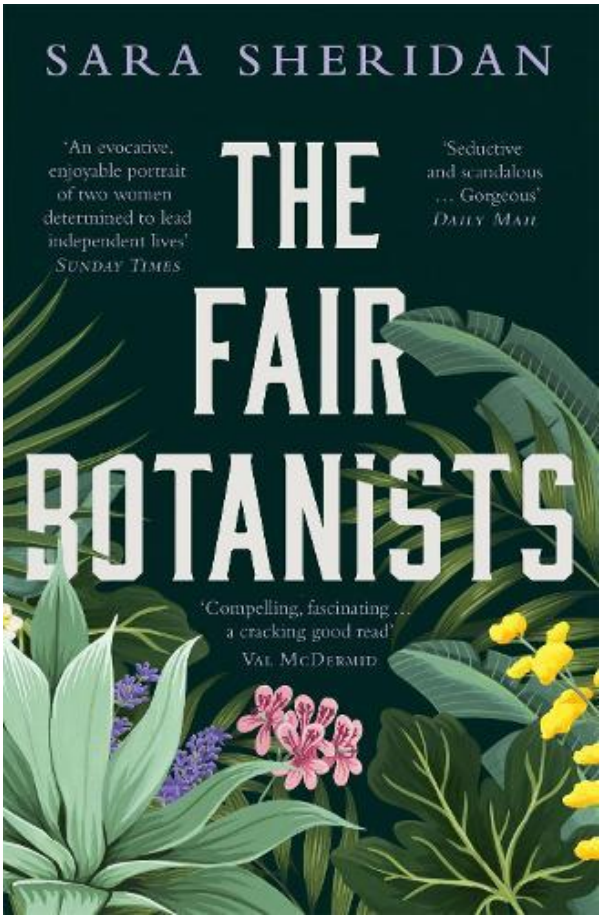
"Catch-22 is the phrase nearly everyone has heard someone use but often they don't know what it was. Catch-22 is the clause that in World War 2 a US airman had to be diagnosed as mentally unfit to fly to be taken off flying duties and sent home. But Catch-22 said if they could turn themselves in as unfit to fly, they were deemed to be mentally fit enough to fly and were returned to duty. It is that no way-out clause: if you say you can't, that's proof that you can.

This was the Heller's portrayal of the bureaucratic insanity of the military logic running through US forces in Italy towards the end of the war. It is a parody of the realities of military life, everyone trying to find a way through the system, the chains of command, the black-market racketeering and everyone wanting it all to end and go home, apart from the power-crazed senior officers coming up with ever more comically lunatic ways they could take control and keep it all going. Underneath the administrative madness lies a thread of deep tragedy, the reason why the main character Yossarian cannot bear to fly any more. This is one of the most intensely humorous takes on the reality of war, where lives lived lightly and absurdly can flip in a moment to disaster, in the air or on the ground. This got mixed views from the book group. It is not a quick easy read and like what happens in the chaos of a war, things are often described that only make sense later. So, holding all the characters and situations in mind can be demanding. It is one of the great works of comic writing of the 20th century, but it is an indictment also of the almost casual horrors of war.

If you have never read it you should do; but give yourself a good stretch of time to do it."

Mark Lewinski-Grende

From **Catch-22** we have moved onto:



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'A beautiful tale of scandal and intrigue' **Susan Stokes-Chapman**, author of *Pandora*

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Letter from the Vicarage



Autumn brings Harvest and with it, an opportunity for gratitude to God for all that we have and to pray for a fairer world.

We're celebrating Harvest at St Mary's, Burwell, at our Café Church on Sunday 5th October at 10.00am.

Please bring contributions to the services – tins/packets or produce – all will be donated to the Foodbank or distributed in the village. Café Church is at St Mary's on the first Sunday of the month - a space for anyone to feel welcome and at ease and perhaps 'dip a toe in the water' of coming to church. It's ok to arrive late and everyone is welcome to enjoy a hot drink and pastries, alongside activities for all ages, related to the theme of the day. A short service begins about 10.25am, with all the usual elements of hymns, bible readings, talk, prayers (and notices!).

At Reach we will be having an Open Day on Sunday 19th October from 2.30 - 4.30pm - meet the team, find out about the history, explore the building and churchyard, harvest activities for children, collection for local foodbank and harvest songs & prayers at 4.00pm. A very special welcome, especially if you're new to the village.

Refresh Café is in St Mary's every Friday morning from 10.00am, a friendly and welcoming group for babies and toddlers with their carers, including a simple sandwich lunch each week. Pop-Up Pantry is at the Day Centre on 1st Friday of month 2.00 – 3.00pm, 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. CentrePeace is our bookshop and drop-in venue on the Causeway, with a welcome for anyone to drop in for bargain books and jigsaws and for a cuppa and a chat.

November is Remembering month. On 2nd November at 3.00pm in St Mary's is our service for those who have been bereaved, an opportunity to give thanks and light a candle to remember loved ones. Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November, with services in Reach starting at 10.45am and the joint Churches Together service beginning at 2.30pm at Burwell War Memorial. For updates about what's going on at St Mary's, Burwell or St Etheldreda's, Reach, please see our Facebook pages and website. We aim to livestream most of our weekly 10.00am Sunday services on Facebook.

Please get in touch for more information about these or any of our events or services, including weddings, funerals, christenings and baby thanksgivings, or if you would value an opportunity to chat.



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
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A very special welcome
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Please come and say hello!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN REACH

9th November 2025

10.50pm Act of Remembrance at Reach War Memorial

The service will continue in St Etheldreda's





Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams, Vicar of Burwell with Reach, 01638 741262
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Tales from a Reach Garden



What a summer this has been for the garden! There were times when the lawn was so parched the grass looked beige and dead, then the weather cooled down, showers arrived and the grass greened up, only to look beige again a couple of weeks later during the second heatwave and the lawn is looking green again thanks to the recent showery weather.

Some of the old garden favourites have struggled to start flowering, such as the nasturtiums which gave a beautiful display of foliage throughout the summer but waited until September to flower, apart from those planted in a shady spot – they blossomed in August and are blooming still. I read somewhere that nasturtiums won't flower if planted in rich soil, which is why I planted mine in spent plant-pot compost. I suspect continuously hot, dry and sunny conditions aren't to their liking. It was a similar story for the cosmos which provided the odd desultory bloom throughout the summer (in spite of attentive dead-heading), but they're flowering freely at the moment, and I've stopped routine dead-heading of the flowers.



Nasturtiums and Cosmos (following picture) in flower – at last!



Over in the vegetable plot, we've had a very good summer. The bees in our garden seem to have been very vigilant this year, or maybe there have been many more of them than last year, so they've been less choosy about what they fertilise. We've also had more wasps than last year (but that's another story!)

I think this is the first year we haven't eaten any courgette flowers, which we dip in batter and fry in olive oil (something my mother used to do). We had such a good crop of courgettes during the heatwaves, we were picking them every day, but the cooler, damper conditions between heatwaves were ideal for mildew to develop powdery grey patches on most of the courgette leaves, so that even when the next heatwave arrived, fewer courgettes were produced afterwards. However, this didn't matter so much because we have had so many other vegetables to choose from and we had frozen so many courgettes anyway. Even frozen, courgettes are useful to have in the kitchen as they are quite versatile – I've put them in soups, stir fries, on pizzas, incorporated them into ratatouille, made fritters with them and mixed them into spicy, savoury buns with halloumi cheese.

Meanwhile, our traditional British red-flowered runner beans finally cropped when the weather cooled down, (hurrah!), that is until the next heatwave (boo!) – while our other beans continued cropping apparently oblivious to the changing summer weather and they're still putting out flowers now for the next crop



A small cluster of runner beans

We've also had a huge crop of pears this year. Pear trees put their flowers out early in the year (about a month before apples) when there are fewer insects around and the weather is often cold - even when the sun shines there's often a cold northerly wind blowing. This year was different as we had a very warm start to spring which was perfect for pear pollination. The biggest problem with pears is their shelf-life; you can't keep them like apples unless you pick them while they are so unripe they are rock hard. Even so, on some occasions you think you have a ripe, perfect-looking pear until you bite into it and find the core has become mushy. Unripe pears can be gently poached until tender (in syrup or sweetened wine) and either bottled in jars or frozen to be eaten during the winter months. In the past I've made pear flans using barely-ripe pears, which were flash frozen once cooled, then defrosted when a ready-made dessert was required. Pears are also lovely mixed with sweetened cooking apples, plums and blackberries to make an autumn pudding – which is a more mellow version of the better-known summer pudding. This too can be frozen to be eaten at a later date.

The bees have been very busy pollinating our autumn raspberries which we are picking almost daily at the moment. They had been very busy with our blackberries earlier in the summer too and the blackberry bushes were laden with ripening blackberries – individually the berries weren't as big and juicy as last year's crop, but they were plentiful.

No sooner had I started picking them when an aggressive lone wasp came by and headed straight for me, it followed me as I tried to walk away and eventually, I had to head indoors, running, while clutching my little pot of blackberries. An hour or so later, I ventured out again to continue picking only to find a couple of wasps apparently "on patrol" nearby. Eventually, the wasps scoffed most of the blackberries. The smell of part-eaten, fermenting blackberries then attracted loads of fruit flies. These, in turn, attracted the local swallows and house martins which gorged on the flies before finally heading south. I often saw wasps visiting the bird bath or trays of water left for the local birds to drink during the hot days of summer and on those occasions, they weren't interested in anything other than the water. Last year there was a wasp colony in a former vole hole near one of our beds of potatoes. You can imagine the problems they caused when we had to dig up the potatoes! I'm keeping an eye on our outdoor grapes which are ripening at the moment and picking bunches as soon as they're ready to eat. So far, the wasps haven't found them.



Grapes ripening outdoors, shhh…don't tell the wasps

Danuta Gibson



Reach Cricket Club

Wednesday 30 July

Haverhill 140-5 (Aaron Brotherhood 3-20) beat Reach 121-5 by 19 runs.

Defeat in the last of our midweek matches left us in a middle-table position, having won four and lost four.

Sunday 3 August

Reach 224-5 (T Davies 83 no) beat Linton 223-8 (R Steed 3-27) by 5 wickets.

God knows how we won this match, given that we dropped everything that was offered up to us. But between the rain showers and stygian gloom we managed to knock up what could have been a winning total for the opposition.

Sunday 10 August

Reach 166-7 beat Milton 162-9 by 3 wickets.

Milton have long been one of our favourite opponents. Highlight quite often is one of their bowlers, Eddie, who drops in the ball from about 30 feet in the air, quite often befuddling some of the best batsmen – and some of the worst, too, for that matter.

Sunday 17 August

Reach beat Chippenham

Odd that I was on the team sheet for this one, but I struggle to remember a thing about it, other than that Chippenham's captain was playing for us while also captaining the opposition, which is just a little unusual. We seem to have won, but the scorecard is missing. Why can I not remember any more? Possibly because of some deep personal trauma such as getting out for a duck or being smacked around the park for successive sixes. Maybe I should get a shrink to get me on his couch and work through a few issues until I can remember – in which case I will give you a report at a later date

Sunday 7 September

Reach 182-9 (J Phillips 40) beat Teluga Association of Cambridge 178 all out (C Bridgeman 28-3) by 1 wicket.

TAC very kindly brought a curry for tea – a rare treat – and we got the runs. In the last over, that was. And only just about. There's nothing better than a match which ends in the twilight with a team nine wickets down and scratching around for the last few runs for victory. And this was that match.

Sunday 14 September

White Walkers 166 ao (T Fordham 3-12) beat Reach 91-8 by 74 runs

Man of the match was the team meteorologist for predicting heavy, prolonged rain at 4pm. A hastily arranged early start and a reduction in overs to 25 allowed us to complete a match on what could have been a frustrating day. Winning the toss and choosing to bat, the White Walkers – who had travelled from Hatfield – were immediately relieve of one of their openers on the first ball. For a while, that seemed to set the tone. But then the orchard began to be peppered, where a preponderance of fallen red apples provided camouflage for the ball. By the time White Walkers were dismissed in the 23rd over they had somehow managed to amass 167. It looked doable but would have needed a solid innings which sadly never came. The Reach innings eventually petered out, although not before one of the unlikeliest dot balls ever witnessed on a cricket field, when Reach's number 11 skied a ball which looked like coming down on the umpire's head – and somehow managed to scramble down to the non-strikers' end and back – while his bating partner stood rooted to the spot -- neither being caught nor run out.

Sunday 21 September

Reach 236-9 beat Chippenham 130ish – 9 by 106ish runs

Our second meeting with Chippenham in the space of five weeks and this time I do remember what happened. And yes, there was a deep personal trauma involving a duck and getting smacked around the park. Three wickets down after two overs, Reach did well to fight back to a competitive score. Chippenham began well in their innings, but once the openers were dismissed, their scoring rate plummeted and there was only one outcome possible. Highlight was a first slip Chirs Bridgeman catching a Chippenham batsman between his knees via a deflection off our keeper, Jiminy Haynes and his own hands. That's the sort of moment we live for.

And that's it for another season.

We'll be back out on the field next April.

Ross Clark

Football Report

Bottisham U11 Girls' first League game of season was on Saturday 13th September; they beat Cottenham 6-0. Player of the match (**below**) was **Aria** who scored 4.



7 of this team are now playing for Academies following trials; **Esme** (Norwich City), **Aria** (Ipswich Town), **Lacey Bridgeman** (below), **Lexy**, **Mathilde**, **Cordelia** and **Macie** are all Cambridge United players.





Lottie Bridgeman being presented with U13 new kit

Nathan Bridgeman - njbridgeman78@gmail.com

Food Focus



Food Focus – Handy Hints and Tips for busy cooks

I last did an article like this in 2015! But I've thought up and found out a few more tips since then.

Bread

- To refresh a stale baguette, spritz with water then place in a hot oven for 5-10 minutes until it's crusty on the outside and soft on the inside.
- Whizz leftover bread into breadcrumbs and freeze – it takes only minutes to defrost to use as toppings for pies or fish bakes.
- Use stale flatbreads in a fattoush salad or stale crusty bread in panzanella. Drier bread is best to absorb the delicious dressings.
- Tear stale bread into chunks, - toss in oil, and bake in a hot oven for about 10-15 minutes, turning halfway. Store the croutons in an airtight container and use in soups or salads.
- Keep sliced bread in the freezer, particularly if everyone in your home likes different types!

Ginger

Peel with a teaspoon or freeze whole on the day of purchase and using a microplane (handheld grater) grate as much as you need into dishes. This way, you don't even need to peel it. I also find that quick/easy ginger in a jar keeps for yonks in the fridge and is great in emergencies.

Eggs

To remove a piece of eggshell from eggs you've accidentally got shell in – use a large piece of shell to fish it out with rather than chasing it around with a teaspoon – this hack is a magical revelation!

Put a bit of vinegar into the water when you boil eggs if they are very fresh and difficult to peel.

Wine

Keep small /cheaper wine boxes in the larder for cooking with – the advantage is that you're not generally tempted to drink it as it isn't the highest quality! Equally it doesn't go off once opened.

Rice

I'm carrying this forward as so many people seem to find rice hard to cook and god forbid even buy it ready cooked! This is the South American way which always works very successfully and quickly - measure the rice out in a cup and add to a pan on heat with a bit of oil to coat the rice. Once heated through and coated add two more of the same quantities of water, DON'T stir! Cook on a high heat until boiling then turn to a simmer. Wait until holes appear in the rice and once they do and all the water has evaporated its ready.

Butter

Butter freezes very well, so if you're only going to use a half a block, don't let it languish in your fridge. Defrost quickly by grating it.

Rinds/Heals from hard cheeses like Parmigiano Reggiano can be cut into chunks and added to soups and tomato sauces during cooking for a richer flavour. Either remove before serving or leave them in like they do in Italy, where they are prized by diners

Fattoush



- 2 tomatoes - chopped into chunks
- ¼ cucumber - deseeded and sliced
- ½ red onion - sliced
- 1 small head romaine lettuce - shredded
- handful mint - leaves, roughly chopped
- handful parsley leaves, roughly chopped
- 2 pitta breads
- 1 tsp sumac

For the dressing - ½ garlic clove crushed, 2 tbsp red wine vinegar, 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, juice ½ lemon

Method

Step 1

The night before, toss together all the salad ingredients except for the pitta bread and sumac. Make up the dressing and season to taste. Leave these separate until the morning.

Step 2

The next morning, toast the pitta breads until lightly golden. When cool, tear into pieces and combine with the salad and dressing. Spoon into 2 plastic boxes and sprinkle over the sumac.

Catherine Gibson

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again the time has come to remind everyone who lives in Reach and who considers himself or herself eligible for our Christmas Grant now is the time to apply.

The majority of applications come from pensioners in particular those who have to manage on the State Pension and it may be that in the present times of uncertainty support is required.

If you are in need of help, or know someone who may be in difficulty but who are unlikely to apply on their own behalf, please do get in touch.

The Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance and confirm ALL applications will be dealt with in confidence.

Financial support is available throughout the year,not only at Christmas. Please apply to:

Pam Waters
Clerk to the Trustees 01638 741035.

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.



I do dog walking, dog sitting and drop in visits. Also, cats, rabbits and chickens drop in visits. Equine visits include feeding, turn out, poo picking etc.

I'm very experienced and responsible and will care for your pets as I do my own. My rates are very reasonable - and your animals are my priority.

Please contact me if you're looking for a little extra help or are going on holiday and want to feel comfortable that your pets are being treated with love and care.

I'm **Lisa**, call me on **07933 546958** with your enquiries.

Thank you!

Know Your District Councillors

There was very little activity in the Council in August. The Leader of the Council is still pursuing Option B (with East Cambs joining Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough) for the Local Government Re-organisation.

The County Council has organised an online survey so that residents can have their say to their proposal for re-organisation and this can be found on https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/your-future-councils/. The survey closes on 3 October 2025, so do please engage with it as soon as possible.

Surgery

Our next surgery will be on Thursday 30 October at Brinkley Memorial Hall from half past six o'clock and after an hour we propose to go to the Red Lion in the same village.

It is not only at surgeries that you can contact us; residents can always contact us by email, letter or telephone at any time.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP

charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk

John Trapp

john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Nathan Bridgeman	Chair	Present
Tim Quilter	Vice Chair	Present
Nick Acklam	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Not Present
Catherine Gibson	Councillor	Present
Edward Hall	Chair	Not Present
Vacancy	Councillor	
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
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
A member of the public attended the meeting to complain about pathing slabs which had been placed across the open piece of land at the end of Chaple Lane. The PC agreed with the complainant that the urbanization of this green space was not acceptable however, this is not PC land, and therefore unfortunately there is nothing the PC can do except contact ECDC planning. ***Councillor Acklam*** had spoken to ECDC planning prior to the meeting and will do so again following the PC discussion. The PC advised the complainant to also contact ECDC planning as they had as much power as the PC on such matters.

Three members of the public, who attended the July meeting, had submitted a document detailing their thoughts on how the PC could improve the IT & communications to the village. Unfortunately, due to the absence of a key councillor and an already congested agenda, it was agreed to defer the discussion to the next meeting. It was agreed that ***Councillor Quilter*** would meet them before the next meeting, and the item would be added to the October agenda.

Declaration of Interests
There were none

1. Co-option of new Councillor
No applications had been received.

2. Planning Applications
None.

3. District Councillor Report
No report received.

4. County Councillor Report
Please accept my full apologies for not submitting anything in August or attending any parish meetings. I was quite ill and signed off work for two weeks then away for a third, which meant it was hard to keep up. I hope that this report serves to inform you of everything I have been doing in the meantime and of the important things going on at county council as they pertain to our parishes:
LOCAL UPDATES:
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: To nobody's very great surprise, it has been revealed that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government failed to undertake its own analysis of the financial implications of the ongoing local government reorganisation, relying instead on analysis by consultants PwC.

Fresh analysis of those figures shows that replacing the two-tier system with 58 new unitary councils with populations as low as 300,000 could end up costing £850 million over five years and deliver no long-term savings. I have heard many complaints from residents in our area about the concept of local council services being run from Peterborough and I encourage all parish councils and residents who are concerned to submit their views on LGR to the consultations that have been ongoing from both East Cambs and County. Ultimately ministers will decide on the boundaries of the new unitary.

- ROADS: A number of pothole repairs have been carried out in our area. Additionally departmental reorganisation is underway at Highways to streamline help requests and improve communications with county councillors and members of the public. I am hopeful that these changes will lead to better responsiveness from Highways, but remain on hand to take action on road issues when they arise, please continue to flag any problem spots to me.

- LOCAL ENVIRONMENT: I have been to visit the River Snail in Snailwell, which is completely dried up. As one of our precious local Chalk Streams I think this is a considerable shame and have written to the Environment Agency to ask them to help see it restored. This is especially important to our area with the wetlands which constitute a Site of Special Scientific Interest just to the north so I will be eagerly waiting for the Environment Agency's reply.

- FIRE SAFETY: I have attended two meetings of the Fire Authority. As Vice Chair of Scrutiny, I have been pressing for clarification from the Authority on how it plans to cope with the large increase of commercial battery storage sites coming to our area with the government's development of large solar farms, namely Sunnica and Kingsway. The Fire Auhtority is not a statutory consultee and government information has been lacking so far. The Fire Authority are therefore still in the process of watching and waiting for more information as to how they should respond and adapt to the emerging risks. We are campaigning for this to be expedited. At county we share these concerns and want to see the District and other partners involved in the planning process of these sites take all necessary steps to mitigate risk.

- NEW BUS ROUTES: I continue to pass on feedback on the T4 and T5 bus routes to the AtoB1102 Group to ensure resident feedback is listened to and acted on by the Combined Authority. In particular the need for expanded evening and weekend service provision and better provision of bus stops in Fordham. Please continue to contact me or AtoB1102 directly with any issues raised by residents as they continue to submit as much feedback as possible.

- NEWMARKET NATWEST CLOSURE: Newmarket's NatWest branch will close on 24th September. This has been a cause for concern for some banking customers who are more elderly or vulnerable. I have written to NatWest to ask for some clarification on the steps they are taking to ensure that this closure, combined with the closure of Ely's branch on 10th September, does not leave vulnerable people in our area without support. I await their response.

- ONGOING ISSUES: Dead trees have been removed and are in the process of being replaced in Burwell, while the Burwell to Exning Cycleway is still in development, concerns have been raised about the Swaffham Prior Greenway and I am working in partnership with fellow councillors to ensure communication on the project is clear.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES:

- FIRM ACTION ON ROAD DISRUPTION: Cambridgeshire County Council is taking firm action to reduce disruption on the county's roads, issuing fines totalling £483,000 to utility companies and developers for non-compliant and over-running roadworks during 2024–25.

In total, the council processed more than 32,000 street and roadwork permits last year, regulating when and how works can take place on the highway.

• £185,000 was issued through Fixed Penalty Notices for 1,655 offences, including works that lacked a valid permit or breached the conditions of their permit.

• A further £298,000 was recovered from 201 works that overran, resulting in 1,191 extra days of disruption for road users and residents. 51 utility companies are entitled to work on Cambridgeshire's roads—and when that work is deemed an emergency they can legally start work even before notifying the council.

However, as the highways authority, the council does have powers to challenge how long emergency and urgent works remain in place. In 2024-25:

• Over 1,460 emergency permits were challenged for requesting excessive duration – more than 25% of all emergency permits:

• 254 immediate permit applications were rejected where they did not meet the legal criteria for emergency status.

One option the council is currently exploring is a lane rental scheme, which would allow the council to charge companies for the time that roadworks occupy the highway—with higher charges for works on the busiest streets at the busiest times. The council is currently talking to other authorities about their experiences of lane rental.

NEW HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: The County Council's new Asset Management system Aurora goes live on Monday 22 September. The current system will be taken offline on Thursday 18 September, and residents will not be able to log issues or defects online between 18 and 22 September.

Under the new system:

• Customer reports will be automatically directed to the correct officer or team, ensuring they are handled by the right person first time.

• All Highways Maintenance Officers will now be equipped with tablets, allowing them to inspect defects, raise work orders, and update customers directly while on-site.

• New workflows automatically escalate reports that are not progressed within agreed service level timescales, helping to prevent delays and improve response times.

• Performance dashboards will ensure no cases are overlooked.

• Officers can send updates directly from the system, meaning residents receive regular progress updates on their reports.
• Reports can be managed dynamically by officers in the field, and loaded into inspection routes so they can be reviewed at the same time.
• The system will task officers with inspecting completed work and identifying any defects. If defects are identified these will be flagged to contractors and corrected.
- ADULTS & HEALTH: Cambridge Children's Hospital contractor appointed A building contractor has been appointed to Cambridge Children's Hospital, which will be built on the same site that houses Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth hospitals. Bouygues UK is expected to start within the next 18 months. The facility will be the first specialist children's hospital in the East of England— the only region in the UK currently without one. The five-storey building will include 108 inpatient beds, 16 paediatric intensive care beds, 42 daycase beds, 7 operating theatres, imaging and diagnostics, and a hospital school alongside a new research institute. The Council has committed to a further £920,000 annually to improve EHC plan provision.
- 'GOOD' RATING FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE: Cambridgeshire County Council's adult social care services have been rated as 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), with its assessment finding that early support and flexible options are helping people stay independent longer. Assessment began in November 2024, with a site visit in early April. It found that people who draw on the council's care felt supported, listened to and offered choices, with care being co-ordinated in a planned way considering people's interests and what was important to them.
- IMPROVEMENTS IN SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS: The County Council has improved the support and stability it provides for care leavers in Cambridgeshire, according to a recent Ofsted report. Ofsted carried out a focused visit in July, looking at the council's arrangements for care leavers. They concluded that arrangements have strengthened since their last visit in 2024, though there is still work to be done.
- SHAREHOLDER SUB-COMMITTEE - THIS LAND: The county council's Shareholder Sub-Committee met in August and approved the updated Business Plan from the council's wholly-owned company This Land.
This Land was set up in 2016 by the previous council administration, and not in a way we would have supported. Since 2021, the council have commissioned a report from advisors Avison Young, taken advice from other experts, set up a Shareholder Sub-Committee of councillors to oversee the company, and ensured the board has the right leadership in place.To date, This Land has repaid the council £15.5M of loans and £42M of interest. The outstanding loan is £119M, which the council expects to be repaid by 2029. In March this year, following detailed consideration of This Land's financial position, the council agreed to restructure the loan payments. The loan has been converted into two parts:
• £59.9M is a repayable loan, and commercial interest will be charged.
• £59.85M is a grant, which will be repaid dependent on This Land's future performance & is not subject to interest.
Even if This Land were not able to make performance related repayments on the £59.85M grant, the council would still achieve a balanced position from This Land by 2029, due to interest payments received in addition to loan repayments. The updated business plan enables the company to repay interest, reduce the amounts owed to the council, and limit the risk from the company.
FULL COUNCIL:
- The last meeting of Full County Council was on 15 July. It agreed to:
• Ask the Government to consider better ways of planning and delivering GP infrastructure and services for growing communities.
• Raise the profile of the importance of flood prevention for the future of the Fens.
• Urge the Government to make it easier to clear flytipping and other waste from trunk roads which requires closure by National Highways.
• Oppose cuts to Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments for disabled people.
• Reaffirm its commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.
As our first transgender councillor I was pleased to speak on this particular motion in the chamber. You can view my speech here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUEOczPf6EI
The council also accepted the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The PC asked Councillor Malinowski to inquire as to whether chidren from the local area would still be able to attend 6th form college in Cambridge should Reach become under the control of a Peterborough unitary authority.
The PC also asked if the broken parapit at the Barston Drove bend by Swan Lake barns could be repaired as a matter of urgency.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting
The minutes of both the July & August meetings were approved as correct.

6.1 Finance
The process of Councillor Bridgeman to becoming a signatory on the PC bank account is ongoing.

6.2 Parish Council Members
Several residents had expressed concern to several Councillors about low level anti-social behaviour on the Great Lane side of the village, attributing it to local travellers. There have also been thefts of produce from the allotments at Barston Drove, speeding and inconsiderate driving through the village, and reckless behaviour of a group of teenaged children as they walk into the village via Great Lane. None of it evidence that travellers were responsible but for a correlation in time. Councillors agreed that was a concern and should be reported to the traveller liaison officer at ECDC.

6.3 Play Spaces
Councillor Bridgeman continues to monitor the play equipment & work on the ongoing issues.

6.4 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

6.5 24Acres Committee
The National Trust had objected to the Grenergy application due to its impact on the 24Acres. Councillor Acklam has asked if they will attend the Planning committee meeting where this application will be discussed.

6.6 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

6.7 A to B1102 Group
The CPCA have engaged with the A to B1102 Group and asked for help to support the roll-out of Real Time Passenger Information (RPTI) equipment at bus stops. These systems provide real time travel information. The PC had been asked to approve the Reach location at the Fair Green bus stop. Approved subject to there being no cost to the PC and no ongoing maintenance charges for the village. ***Clerk*** to inform the AtoB group.

6.8 Nature Recovery Plan
Nothing to report.

6.9 Hythe Restoration Group
Charlotte Cane MP had continued to chase for a meeting with a member of AW who is able to make a decision on the site.

6.10 Website & public communications
As reported above.

6.11 Energy developments in the locality
The Grenergy application had received more than 100 objections and had been called before the ECDC planning committee. ***Councillor Acklam*** to attend as the PC representative. Date yet to be confirmed.
Councillor Malinowsk will also attend any meetings regarding 'green' developments if available.

7. AtoB1102 donation approval
A donation of £200 had been previously approved, the PC again approved this and payment will be made as below.

8. Approval of risk assessment for Devils Dyke scrub clearance
A risk assessment had been submitted for a scrub clearing event on the Devils Dyke. Approved. Names will be supplied to The Clerk for insurance purposes.

9. 'Green Energy' decisions
Should the PC circulate newsletters & correspondence from potential developers
The PC agreed to circulate information received with the clear comment that it was not necessarily supported by the PC but purely for information only.

Report from the KINGSWAY SOLAR COMMUNITY ACTION AND KINGSWAY AREA PARISH COUNCIL ALLIANCE MEETING and discussion regarding funding support.

Councillor Acklam attended the meeting and reports - The meeting focused on how to fund opposition to the Kingsway proposal. Minutes will be circulated but I took the following as the key points.
The cost of opposing the Sunnica scheme had been around £300K, principally the cost of hiring legal representation during the nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) examination process. Of this £30 to 40K had been donated by Parish Councils. The rest came from private donations. West Wratting PC has done some initial estimates of likely costs of opposing Kingsway (in Simon Thorley they have a former QC advising them) - the ball park figure at this stage is £150K although costs could escalate to Sunnica levels.

Under its own steam, West Wratting PC had hired Richard Buxton solicitors to scope opposing Kingsway in the NSIP examination. Buxtons are a experienced planning solicitors based in Cambridge. They are also representing those opposing two guided busway schemes in the city in two separate NSIP examinations. Buxtons have suggested that opposition should focus on the risks that the Kingsway scheme poses to:
hydrology, air quality & transport. As subsidiary issues Buxtons suggested: landscape visual impact, heritage, noise, ecology & planning policy
West Wratting PC has already commissioned preliminary studies on the three areas of opposition. The hydrology report reveals that Kingsway has failed to consider and mitigate the flooding threat that the rainwater runoff from 1500ha of solar panels. The report also exposes the shortcomings in the containment of firewater in the event of a fire in the BESS elements of the scheme (shades of Grenergy) - really key as these sit over the aquifer that supplies much of Cambridge's drinking water. The other two reports will be available for to assist in responding to the PEIR.
I said that many of the concerns of residents at the northern end of the Kingsway area related to the visual intrusion of the proposed pylon and cable connection to the Grid at Burwell and its likely acceleration of industrialisation of the area around the Burwell substation(s). I therefore thought that our response to Kingsway's PEIR would likely include the commissioning of a landscape appraisal of the Burwell and Swaffham Heaths. There was recognition and concern about the low level of awareness of the Kingsway scheme in Burwell which is by some way the biggest settlement affected by Kingsway's proposal. The meeting of 24 September organised in Burwell by Claudine Bateman will go some way to raising awareness locally.
Sources of funding and its management
There was consensus that large individual donations would be the key source of funding. Those present were asked to identify wealthy individuals or organisations that might be approached. Crowd funding might assist. Reference was made to using Crowd Justice as the channel.
KSCA was in the process of setting up a Community Interest Partnership to manage funds in a transparent way. As the implication here was that funding from the parish council alliance would be channeled here too, I asked if those present were content with effective unity of the bodies from the outset. The answer was yes although there was recognition of the potential issues downstream should KSCA and the Alliance diverge on approaches and that compliance with NALC guidelines could mean that PCs would be unable to make rapid decisions. An action point was left with Simon Chandler to draft terms of reference for the Parish Council Alliance (probably based on the PC subcommittee operating model although I asked him to look at whether members of the subcommittee could have delegated authority). Immediate PC funding support was requested to assist the alliance until larger funding streams became available.
Associated issues of structure In addition to fundraising, KSCA had set up workstreams to cover publicity and communication.
Next meeting - Tuesday 23 September 1930 Weston Colville Meeting Room

Following discussion the PC agreed to donate £200 to the funding. ***Clerk*** to organise.

- Should the PC register as an interested party in the Kingsway Solar planning process including the public examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

Agreed unanimously.

- If the PC want to register & participate in the examination, above, agreement of delegated authority. This is required as during the course of an examination there will be many deadlines, emerging at short notice & requiring a timely response. The whole PC are rarely able to accommodate such an aggressive timetable.

The PC agredd to give Councillors Acklam & Gibson authority to take desicions & make representations, with regard to the Kingswat Solar application, outside of PC meetings both jiontly and independantly. All details will be distributed to the PC by email.

- Kingway offer of a briefing meeting with the PC only

The PC would like to meet with the Kingsway representatives but not in a closed meeting. PC meetings are open to the public and the PC would invite Kingsway to the October meeting. ***Clerk*** to respond.

10. Payment

E.on – Power on the green	£36.46
Reach Village hall – extra Aug meeting	£19.20
AtoB1102 donation	£200.00
CR Contracts - Mowing contract	£662.00
T – tree works	£96.00
N Acklam – tree stakes for Swaffham Road	£11.25
Hcrlaw – registration of Reach Clunch Pit	£77.20
KSCA – donation	To be paid at a future meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 7th October 2025 at 7.30pm.

Diary Dates

October	Event	Location	Time
Sunday 5	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 7	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 7	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 14	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Wednesday 15	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Thursday 16	Book Club	Dyke's End Pub	7.00pm
Saturday 18	Harvest Supper	Village Hall	7.00pm
Sunday 19	Church Open Day	St Etheldreda's, Reach	2.30 to 4.30pm
Tuesday 21	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Friday 24	"Wear it Pink"	Village Hall	3.30pm
Tuesday 28	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
November	**Event**	**Location**	**Time**
Sunday 2	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 4	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Tuesday 4	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 9	Remembrance Service	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.50am
Tuesday 11	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 18	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Wednesday 19	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Tuesday 25	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Sunday 30	Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on	Lower Green	5.00pm

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 emailing: 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)*

I have no date for this photo, but I guess it pre-dates the construction of the pylons as there is no evidence of them.

It was taken looking North towards Upware/Wicken from where Plantation Wood is located today on the Burwell/Reach road.

The summer foliage makes a drone photo the only way to obtain an equivalent latter-day image and captures the extended line of trees.

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









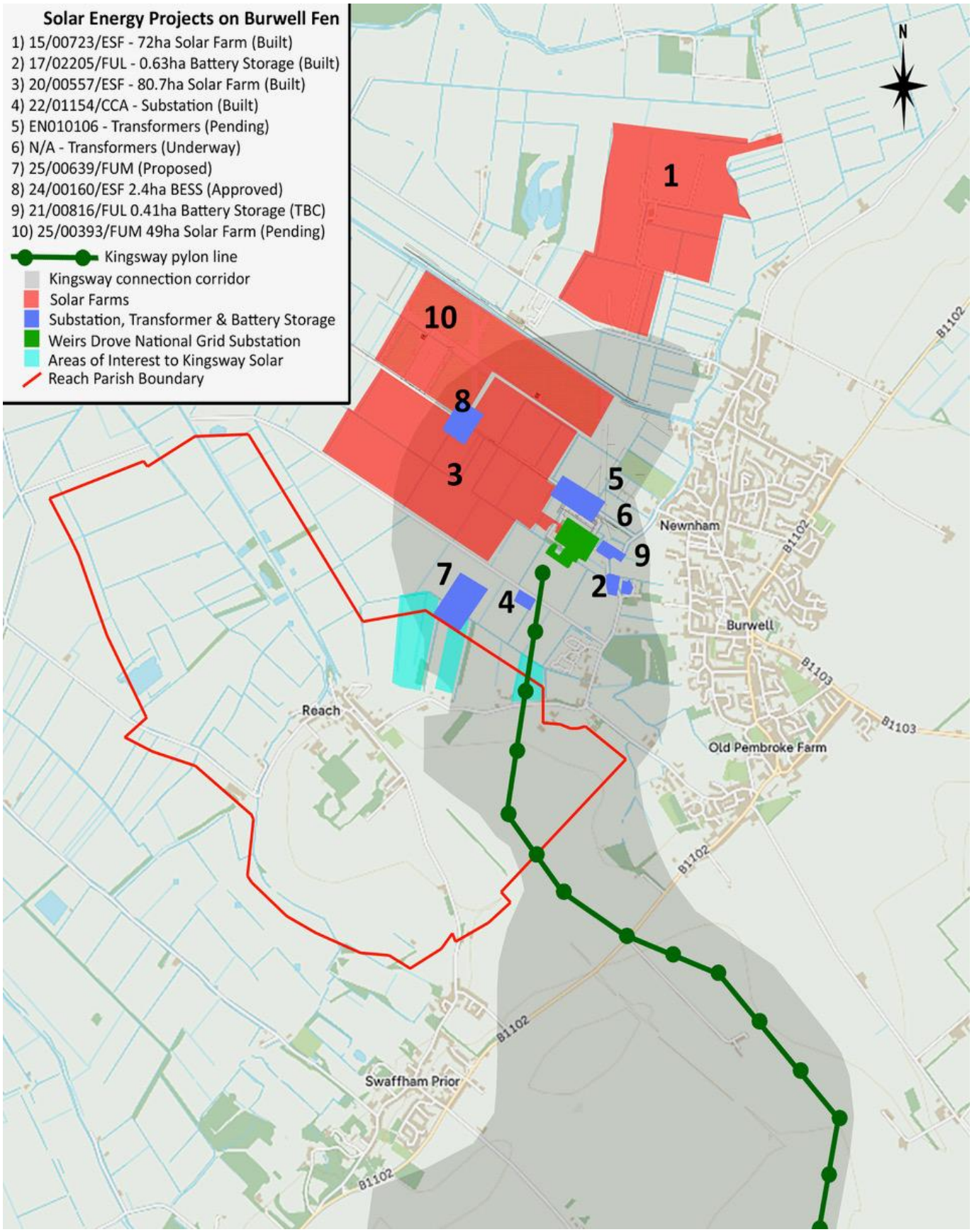
Lacy - getting things ready for Sports Day!





Baby and Buggy Race

Kingsway Solar Farm Update



Kingsway Solar formally applied for approval to build a solar farm to the south of Reach on 17 September. As a nationally significant infrastructure project, the application will be overseen by the Planning Inspectorate. This note provides background to the application, outlines the likely implications for Reach should it be approved and offers suggestions about what you can do in response to the application.

Background

Kingsway Solar wants to install solar panels and large storage batteries on 1,500 hectares (3,706 acres) of farmland near Balsham, West Wratting, Weston Colville, Willingham Green, Carlton, Brinkley and Six Mile Bottom and to connect it to the national grid at a new substation at Burwell using overhead cable and pylons. The proposed connection route runs close to Reach.

The solar panel development will cover an area larger than Heathrow Airport and the 14 km cable route will use pylons up to 65 metres tall.

In 2024 the Parish Council informed Kingsway that it was unhappy with the principle of the development and with the approach that Kingsway proposed to take in assessing the environmental impact of the scheme. Our views went unheeded. We now plan to object to the development based on the strong opposition to it expressed by residents at a Parish Council meeting of 5 August and in light of more detailed, but far from definitive, information about Kingsway's plans.

How will the proposed development affect Reach?

The overhead pylon route and the new substation will fundamentally change the character of the countryside between Reach and Burwell.

In its Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Kingsway has provided an indicative route for the overhead cable and pylon route. With thanks to Steve Boreham, this has now been added to the map of cumulative energy developments between Reach and Burwell. Whilst the route is indicative and may be changed, it is not good news for the village. The proposed route will run much closer to the centre of Reach than the existing overhead cable route that cuts across Burwell Road. Many residents of Burwell Road will have the views from their homes industrialised should the connection be approved. Users of the 24Acres will also find the overhead cable very intrusive. Furthermore, the pylons will run close to the Devil's Dyke for several hundred metres and thus will be very visible from the path on top of the Dyke and from Swaffham Road. The proposed overhead cable would complete a 'curtain' of overhead cables around the north and east of Reach.

Kingsway's proposal is the tenth energy scheme on land between Reach and Burwell. Its approval is dependent on an eleventh, the construction by National Grid of a new substation termed 'Burwell South'. This will be of a similar size and visual impact to the existing substation at Weirs Drove. National Grid has not yet confirmed its location (even to Kingsway) but the likely site is several hundred metres closer to Reach. It seems almost certain that the new sub station will have capacity to take further feeds from local green energy schemes, opening up the prospect of more arable fields around the village going over to solar panels and battery storage compounds and more overhead cables bringing in energy from solar farms further afield.

What can we do?

The PC has joined the alliance of Parish Councils opposing Kingsway to share costs and to strengthen our voice. With funding support from local residents, the PC has commissioned a preliminary assessment of the impact of the proposed pylon route on the landscape around the village. We will publish the assessment when we have it and will be using it to respond to Kingsway's PEIR. We have to respond by 29 October and would welcome your views beforehand. However, there is nothing to stop you expressing your own views directly to Kingsway http://www.kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk. Indeed we would encourage as many of you as possible to do so as this will demonstrate the strength of opposition to the application to Kingsway and the Planning Inspectorate. We would encourage you not to use Kingsway's template but instead to follow the guidance of the Kingsway Solar Community Action (KSCA) group.
https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/get-involved-in-kingsway-solar-farm-objection/consultation-period-is-here/.
KCSA is running a number of letter-writing workshops and the PC is exploring if one can be organised close to Reach.

The PC is also pressing central and local government to revise planning frameworks and guidelines to take far more account of cumulative impact of energy developments on landscapes and communities.

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