Within Reach



February/March 2026



Philippa on Rosie (both pics from the Reach Riders Group Festive Ride 2025 – see back cover for more)



Mason on Ronnie with Megan



The assembled Blue Bellies and Yellow Bellies. The author (Ross Clark) sports the brand new football boots he was given for Christmas



Making himself big in the box: Bryan Pearson works up to another desperate save

New Year's Day Footie . . . .

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From the Editor



So now we have another dreary winter month almost done – thankfully. Personally, I can't wait for March to arrive and can increasingly understand why many people head off to warmer climes this time of year! But I think we had a good Christmas period in Reach.

Our tree, by common consent, was the best ever and put in place and decorated by willing helpers to whom we are always grateful. A new star was manufactured, ironwork courtesy of Brian Marsh and the light string sourced by Duncan Grindley of Cambridge Electrical, who also sorted out a couple of technical issues with the power supply on the green. But the biggest contribution, as ever over recent times was from "American Matt" who meticulously decorates the tree (he takes forever!), ensuring that the lights are placed properly – and stay where they are supposed to for the full five weeks.

The Seniors Christmas Lunch was another success, as it has been since its inception in 2018. Again, plenty of people contributed to that. The customary picture was taken and by the time you read this, will be on the village website on the News and Events page.

And then we had the carols, sung around the tree on Christmas Eve, delightful as ever.

Also this year, we had a mysterious added treat with someone taking the trouble to walk around the village and add individual baubles to village gardens. Its such a lovely thing to do, so to whoever did it, thank you. And if you care to get in touch with her, Kate Day has taken the trouble to gather them up for you . . . .

In this issue, David Thomas gives us an update on the Village Hall, focusing on the need to repair the wall to the left of it which collapsed during the particularly bad weather. The cost will be significant, but plans are in place (see page 20) including another of their very popular "call My Wine Bluffs".

So here's to a successful and rewarding 2026 for us all!

David Parr



About the Magazine

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

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

The Team

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Reach Riders Group	Sue Cameron
Rosanna's Ramblings	Rosanna Moseley Gore
Then and Now	Chris Patterson
Village Hall	David Thomas
Village Update	Alex de Giorgio-Miller
Wicken Fen	Ajay Tegala
Wildlife	Nick Acklam

Village Update



Happy New Year! I hope you had a relaxing Christmas period and enjoyed the brief snow – my children were delighted! A photo of their snowman included – 4 hours work including a long tramp through the woods to find the perfect sticks for arms! They are disappointed with the return to 'regular winter' weather, but as a big fan of the summer months, this is plenty cold enough for me!

Discard Batteries carefully

The council is launching a campaign to remind the public not to discard batteries in recycling or black bags, after a bin lorry caught fire. Fortunately, the crew was able to extinguish the blaze before it set fire to the lorry or caused further damage. Every year over 1,200 fires are caused nationally by hidden and loose batteries being thrown in with general rubbish and recycling. As well as loose batteries, many are hidden inside everyday electricals, like kids' toys, alarm clocks, vapes and electric toothbrushes. When we throw hidden or loose batteries in with our general rubbish or recycling, they can get crushed or punctured in the bin lorries. This releases chemicals which come into contact with the air and can start a serious fire. Battery fires are particularly dangerous as the lithium in them releases its own oxygen. This intensifies the fire and makes it more difficult to extinguish.

While many of us are already recycling, over 1.6 billion electricals with hidden batteries were thrown away last year. That's over 3,000 binned batteries a minute! Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be reused or recycled - including the plugs, batteries and cables themselves. If possible, remove batteries from your electricals and recycle them separately. If you're unable to remove the batteries safely, recycle the whole electrical at your nearest electrical recycling point.

Clean recycling

East Cambs residents are being urged to keep nappies, vapes and un-rinsed food containers out of their blue recycling bins. Placing these items into blue bins can contaminate a whole bin – meaning it must be treated as rubbish rather than recycling. Instead, residents are being asked to:

- rinse food from recycling before placing it in a blue bin
- put nappies into black bags
- recycle vapes at household waste recycling centres or shop collection points

Apparently East Cambs currently rates in the top 25 recycling authorities in the country but the number of blue bins being contaminated with nappies, vapes and unwashed recycling is increasing. When recycling is rejected, it increases disposal costs so reducing contamination helps keep council spending down.

Bird flu

Following a confirmed case of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) near Ely, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) have now put in place a 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone to try to stop the further spread of the disease. An interactive map showing where the zones are is available on the gov.uk website. You can also view the Declaratory Order setting out the rules and extensive guidance on things like symptoms and how to report them, housing birds safely and applying for movement licences.

It is a legal requirement to register all captive birds now, even if you just have a few hens in the garden. If you haven't already done so, visit www.gov.uk. This will enable the APHA to keep you up to date with Avian Influenza developments. You can also sign up to APHA's animal disease text alert service.

It is important to emphasise that the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has said that Avian Influenza is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low. Nevertheless, the public are being asked not to touch dead wild birds, but should report them to DEFRA online or by calling 03459 33 55 77. Furthermore, the Food Standards Agency has said that on the basis of the current scientific evidence, Avian Influenza poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

The Burwell History Society

Burwell History Society meets at the Gardiner Memorial Hall in Burwell High Street, CB25 0HD starting at 7.30pm. At our meeting on February18th we welcome back John Vigor who will be giving a talk titled 'Leave no stone unturned - the lives and burial places of the famous and infamous'

On March 18th our talk will be given by Helen Green and titled 'Dashing away with the smoothing iron'

Visitors welcome to individual meetings for £5 at the door.

Watch out for our posters around the village, email Judy Paxton judympaxton@gmail.com
or check our website for further details.

MP Update

In early 2025 I set up a new network bringing together publicans and people working across our local hospitality sector. Ever since, I've been raising concerns about the pressures they face – and listening closely to what's really happening on the ground.

Pubs, cafés, restaurants and small venues aren't just businesses. In villages and market towns, they are community hubs: places where people meet, celebrate, and look out for one another. When a rural pub closes, something far bigger than a balance sheet is lost. Yet many are now operating on wafer-thin margins, hit by rising energy costs, staff shortages, falling footfall and a cost-of-living crisis that has priced too many people out of life's small joys.



Charlotte Cane (second from left) with publicans from across the constituency at her recent Publicans' Network event, hosted at the Black Horse in Rampton.

That's why I've been calling for urgent action to support hospitality and high streets. Together with colleagues, I've urged the Chancellor to cut VAT for pubs, restaurants, accommodation and attractions from 20% to 15%, helping businesses survive.

We're also calling for the main levy on household energy bills to be removed and funded through a windfall tax on big banks. Together, this £12bn package would put around £270 back into families' pockets to spend locally.

While the Chancellor ignored these calls at the Budget, there are signs the Government may be preparing a climbdown on planned business rates rises specifically for pubs. From the unsustainable jobs tax to spiralling energy bills, too many local publicans have shared their concerns that they could be facing closure if relief does not come soon.

Alongside this national campaigning, I'm proud of the enterprise and community-led initiatives in our constituency. It was a pleasure to attend the grand opening of the Wilburton Community Shop – a brilliant example of residents creating a vital local service. I've also enjoyed visiting Toppings Booksellers in Ely and hosting locally based Xampla in Parliament.

Do you run a local business – in hospitality or otherwise? If you do, I'd like to hear from you. Please email me at charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk.

Backing local businesses means tackling the cost of living, supporting innovation and standing up for the places that hold our communities together.

Warm wishes

Charlotte

P.S. This is just a snippet – to keep up with everything I'm doing, sign up to my newsletter at bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte

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

Scarlet Bailey's Hike to Everest Base Camp

After finishing my placement year and returning to university, I was looking forward to what I could do next, when I made the decision to join the University of Bath's Everest BC Trek team. Over 11 days, we will be trekking approximately 130km through the Himalayas, reaching altitudes of 18,500 ft. As someone with asthma and Raynaud's disease, everyone knows I hate cardio and the cold so it's going to be both physically and mentally demanding — but for a cause worth every step, the charity Student Minds.

Mental health is something that affects everyone differently. I've struggled myself and seen close friends go through the same, so raising money for Student Minds feels especially important.

Preparation started with buying some hiking boots!! We have been training on weekly hikes around Bath, and Cheddar Gorge with Snowdon booked in for Easter. This is not a fundraiser for a holiday for me in the Himalayas, I will be funding my own trip and pushing myself to my limits to help support Student Minds, the amazing charity.

I appreciate everyone has their own favourite charity which they like to support, but please, if you are able to, take a look at the work Student Minds do https://www.studentminds.org.uk/ and help me reach my donation target.

Every donation, big or small, makes a difference, simply scan the QR code below or go to: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/uk-everest-base-camp-2nd-september-2026-student-choseachallenge-68ed2374ceb99?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Thank you so much for your support

Scarlett x

Rosanna's Ramblings



When I was a child, I had a book of Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. My favourite one, because it had a strangely disturbing illustration, was Janus with the double-sided head (this one was hairy and bearded, rather like a double Green Man). He presided over endings and beginnings, which is why the month of January is named after him. And as I'm writing this in January, I feel justified in taking my inspiration from him.



Firstly, of course, there's been the end of my 2025 walking challenge (final total a creditable 2,054.2km). This was a significant relief because as I started my final week, Milo and a black lab from Burwell ran into the less reliable of my two knees as his owner and I chatted on the path uphill from the donkeys. I could tell this was not as serious an incident as when Milo and Merkel tore a ligament on my other knee a few years ago, but it was painful enough for me to get a bit tearful and cause the very nice lady to look very concerned. Moral 1 … don't chat to humans when two labradors are charging around at full speed. Moral 2 … perhaps best to cower behind a large bush and hope they go in the other direction.

Anyway, having gone over the 2,025km goal on Christmas Day on the cricket pitch and being exceedingly pleased with myself, all things considered, as 2025 had been a tricky year, good old Janus whispered in my ear, "2026. Do it again. You know you want to!". I did, actually, it genuinely was an excellent motivator to do a bit more, park a bit further away, walk rather than drive. So, I have started the year with ice, snow, mud, puddle, squelch and mutterings about the off-roaders – you all know the sort of thing that a Reach winter brings. But at least we have actually been having a winter. Weirdly mild today, though. Grumble, grumble. The other morning, when we were still in that very cold snap, I noticed something remarkable. There was a long patch of snow-covered ice on the river next to the Hythe, which trailed off at each end into darkening slushy ice with no snow … and then into murky water. All along the snowy patch were biggish bird footprints (moorhen, I guess) in a series of diverging and converging lines like an ornithological braided river seen from the air. And along the middle of the channel were two rows of dog pawprints, smaller than Milo's feet (and to be honest, as the ice hadn't been that thick, I'd have been alarmed if he had attempted to follow whichever mutt had made them).



The remarkable thing was the way the dog pawprints continued onto the semi-unfrozen ends in both directions and seemed to fade away increasingly into paw-shaped puddles before wateriness won over forward propulsion. I don't for a moment think that the dog did a bit of walking on water before taking a chilly plunge. I do realise that the pawprints were most likely a couple of days old and had been being eroded by slightly warmer temperatures. But there was something well … Janus-like … about what I saw. They came from one direction, then came from the other direction.

They symbolically moved from past into present and on into the future, at which point it was impossible to see where they were heading. And indeed, where they had actually come from either.

And that's how life is, isn't it? It's now 2026 and Christmas seems so very long ago. Fortunately, next Christmas still feels very far away. But I'm sure we're not the only people starting to populate our mental maps, as well as our diaries, with plans for socialising, for travel, for gardening. It's a basic human need, to give ourselves some sense of forward momentum. And as Charles and I experienced last year, when we had to put all sorts of plans on hold, not being able to move forward in expected directions feels very unsettling.

But I do have to acknowledge that those plans aren't real until they actually happen, a truth I resent but that's just tough. My son, unemployed since May, was due to have a job interview last Friday and it was cancelled because of heavy snowfall in Birmingham. I wonder how many brave villagers actually made it to the carol singing around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve, seeing as it was bitterly cold and wildly windy? Plans will right now be afoot for Reach Fair in May, but will the Morris dancers be rained off?

Will Reach mud dry out enough to make my next tranche of walking proceed at anything more than a slimy snail's pace? Will 2026 be better for our beautiful world than 2025 managed to be? That one's a slim hope, I fear – high level prayers might be needed rather than mere wishful thinking.

But I do know one thing. As I walked past the village orchard with Milo this morning and took a photo of it in its wintry hibernation, I couldn't help smiling to myself about all that fruity bounty in prospect for later in the year. How marvellous! How wonderful! Whatever kind of growing year it proves to be, the blossom WILL come. There WILL be apples. There WILL be pears. And plums. And medlars. The wasps WILL have their feast.

We villagers WILL have the chance to wonder down there of a late summer evening with carrier bags in our hands and see what we can harvest. And as I open our chest freezer, Janus looking over my shoulder, I can right now search for some frozen 2025 greengages and plan to bake them into a tart for friends in February 2026. Ticks many of the boxes for me, that does. And I hope for you too.

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: My local council is reducing bin collections from fortnightly to every three weeks. I'm concerned that my elderly relative may struggle to move her bin to the gate with the extra week's waste. I've heard it might be possible to arrange for the bin to be collected directly from where it's kept. How can I arrange this on her behalf?

Answer: You'll need to contact your local council and request an Assisted Bin Collection service. Most councils offer this support for residents who genuinely need it, though there is an eligibility criteria to meet. It's worth visiting your council's website first to check the specific requirements and application process for your area, as these can vary between councils.

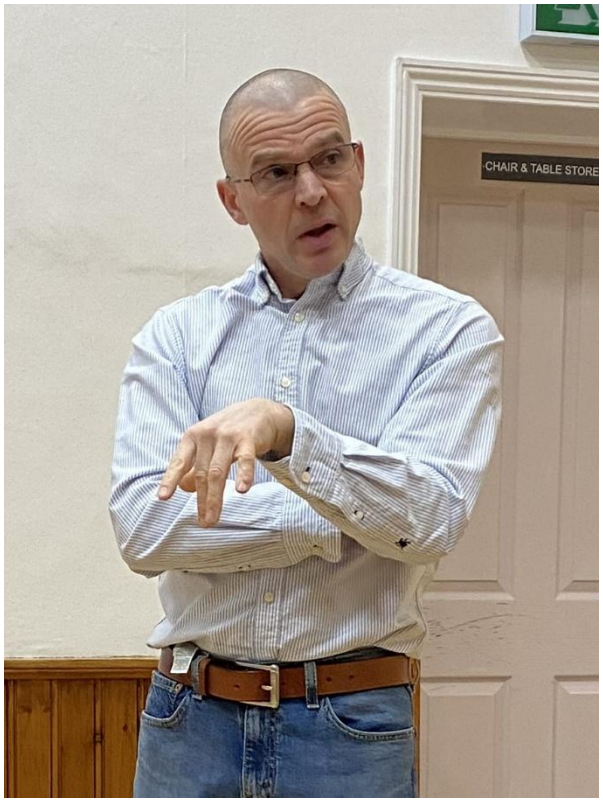
Question: As I get older, I'm finding it increasingly difficult to read newspapers, even with regularly updated glasses. I'd like to try a Talking Newspaper service, and when I mentioned this to relatives with similar difficulties, they were interested too. Is there a directory listing all these services?

Answer: Yes, there is. The Talking News Federation maintains a comprehensive directory of Talking Newspaper services across the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland. You can find details of your local service by visiting their website at tnf.org.uk. This is an excellent free resource that makes staying informed much more accessible.

Able Community Care Ltd
The Old Parish Rooms, Whitlingham Lane, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8TZ
www.ablecommunitycare.com 01603 764567

The Swaffhams' WI

Do you know your Miche from your Baguette? I can tell you someone who does and that is Master Miller Jonathan Cook from Fosters Mill. Jonathan came to the January meeting of the Swaffham's WI laden with flour, oats, muesli, freshly baked bread and fascinating stories about the history of Fosters Mill, inspiring us also to think about Real Bread Revolution.



Fosters Mill itself dates from 1857, although it is thought that its predecessor was a post mill (so called because the mill was raised up on a single post supported by 4 quarter bars) and that there were previously other mills on the current site possibly dating from the 12th century.

It was the Galley family who originally worked the current mill and in 1896 the Foster family bought the mill and it stayed in the Foster family until 1970. Between 1976 and 1992 the mill was restored until it was finally bought by Jonathan in 1998.

Swaffham Prior is one of the few places left in Britain where two mills exist and it is the only place where you will be able to see the sails of two windmills turning. So next time you are out for a walk, do look to see if you are lucky enough to catch both Fosters Mill and The Smock Tower Mill turning their sails.

Not only is Jonathan the custodian of this historic working mill safeguarding it for future generations, but Fosters Mill also brings employment and visitors to Swaffham Prior.

The flour is sold throughout the UK and even abroad. Bread bakers are re-learning an art which started to disappear from the time of the Industrial Revolution. People are experimenting and trying out different things. The Real Bread Revolution is happening!

Jonathan is 'picky' about the grain he uses and this year he sampled grain from 6 different estates and chose his excellent grain from an estate in Derbyshire. The mill stone used to mill the grain, dates from 1846 and stoneground milling produces a healthier flour, preserving the natural nutrition and vitamin content of the grain. Nothing goes to waste. Fosters Mill is currently producing 17 different types of flour.



So don't be surprised if the delicious aroma of baking bread fills the streets of Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach. We have all been inspired to join the Real Bread Revolution. By the way, have you worked out what Miche is yet? If not, visit Jonathan at Fosters Mill and he will enlighten you.

Our next talk is by bat expert Katie Pollard on Monday 16th February, 7;30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. I know that Katie would love to hear about our local bats and will answer any questions you might have.

I have also included a summary of our programme of meetings for 2026. Do please come along and join our thriving group. We would love to see you there!

Kate Muscroft
katemuscroft@gmail.com

The Swaffhams' WI Programme for 2026

January
19th January. FOSTERS MILL. A talk by Jonathan Cook
February
16th February. BATS. A talk by Katie Pollard
March
16th March. AGM
April
20th April. COCO CHANEL. A talk by Carol Pooke. This will be an open meeting
May
18th May. Sarah tells us about THE EDGE CAFÉ, Cambridge
June
15th June. SUMMER GARDEN PARTY
July
20th July. Alastair Cairns tells us about his TRAVELLER'S TALES.
August
17th August. Susan Grossey's talk on POLICING & CRIME IN REGENCY LONDON & CAMBRIDGE.
September
OUTING
October
19th October. Alison Giles and MOLLY DANCING
November
16th November. CALLIGRAPHY. An evening of craft with Melanie Reed
December
14th December. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wicken Fen



Picture courtesy of Ajay Tegala

This winter has had its magical moments on Wicken Fen, with a rare cold spell freezing the lodes and dusting the landscape in snow. Swirling murmurations of hundreds of starlings were spotted near Burwell Fen at dusk during January. The cold days aren't over yet, the calls of ducks, geese and swans carrying across the wintry landscape. On bright days, it's worth wrapping up warm for an invigorating fen walk – then warming up in the Docky Hut café with hot drinks, soup, scones and sweet treats! As ever, we have a range of goodies in the gift shop and our secondhand Book Nook in the visitor centre (pre-loved jigsaw puzzles and books gratefully received). A warm welcome awaits all!

Early January saw the start of peatland work on Hurdle Hall Fen. An area of 36 hectares are being restored adjacent to last year's work on Burwell Fen. Once completed (around the end of March), this will provide more habitat for wetland wildlife as well as storing more carbon in the damp ground, mitigating the impacts of climate change. Last spring was incredibly dry, making it challenging for fen wildlife – we hope that 2026 will be kinder to our special species. To stay up to date with the latest reserve news (including peatland restoration progress), visit: nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

As always, we will have themed activities at the Family Discovery Area in the Visitor Centre and there will be a special trail around the boardwalk during the February Half Term school holiday period. Our popular owl pellet dissection children's workshop will be running on Monday 16th February (age 5+). Check the events page on our website for event details and booking.

Our daily opening hours are:
Docky Hut Café – February*: 10am-4pm; 2nd March onwards: 10am-5pm
Visitor Centre, gift shop, reserve – Feb*: 10am-4.30pm; 2nd Mar onwards: 9.30am-5pm
*Please note that all will be closed on Monday 9th February for urgent tree safety works.

Nature in Reach

20 November: Hilary Fielding captures some magnificent footage of a female sparrow hawk, plucking and eating a wood pigeon (see below pic)



26 November: a tawny owl calls from high in the holly tree of our garden.

27 November: whilst normally a quiet time of year for birdsong, there is a surprising amount on the Hythe this morning. Song thrush, great spotted woodpecker and blue tit are prominent.

28 November: two great spotted woodpeckers are calling from trees at the base of the Pocket Park. In the 24 Acres, I catch a glimpse of a short-eared owl flying the boundary between the woodland and the rough pasture retained by the National Trust.



29 November: song thrush, robin and blue tit sing volubly in the thick hedge adjacent to Straight Drove.

30 November: a heron climbs the bank of the Catchwater by the Hythe. It is carrying a large fish and, at the top of the bank, it attempts to swallow it. The bird gradually manoeuvres the wriggling fish so that it enters its gullet, head first and after a struggle, it succeeds.

1 December: Hilary watches a Chinese water deer calmly cross Little Fen Drove.

10 December: large flocks of starling and jackdaw circle Tubney Fen at first light. I hear a meadow pipit calling from scrub at the Burwell Road entrance to the 24Acres.

11 December: a Cetti's warbler calls from hawthorn scrub on Straight Drove. Dunnock, blue tit and chaffinch are also heard.

12 December: chaffinch are again calling from the large hedge of Straight Drove. A couple of decades ago they were a common sight in the gardens of the village. Not so now; the decline likely caused by Trichomoniasis, a parasitic disease that spreads through contaminated food and water sources, especially in gardens. Chaffinch numbers in the UK have fallen by more than a third since the disease was first identified in 2005.

13 and 23 December: a pure white cock pheasant is seen loitering in the roadside hedge by Lord Ground. The bird is leucistic rather than a true albino as it retains eye colour. Given its prominence, I am amazed it has survived this far into the winter.

14 December: a pair of ravens patrol the field by Church Hill. Their size and deep 'cronking' calls are a giveaway. Raven numbers in the east of England have increased by 134% over the last thirty years as persecution has declined. They are still quite unusual in our neighbourhood though.

16 December: the calls of several song thrushes punctuate a walk down Great Lane and Barston Drove. Robin, wren, blue and great tits are also singing in the warm, damp conditions.

17 December: I glimpse a kingfisher flying along Weirs Drove water. On 29 December Jonathan Latchford reports what he describes as 'heavy kingfisher traffic' along the Catchwater at the bottom of his garden. Two kingfishers flew upstream together, followed ten seconds later by a third. A little later a kingfisher flew downstream and shortly after that, another kingfisher returned upstream carrying a fish. In short, Jonathan sees at least three kingfishers in a five minute spell. On 4 January Hilary sights a kingfisher twice, slightly further up the Catchwater. The sight of a kingfisher is always exciting especially in the winter gloom and whilst not hard evidence, this cluster of sightings suggest that wildlife is recovering along the Catchwater and Reach Lode.

20 December: large flocks of fieldfare and redwing mass in the tall hawthorn hedge along Little Fen Drove. As they peel away at my arrival, the early morning sun catches their pale undersides. On the same day, Hilary spots four Egyptian geese on the forecourt to Swan Lake barns. She has seen these noisy and confident aliens on several other occasions recently.

24 December: there are eleven roe deer scattered across the arable field beyond Swan Lake barns, the largest grouping I have seen this winter.

31 December: at dawn, Jupiter is very visible in the north west sky. Two song thrushes sing in competition from trees on the Hythe.

Ron and Penny Greenhill are pleased to see more blackbirds and wrens in their garden than of late but regrettably there have been no hedge sparrows sightings for about four months. Early in January, blue tits begin checking out the nest boxes in the Greenhill's garden and during the cold snap, along with goldfinches, greenfinches and great tits they eat a huge amount of sunflower hearts from the feeders.

A pair of pied wagtails clear up the scraps they drop. Penny asks that all those with bird feeders clean them regularly. This is good advice as dirty feeders are considered to be the main vector for Trichomoniasis. Ron and Penny are delighted to hear a pair of song thrushes who sing from the top of a big ash tree by Reach Wood when the sun shines.

3 January: Hilary sees a kestrel taking off from the entrance to the solar farm opposite Swan Lake carrying, with a little effort, a fully grown rat in its talons.

4 January: a yellowhammer flock flies over the top end of the 24Acres, the sunlight illuminates the heads of the male birds. Hilary spots a red kite hunting over Tubney Fen.

7 January: greenfinches are very vocal in the hedges around the Pocket Park.

8 January: proper winter conditions: snow has arrived overnight and stays crisp for a day or so, the first such instance (I think) since the Beast From the East struck in February 2018.

Before the freeze, Dafila Clutton-Brock reports hearing whooper swans on Burwell Fen. She and Tim also report fabulous starling murmurations at the same location, viewing the spectacle from Reach cycle bridge.

10 January: in the evening Hilary sees three herons hunched like little ghostly old men on the grass verge of Little Fen Drove

15 January: at first light a large flock of rooks and jackdaws flies south west from Tubney Fen. Mixed groups of corvids are a winter feature. The birds roost rather than forage together.

Nick Acklam

Reach Riders



Annelie with daughter Alma

Just before 11am on Sunday 28 December horses and ponies began gathering on Fair Green, Reach, for Reach Riders Group Annual Festive Ride. We had a good number and variety of horses, ponies and riders suitable dressed and adorned for Christmas. We were graced with Rudolf, elves, Santa and tinsel galore. Old, very young and every age in between turned up. Horsey folk, supporters and villagers came to enjoy the spectacle. As they arrived, riders and spectators were treated to sausage rolls, mince pies, Baileys and port.

On the stroke of 11.20 the experienced riders set off down Swaffham Prior Road. At the start of the ride the horses and ponies were quite excited and nippy on their toes. By the time they reached Swaffham Prior High Street they had settled to a consistent walk. The group kept together and enjoyed chatting and catching up. The ride was enjoyed by everyone who attended, and the rosettes were admired and very much appreciated. The horses and ponies behaved and the weather was kind.

We thank Hilary Fielding who gave out the rosettes; Shaun Mayes and Lawrence Stapley who served the food and drink and Joanna and Georgina Stokes who rode on bicycles with the experienced riders; and Kezia Brown who made the delicious sausage rolls.

Update The RRG is fund raising to install rabbit fencing at the Arena on the 24Acres. We are enormously grateful to the Village Grant Fund for their financial support and continue to make grant applications

Sue Cameron (more pics on the colour covers)

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



Our meetings commenced after the Christmas and New Year holidays on Tuesday 13th January with Panel Pics & Creative Board competitions judged by Mrs Naomi Saul from Shillington. Members entered a total of 24 panels, each consisting of 5 images on a chosen theme to be assessed on the night. The Creative Boards were slightly down on numbers from last year, but again were very creative on a chosen theme.

Our 3-way Print Battle with Melbourn & Ely Photographic Clubs took place at Foxton Village Hall on the 2nd December 2025 when our club came a commendable third. We hope to do better this year when we host the competition on 1st December 2026 at Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Our club is also taking part in external competitions with clubs in the East Anglian area with a Projected Digital Image competition on Sunday 15th February and a Print Competition on 15th March both at The Fulbourn Centre, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire. We are hopeful that our images will do well against the other 23 clubs taking part in the competitions.

Our meetings in 2026 include:

20 January: 'The Many Faces of China & It's People' by Mike Sharples from Stafford. Zoom presentation.

27 January: Projected Digital Image competition judged by Mrs Alison Jenkins of Ware & District CC.

3 February: Photography Workshop led by club member Elliot Needhm. A practical evening using different techniques with camera and tripod required.

10 February: Print League Competition judged by Jonathan Vaines, Bedford.

17 February: Lecture by Roger Hance of Ipswich & District PS. Roger is an expert in all genre of photography and this Zoom presentation will show a variety of his work.

24 February: 'Zimanga' by Paul Radden of North Norfolk PC. This projected digital image presentation will be an African Safari with a difference!
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.
Visitors are always welcome for a small fee of £4.00 which includes refreshments.

If you are interested in joining this active club, please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett, for further information and a copy of our programme. 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

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Please contact me if you would like to join our team of volunteers.

Clare.Cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Anglesey Abbey



Snowdrops are on everyone's lips at this time of year and we are busy preparing to welcome thousands of galanthophiles, along with those who simply enjoy a bracing winter walk among these delicate white blooms.

This season, the Winter Garden is looking particularly beautiful. Early varieties of daffodils are already bringing welcome splashes of colour to the greyer days, while snowdrops sprinkle the gardens and wider estate. For those keen to learn more, a specialist snowdrop collection tour is available to book, offering a closer look at the rare and unusual varieties discovered at Anglesey Abbey and exchanged within the snowdrop community, an important contribution led by our dedicated garden team.



Tours are running between 26 Jan- 27 Feb, Sun- Mon, its £5 to pre-book onto and spaces are limited. Head to the website to find out more.

Families visiting during the February half term can enjoy a little extra outdoor fun, with a free spotter sheet available from 14–22 February, designed to keep curious minds and little legs exploring.

As March arrives, the gardens truly burst into life. To celebrate, the team will be hosting free garden tours focusing on the specialist daffodil varieties found at Anglesey Abbey. While there is no charge to join, donations are warmly welcomed and help us continue caring for these remarkable collections.

Following the success of the *Shaun the Sheep* and *The Snowman* sculpture trails in 2025, we're delighted to tease an exciting new character sculpture trail, launching from Saturday 28 March to Tuesday 5 May. More details will be revealed in early February, but here's a hint: some love the river, some the road, some a snug underground home—and some, of course, a little mischief. Watch this space!

No spring would be complete without an Easter adventure. Our Easter Adventures trail runs from 28 March to 12 April and costs £3.50 to take part. Visitors can choose between a chocolate egg or a vegan and Free From chocolate egg, all made with Rainforest Alliance Certified cocoa. Theres no need to pre-book, but we may be busier the usual over the weekend in the school holidays. Normal admission applies.

Opening times:

- 1 February- 1 March: 9:30am – 4pm | open daily
- From 2 March : 9:30am- 5pm | open daily

Head to the website, or check our social media channels for the latest news.

Issy Ventoshkina

NT Images/ Mike Selby/Meghan Curteis

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The Dyke's End



Happy New Year Reach!

Over the past months we have had a lot of exciting things happening within the pub. During the summer we were inspected by Cask Masque and awarded a 5* Beer and Cellar Hygiene Accreditation, this is by no means an easy accomplishment and a huge credit goes to Dan as this is where he loves to spend most of his time tinkering away to ensure you guys get the perfect pint!

In September we had our annual Beer Festival, a week long event which showcased incredible ales and ciders from across East Anglia. We were thrilled with the support from everyone and it was a great success. In October we launched our new Winter Soups and Stews menu on a Saturday lunchtime. Delicious, hearty home-made stews and warming soups have brightened up many dull and wet Saturdays.

Roll onto December and we held our Christmas Quiz which was a sell out! Teams battled it out and engaged their competitive spirit all in the name of raising money for The Prospects Trust - and a bit of friendly banter. We then had our Christmas Drinks night (with home-made biscuits 🙄) which was lovely to be able to give a little something back and say thank you to the village.

Now sees the start of 2026 and we have already kicked off the year with our second Burns Night Supper. Valentine's Day, a Cheese and Wine tasting night and lots of other exciting events are in the pipeline. Watch this space.

Lastly, we would just like to say thank you for your continued support throughout 2025 and into the new year, we can't wait to welcome you in for some tasty food, a good pint and a catch up - these winter months are a great time to support your local pub!

Upcoming Dates For Your Diary!

- Food Van: Pizza Mondo, Wednesday 4th February
- Live Music from The Lightwaves, Friday 6th February 8pm
- Food Van: Scotties Hot Scotch Eggs, Wednesday 11th February
- Valentine's Night, Saturday 14th February
- Cheese and Wine Night, Saturday 7th March

Food at the Dyke's End

- Wednesday: Food Trucks 5-8pm
- Thursday: Pie and a Pint Night 6-8:30pm
- Friday: Fish and Chip Night 6:30-9pm
- Saturday: Winter Soups and Stews lunch menu 12:30-2pm
- Sunday: Sunday Roast 12-3pm

With warm wishes

Claire

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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Food Focus

Chilli



I made 3 versions of chilli on New Years Eve to accommodate vegetarians, non-spice lovers and meaty spice-tolerate consumers. The vegetarian one shown below, which I adapted from a Jamie Oliver recipe, was particularly successful so I've converted it here from the irritating media of video to a written recipe. It doesn't seem to be available anywhere in the traditional form of method and ingredients; but how can a video ever be as convenient as method and ingredients? You have to keep pausing, forwarding, rewinding unlocking your screen etc to write down the ingredients and get the method. I know I'm showing my age, but please bring back a recipe with method and ingredients – it's so much easier.



Adapted Jamie Oliver Sweet Potato Chilli with Sweetcorn Salsa (serves 4)

Chilli

2 x tin black beans
1 x tin tomatoes
2 x sweet potatoes roasted skin on in oven with olive oil and salt for 30 minutes at ~180c
4 x toasted garlic cloves
2 x heaped tsps Cajun spice (I didn't have this so I made my own out of 1 tsp smoked paprika, 1 tsp cayenne, 1 tsp oregano and a pinch of garlic salt)
Green part of bunch of spring onions toasted (see below)
2-4 squares of dark chocolate

Put everything except the second tin of black beans, the sweet potato and the chocolate in a liquidizer and whizz until fully mixed and smooth-ish. Add to a pan and add the second tin of black beans, the sweet potato and the chocolate, bring to the boil and simmer until the flavours have had an opportunity to develop…this is your chilli.

Salsa

300gm fresh tomatoes
2 sweetcorn cobs toasted in a dry pan with the garlic cloves and bunch of spring onions
White part of spring onion bunch
A small bunch of fresh coriander

Chop up the above ingredients and combine with salt and pepper and some vinegar or lime.
Jamie makes flatbreads to serve this with – but we had it with rice. The chilli would be equally good served with guacamole or both salsas, sour cream etc.

Catherine Gibson

Robinson & Claydon



We're excited to share some great news with our local community: we've recently opened our very own MOT bay right here in our existing workshop. This means we can now carry out MOT tests on site, making things quicker and more convenient for our customers.

Having an in-house MOT bay allows us to offer a complete service under one roof. Instead of taking your vehicle elsewhere for its MOT, you can now have the test done by our qualified team in the same trusted workshop you already know. It helps save time, reduces hassle, and makes looking after your car that little bit easier.

Our MOTs are carried out to the same strict standards you'd expect, with clear and honest advice every step of the way. If any work is needed, we're happy to explain what's required in plain language, with no pressure and no surprises.

We're proud to invest in our workshop and in the local area, and opening our own MOT bay is an important step for us. Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to welcoming both new and existing customers for in-house MOTs very soon. 🚗

Lucy Robinson

Burwell Museum

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026!

Before launching into what we plan for 2026, we thought we would reflect on what we were able to achieve in 2025 (apart from our events)!

2025 started with a push to make the Museum more financially stable with our first target being a grant from East Cambridgeshire District Council for the installation of solar panels/batteries. We were successful in our application and the grant was awarded with the installation being completed before we opened in March. This has saved us approximately £400 per month in energy costs.

This grant was conditional on a new Education Hub being developed to demonstrate Climate Change, Bio Diversity and Renewable Energy around Burwell. The development of this hub has enabled us to secure further grant funding from Reach Community Solar Farm and Burwell Parish Council (via EDF Solar Fund). This Education Hub will be opening in 2026 and work is progressing swiftly.

In February 2025 we were able to secure a grant from Museum Development South East to carry out an environmental survey on our collections and storage areas. This survey was carried out in May and showed we were in pretty good shape but needed to tweak a few things. Work on the recommendations continues with our collections team.

Further money was received from Carnival, Tesco and the family of Andy Martin – all these generous donations have been earmarked for particular items which will be shared with you in due course.

However, our largest donation for 2025 came from Pauline and Gerald Mason who had heard that we were looking to extend one of our buildings. We have chosen our tearoom and this work is progressing over the winter closure, with the building now on order for delivery during February. Again, a plea for any plumbers or electricians who would be willing to offer reduced rates or their time FOC to help with this project. Please get in touch if you think you can help us.

We have continued our fundraising initiatives and in October were selected to take part in the Co-Op Local Community Fund scheme – please don't forget to choose us as your charity!

2025 was also a year to continue our back of house projects to bring the Museum into the 21st Century. After almost two and a half years, we are close to activating the Museum's cloud based email and IT Server. We are fortunate that Kevin Gill, an IT specialist living in Burwell, has been providing support to us in his spare time.

We have also been working on updating and refreshing the Museum's website. Again, this will allow cloud-based access for the Trustees and will house files and documentation, giving much needed improved access to the general public to historic information that we retain.

2025 also saw us go digital in our volunteering platform, with 'signupgenius' making it easier for people to volunteer and also see last minute where we need help.

We worked with Burwell Print to update some of our signage, including the signs by The Gardiner Memorial Hall now with a walking map and 'next event' poster space, a new Burwell Plaques display, red & green hands for our displays and an updated visitor guide. We have also worked with The Stitch Lab to design uniforms for our Trustee's which we plan to extend to the regular FOH volunteers ready for the 2026 season.

We continued our involvement in 2025 with Wild Burwell – we are sowing wild flower seeds in the area outside of the Mill which has already been rotavated.

In 2025 we were fortunate enough to have been given some workshop tools including a wood lathe and new work bench, enabling our team of volunteers to re-arrange their main machine workshop. We would like to thank all our back of house volunteers for keeping our Museum looking good and safe for our visitors. However, special thanks must go to the maintenance team led by Lee Morgan / John Wisbey and the mill team, led by Colin Marshall.

Looking forward to 2026, we already have a list of things we need/want to achieve, further progressing and securing the future of the Museum. These include:

Installing paving (which has already been donated) into the main entrance and creating walkways to all our buildings. We are working on this being completed over the 26/27 winter closure – anyone who wants to help with this project, please get in touch.

Restarting our Memory Box Loan Scheme – We have been fortunate to receive funding from Burwell Carnival to purchase new boxes. We plan to create new boxes covering the 1960's, Toys, The War and Victorians. We are unable to use accessioned items for these boxes so if you think you have something we could include (not too big), please do get in touch.

Recruit a Social Media Volunteer – we are looking for someone who would be willing to take on our social media and up our profile. You don't need to commit loads of time – just your skills!

A New chest freezer for our collections team – replacing our old 'ice cream' freezer that is not very efficient. If you think you have one you could offer us please send us a photo via email.

Raffle Prizes – we plan to hold 2 large raffles a year, one at Easter and one at Christmas. This will tie up with our visit to the Farmer's Market. If you think you have something you could donate, please get in touch.

We have also planned 2 First Aid Training Courses and to carry out DBS checks for all our FOH volunteers and Trustees before we open in April.

Talking of opening, the Trustees are also pleased to share with you our event dates for 2026:

Easter Sunday – 5th April

Mills Weekend – 9th/10th May

Vintage Fair – 28th June

1940's Burwell – 12th July

Classic Car Show –16th August

Heritage Open Weekend – 12th/13th September

Halloween – 24th October

Christmas Grotto – 5th/6th Dec

We are very excited about the changes to our schedule with a new 'Vintage Fair' and an evening Halloween event planned. We are also looking to do school holiday activities and other adhoc events throughout the year.

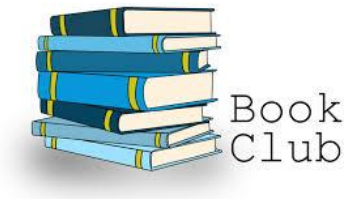
If you buy a season ticket for the Museum, you can get in free to all these events (small charge applies to additional activities where applicable).

We have kept our Season ticket prices the same as 2025:
Family (£40 -2 adults and 4 children), **Joint** (£30) and **Single** (£20)

Hopefully the above has given you some idea as to what we got up to in 2025 and what we hope to do in 2026. If your New Year's resolution includes becoming a volunteer, perhaps you would consider giving us some of your time - with either events or our back of house activities – we'd love to have you!

Burwell Museum Trustees

Dyke's End Book Club



Next meetings: **Thursday 12th February 2026 and Thursday 12th March 2026 at 7pm** in the **Dyke's End**

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!

Ally Eariss

07897 672329 or aeariss123@hotmail.co.uk

Letter from the Vicarage



I wonder if, like me, you have ever looked at something that needs changing and been put off by thinking that things seem out of our control, or that it would take too much to make any significant change. We may be feeling despondent about the state of the world, the country, the environment, and of course, there are times when huge changes are needed urgently, such as are needed to reverse the effects of climate change. But I've been encouraged recently not to forget that small steps, multiplied many times over, can make a real difference to the direction we're going and the outcomes.

The season of Lent is when the Church takes time out to reflect on what is important in life. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 18th February. We will have a service in Reach that day, at 10.30am, which is open to anyone. Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday!), the day before the beginning of Lent, has traditionally been a day for feasting before the coming austerities of Lent, using up rich food items to make pancakes, hence the other name, Pancake Day.

Lent is associated with giving things up (these days quite often chocolate!) but was originally a time of preparation for baptism at Easter, for people to declare their faith in the risen Christ. For many people, Lent is a time to look afresh at making personal lifestyle changes. It could also be a time for looking at how we can do things to make a positive difference in our communities, our nation, our world. We can all try to make changes to the way we live and use the earth's resources. We can make choices about how we speak to each other and about each other, in person or online. We can seek to live generously and peaceably together. And when it all seems too hard, when we fail, which we sometimes will, we can pray for the grace and help of God and start again with renewed courage, hope and perseverance.

Some special services coming up at St Mary's: on Sunday 8th February at 3pm is a service celebrating 20 years of our shop and gathering place, CentrePeace. All are welcome. If you're new to church, a good place to start is our Café Church which is usually the first Sunday of the month and on other special occasions, like Mothering Sunday 15th March. We begin with pastries and drinks, time to chat and themed activities, followed by a short service. We also run several groups for children, young people and families. Please get in touch if you would like more information about these or any of our events, groups or services, including weddings, christenings and baby thanksgivings, or if you would value an opportunity to chat.

If you find yourselves struggling to make ends meet, Pop-Up Pantry is at Burwell Day Centre on the first Friday of the month 2.00 – 3.00pm.

Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams, Vicar of Burwell with Reach 01638 741262 vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk







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.

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.

Energy Developments Around Reach

Kingsway Solar

In late December 2025 the National Energy System Operator (NESO, the publicly owned body that oversees the planning of the UK's energy infrastructure) completed a review of all applications to connect to the grid from solar farm (and battery storage) developers. The review was needed because there has been substantial over subscription in both areas. Kingsway failed to secure a guarantee of connection to the grid before 2035. This calls into question the financial viability of its project. Nonetheless Kingsway has indicated that it intends to proceed with its proposed development.

In early January Kingsway launched a targeted consultation on amendments to its proposal in light of submissions to its statutory consultation (Reach PC and virtually all other consultees had objected to the proposal). The amendments are limited and make no reference to the proposed pylon route between the solar farm and Burwell substation so there is nothing for us to add. However, parishes in the southern part of the development area are concerned about a seeming expansion of the area designated for battery storage.

Given the uncertainties, Reach PC and the Alliance of PCs (to which we are affiliated) are continuing to prepare for an application for development consent from Kingsway at some point in the spring of this year.

The Alliance continues to grow and now has a membership of twelve parish councils representing 21,300 people. I have agreed to join the Alliance steering group which oversees funding and tasking of professionals supporting our opposition to the proposal. My presence ensures that the northern part of the area affected by the Kingsway scheme is represented on big decisions and I am pleased to say that the steering group has agreed to fund a full landscape analysis of the entire pylon route. This analysis is likely to provide important evidence in opposing Kingsway's application.

Grenergy Battery Storage

On 15 January ECDC's Planning Committee met to consider Grenergy's application to build a battery storage plant on a field between the 24Acres and Newnham Drove. The planning officer had recommended acceptance of the application despite strong opposition from local people. ECDC had received nearly ninety formal objections.

The opposition (BEAT, the National Trust and Reach and Burwell residents) was well represented at the committee meeting. I was there to reiterate the objections of both Reach and Burwell PCs.

Our collective concerns focused on public safety (the proposal is too near to homes, given the consequences of a fire at the site), damage to the landscape and natural environment and associated loss of amenity, especially at the 24Acres and a failure by the applicant to demonstrate that the scheme is needed (NESO's above mentioned review reveals there are already more BESS schemes with planning approval than the UK electricity grid can possibly accommodate in the foreseeable future).

Our concerns were taken on board and the Committee looked minded to reject the application but pressed by ECDC officers, it has deferred taking a decision to confirm that the case for refusal is water-tight. The planning officers have a legitimate concern that the Planning Inspectorate could award costs against ECDC if it finds a planning refusal wanting on appeal. Nonetheless, from a commonsense perspective at least, the case for rejecting the application is compelling and I hope the Committee sticks to its guns.

Nick Acklam

Know Your Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors are:

Nick Acklam	Councillor
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair
Catherine Gibson	Councillor
Edward Hall	Councillor
Tim Quilter	Chair
Vacancy	Councillor
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

Reach Village Hall



Many of you will have noticed that the boundary wall of the Village Hall collapsed during the exceptionally heavy rainfall at the end of November last year and an engineer's report on the section still standing has recommended that it be taken down and rebuilt. At the time of writing, we are still waiting to hear from our insurers, who rejected the claim when it was first submitted – we are trying again with some additional information.

Whatever the outcome of the insurance claim the cost of repair and the hit to the village hall funds will be significant (the insurance won't cover the cost of taking down and rebuilding the remaining section).

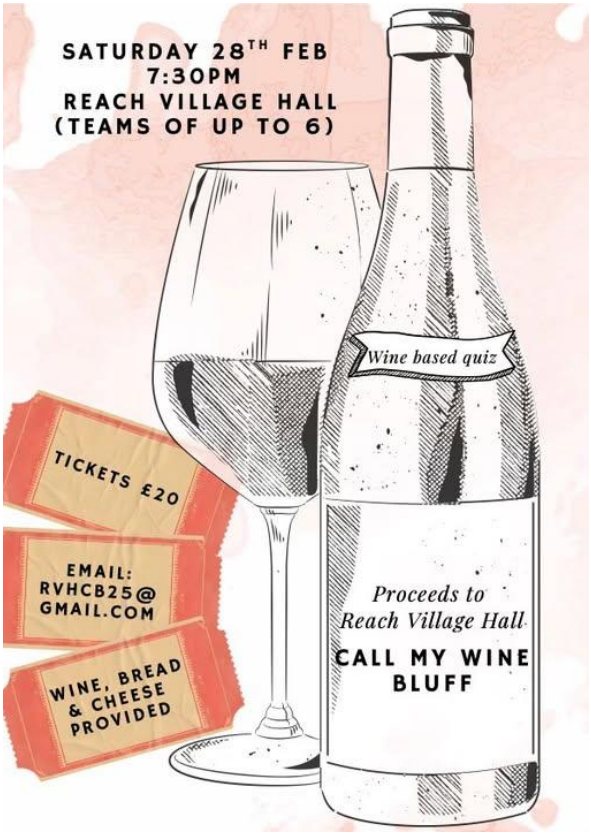
The income that the hall receives from hire charges just about covers the running costs (heating, lighting, insurance, fire-safety checks, cleaning etc). Costs of major repairs and improvements (of which there have been many in the last 4 years) need to be financed through grants, fundraising and other sources such as the occasional bequest. Although the village hall maintains some funds in reserve, these can be quickly drawn down if there are urgent repairs needed and fundraising isn't successful or possible.

Unfortunately, our ability to apply for grants is currently constrained due to the short length remaining on our lease – for capital projects many donors require leases to be for at least 10 years, but ours has only 7 years remaining. We have started the process to renew and extend our lease with the Diocese of Ely – our landlord – and hope that this won't take too long.

In the meantime, we have some fundraising events planned, starting with the ever-popular Call my Wine Bluff on Saturday 28th February. For those unfamiliar with this event, it involves teams trying to match a series of wines with a choice of descriptions offered by a panel of 'bluffers'. Can you detect those peachy undertones? Is the aroma smoky, leathery, musky or earthy? Is it a Merlot from France or a Shiraz from Argentina? To soak up the alcohol, cheese, bread and fruit are served at half time and of course there will be the usual raffle. So, if you aren't already signed up, please support the village hall and have some fun at the same time.

Please book (essential so that we can cater for numbers) by emailing the village hall at rvhcb25@gmail.com. There's no need to form a team in advance – we'll be able to 'organise' people on the day. Payment can be made in advance by BACS or cash on arrival.

Finally, we've taken the difficult decision to increase the hire charges. These have been kept the same for the last four years, while the cost of goods and services over that period have gone up by nearly 15%.
We believe that the charges still represent good value for money and are competitive with the cost of hall hire in neighbouring villages. Please remember that discounted rates apply to private hire by Reach residents and if you are hiring the hall for a village event you can apply to the Village Grant Fund to have the costs of hall hire reimbursed.



David Thomas

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

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

Attendance

Tim Quilter	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	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	Not Present

Apologies for absence
Apologies accepted & approved.
Councillor Bridgeman had resigned from the PC; the other Councillors thanked him for his excellent work whilst on the Council.
The PC is unable to operate without a Chair, following discussion, Councillor Quilter agreed to become Chair, nominated by Councillor Acklam & seconded by Councillor Hall.
And Councillor Fielding agreed to become Vice Chair, nominated by Councillor Quilter & seconded by Councillor Hall.

Forum for members of the public
A resident attended to listen to the presentation and discussion on the peatland restoration.

Declaration of Interests
There were none.

Presentation from Ellis Selway Wicken Fen NT - peatland restoration of Hurdle Hall.
A brief presentation took place on the NT plans to restore the peat areas of Hurdle Hall. The area within their submitted application is to the right of the Lode, leaving the village, from the pylons to the bridge, excluding the fishing pits. Principally this involves civil engineering to hold water on the land for longer. A clay bund will be created to help retain water and increase the water levels. This has already been successful on Tubney & Burwell Fens.
The access track to the Hurdle Hall area may be improved, and cattle grazing will be maintained.
Discussion took place regarding whether the level of the Lode would be affected, and concern for wildlife & the badger population on the site. Both will be considered and mitigated by the NT plans.

1. Planning - 25/00311/FUL 28 Great Lane, Single storey side extension.
This is a renewal application of an application which has twice before been approved. The PC has the same concerns, that being the lack of notice to near neighbours and the access to the property during construction. ***Clerk*** to send the same letter as per the previous permitted application.
Councillor Hall to add a link on the website to the ECDC planning portal to allow easier access to planning applications.

2. District Councillor Report
After very little activity in the Council in October, there was a flurry of meetings in November; we seem to be changing monthly from fallow to full.
Operational Services Committee 17 November
- It was resolved to approve the draft Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address Vehicle Related Anti-Social Behaviour (e.g., racing around car parks, or down public roads) and to approve the proposals for public consultation on the draft PSPO.
- Noted that the Committee is currently projecting a year-end underspend of £382,000 on its revenue budget of £6,842,567.

Licensing Committee 19 November
- The consultation for an increase in taxi fares of approximately 20% was broadly supported by the trade & so was accepted.

• Due to an increase in volume of taxi and taxi driver licenses, and consequently more efficiency, it was proposed that the cost of these licenses should be lower than at present since the Council cannot make a profit on this activity.

Full Council 20 November

The following motion was accepted unanimously:

• to develop a new Empty Homes Strategy by July 2026, replacing the 2006 and 2022 documents, with clear targets, resourcing, and an annual public report and present this to Operational Services Committee for review and onward recommendation to full Council.

• This strategy to include ambitious and realistic District targets to reduce long-term empty homes and return them to use to list of the full range of fiscal levers, including council tax premium rates, published local exemptions and deferrals for active renovation. As part of a new Empty Homes Strategy, develop a business case and options for the resources required to implement the strategy, including investigation into an Empty Homes Loan Fund.

Local Government Reorganisation

• The Council voted for Option B (with East Cambs joining Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and Peterborough) for the Local Government Reorganisation and this proposal and the business case will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government.

• Many parishes did not want to be aligned with this Option, and have voted for Option A, despite the exhortations of the Leader.

• The Lib Dem & Independent group is sending an alternative letter to the Minister, supporting Option A.

Finance and Assets Committee 27 November

• Approval was given to the transfer of some ECDC assets (car park, Public Conveniences, an adjoining green space) to Littleport for a nominal sum of £1 with a restrictive covenant on its future use. It was felt more appropriate to transfer these assets to the local community, rather than hand them over to the new unitary authority that may want to sell them to the highest bidder.

• Other ECDC assets could similarly be transferred to Parish Councils, and we shall be compiling a list of assets in your parish that you may consider taking over from the District Council and propose that ECDC should consider this.

• An additional CIL contribution of £190,000 was given to a community project that had gone over budget by £570,000.

• The Government has withdrawn match funding for Neighbourhood Plans, and it was agreed that ECDC would fund the creation or renewal of Neighbourhood Plans by match funding of up to £5000 to Parishes.

• Noted that the Committee has a projected year-end underspend of £322,000.

3. County Councillor Report

No report received.

4. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes were approved as correct.

5.1 Finance

Nothing to report.

5.2 Parish Council Members

Councillor Fielding had been aproached by a member of the public complaining about loud music & a gathering on a field at the edge of Reach Wood. The complainant also suggested that someone was sleeping on site.

All these issues are matters for various departments of ECDC. ***Councillor Fielding*** to inform the member of the public that she should take her concerns to ECDC is she felt it necessary.

5.3 Play Spaces

Nothing to report, however, a new officer will be required.

5.4 Rights of Way

Discussion again took place regarding the still broken crash barrier at the corner of Barston Drove by Swan Lake barns. Councillors Fielding had contacted highways at CCC and was awaiting a response.

Unfortunately parking on the Green & on the grass at the bottom of The Hythe had continued after the Clerk had made a request to the village hall & Church to ask their users to refrain from parking on the grass. The Clerk had also messaged the PC email list.

5.5 24Acres Committee

Hedge laying has been arranged for 1st February.

5.6 Friends Of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

5.7 A to B1102 Group

Nothing to report.

5.8 Nature Recovery Plan

Reach had been asked to join the CCC's Nature Recovery FROM THE GROUND UP project which aims to support communities in Cambridgeshire to co-create parish-level Community Nature Plans.

The project offers funding that might allow Reach to pursue four objectives in the PC's nature recovery plan - improvements on Barston Drove, expansion of Plantation Wood and its connection by footpath to the Devil's Dyke, improvement of the fields owned by the County Council on either side of the Dyke, riparian improvements at the Hythe (in anticipation of Anglian Water agreeing to give us back some of the land within its current compound). The PC endorsed these proposals, presented by Councillor Acklam. ***Councillor Acklam*** to apply to Ground Up.

5.9 Hythe Restoration Group

Charlotte Cane MP and Councillor Acklam met with senior employees from Anglian Water at the Hythe. Following a tour of the site discussion took place regarding the removal of the tanks, moving of fencing & turfing of the filter beds. Confirmation of any agreements are awaited. Any such agreements will require funding. ***Councillor Acklam*** to submit an expression of interest to AW's Thriving Communities Fund.

5.10 Website & public communications

It was agreed that with any information to be communicated to the village, ***the Clerk*** will email a link, to village, which will take them to the website where the information can be located.

5.11 Energy developments in the locality

The statutory consultation period for Kingsway's Solar Farm proposal closed at the end of October. The PC submitted a letter opposing the overhead pylon route proposed by Kingsway to connect its solar farm to the national grid at Burwell. Our opposition, based on strong concerns of villagers about the adverse visual impact on homes and the Devil's Dyke, was supported by a professional landscape study helpfully commissioned by some residents. Historic England has also raised significant concerns about the adverse impact of the proposed pylon route on the Dyke. The PC has offered to work with Kingsway to come up with an improved solution that would be acceptable to residents and has suggested that the connection to the grid is buried underground. The very similar Sunnica scheme will connect to the grid at Burwell by underground cable so precedent is on our side. The PC's letter is here:
https://reachparish.gov.uk/news/reach-parish-council-submission-to-kingsway-process
Kingsway now has some time to digest the responses to the statutory consultation and to make amendments (or not) to its proposal. In early 2026 it will apply for a Development Consent Order from the Planning Inspectorate (PI). The PI will either reject the application or, very probably, initiate a public examination (a.k.a. enquiry). We have been though this before with the Sunnica application although it could be argued that the stakes for Reach are higher this time round because the visual impact on our surroundings will be greater &, if approved, Kingsway's application would set a precedent that would likely encourage other energy proposals to feed into the National Grid at Burwell by overhead pylon.
Approval of the Kingsway scheme in its current form could, over time, lead to a pylon 'wirescape' dominating views to the east and north of the village.
If a public examination is initiated by the PI, the PC will register as an interested party, giving us an ability actively to participate in the process. We will need professional legal and landscape architectural support if we are to stop or to modify Kingsway's proposal to a level that is acceptable to residents.
We can secure some of this support collectively - the PC has joined an alliance of parishes affected by the Kingsway proposal. We are engaged with Swaffham Prior & Burwell PCs in developing a combined position on the pylons. This will help in terms of sharing experience and costs but we will almost require funds to support work specific to Reach.
Should it go ahead, there is nothing to stop any group or individual registering to participate in the examination. I would encourage anybody who feels strongly about this scheme to register participate. A clear demonstration of the strength of local feeling about the pylon route can only help our case. I can provide guidance on registering in due course but it is a straight forward process. In terms of developing a strong local voice on Kingsway and other energy developments around the substation, it is good to see the formation of the Burwell Energy Advisory Team. The interests and concerns of our neighbours in Burwell are near identical to our own. Councillor Acklam.

Councillor Acklam also attended a preliminary meeting of the Steering Group for the Kingsway Area Parish Council Alliance. This ensures that the northern end of the area affected by Kingsway's proposal has a say in the strategy opposing the scheme. Kingsway Solar Community Action was also represented.
The primary aim of the Steering Group will be to ensure that there is a cohesive, authoritative voice of opposition at the centre of public examination proceedings (should Kingsway's application get that far) - this would involve engaging a barrister and expert witnesses.
Eleven PCs are now signed up to the Alliance which is virtually all of those parishes directly affected. Terms of reference for the Steering Group will be issued to the PCs for ratification very shortly to prepare for Kingsway's anticipated application to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order in early 2026. Signing up to the ToRs will not impose financial obligations on PCs & the Steering Group will have no remit to spend beyond the funds generated by the Alliance. The Group hopes to proceed by consensus but is mindful of the possibility that consensus could break down as Kingsway evolves its application.
The Group agreed that preparations for the likely public examination should focus on the following areas:
- pollution arising from water used to manage a fire at Kingsway's proposed BESS installation.
- the disruption to communities during the construction phase of Kingsway's proposal. The Group accepted that there was a substantial gap in understanding the disruption arising from the construction of the proposed pylon route which needed remedying.
- unacceptable & unnecessary adverse visual impact on landscape. The Group acknowledged the work of Alison Farmer at the northern end of the pylon route & also registered the significant concerns raised by Historic England about impact on an area rich in archeology & heritage.

6. Streetlight Maintenance
The Clerk reported that the PC had been notified that Balfour Beatty will no longer maintain the PC owned streetlights under contract. They have stated that they will offer adhoc mainenance and repairs, but The Clerk is struggling to get any information. Balfour Beatty will continue to maintain the CCC owned lights and any issues can still be reported on the website http://www.lightingcambridgeshire.com/contact-us/report-fault.htm

7. Precept budget YE2027
The Clerk had produced a budget for the next tax year ending 2027.
Following discussion, this will be ammended and discussed again at the January meeting.

8. Moving the defibrillator
This discussion was postponded in the absence of Councillor Gibson.

9. Payment

E.on – Power on the green	£19.18

Payments approved. ***Councillor Hall*** to authorise.

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Tim Quilter	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	Present
Nick Acklam	Councillor	Present
Catherine Gibson	Councillor	Present
Edward Hall	Chair	Not Present
Vacancy	Councillor	
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
Apologies accepted & approved.

Forum for members of the public
There were none.

Declaration of Interests
There were none.

1. Power on the green
The power on the green installation needs repair and updating.
Cost for the project & ongoing operational or usage cost will need to be obtained from The Grant fund.
The PC support this in principle and await further details.

Following discussion, it was agreed that ***Councillor Acklam*** would produce a spreadsheet of village assets of PC responsibility. This would include details of safety checks required.

2. Planning - 25/01264/LBC Walton House 21 Great Lane, Repair and replace where necessary 4 windows and repair and replace parts of the existing French windows on the rear elevation
This application had been received after the agenda was published, however, due to its nature of repair & replacement to existing and that the building is listed and in the conservation area, the PC decided they did not need to visit or comment, leaving this to the experts at ECDC planning.

3. District Councillor Report
No report received.

4. County Councillor Report
Councillor Malinowski reported that she had objected to the Kingsway consultation, mainly due to the pylon corridor issues.

The CCC road reporting tool is still not operating properly, and all issues should still be reported to Councillor Malinowski. The PC again asked about the bridge safety barrier by Swan Lake Barns. ***Clerk*** to again email Councillor Malinowski with full details. ***Clerk*** to again email Councillor Malinowski about the ongoing streetlight repairs issue.

5. Minutes of previous Meeting
The minutes were approved as correct.

6.1 Finance
The insurance broker had supplied the yearly questionnaire, to ensure the level of cover is as required. Councillors approve, and ***Clerk*** to continue with the renewal process.

6.2 Parish Council Members
A member of the public had reported concern that rat poison had been put down on Barston Drove. Councillors had investigate this, in cordination with Swaffham Prior PC, and were satisfied that those concerned were aware of the legalities of using poison and had received assurances that that the area was safe.

Another issue was raised and discussed in confidential session.

6.3 Play Spaces
Nothing to report, however, a new officer will be required.

6.4 Rights of Way
Nothing to report.

6.5 24Acres Committee
Hedge laying has been arranged for 1st February, ***Councillor Gibson*** to put details on the village Facebook page.

6.6 Friends Of Reach Wood
Nothing to report.

6.7 A to B1102 Group
Nothing to report.

6.8 Nature Recovery Plan
In early December Councillor Acklam had met with CCC representatives regarding the From The Ground Up Nature Recovery project. He had suggested four quick win improvement proposals in the parish that were already in Reach's Nature Recovery Plan and could be assisted by the project - an expansion of Plantation Wood and its connection by footpath to the Devil's Dyke and improvements to the fields owned by the County Council on either side of the Dyke. A definitive response has yet to be received. ***Councillor Acklam*** to continue to engage with CCC.
A chalk stream group, a spin off from the Ground Up work, had met in the village hall and looks set to continue. The group aims to improve the quality of water bodies in the Lower Cam and Lodes catchment area including Reach Lode and the Catchwater.
The NT had started peat restoration work at Hurdle Hall.

6.9 Hythe Restoration Group
Anglian Water (AW) had agreed in principle to return to the village some of the land occupied by the redundant sewage works. However, subsequently, Councillor Acklam had received correspondence from AW's surveyor which contained conditions for the return which were not practicable. The PC approved a form of words to respond to the surveyor.
The PC's expression of interest for funding from AW's Thriving Communities Fund had not been successful. Feedback was awaited and there are other funding options that are open to us.

6.10 Website & public communications
Councillor Hall had been in discussions with a local IT company about the PC email subscriptions and IT support. The PC would like to use a local business who can provide face to face support if needed. A final quote is awaited.

6.11 Energy developments in the locality
Councillor Acklam reported -
Kingsway Solar had failed to secure a guaranteed connection to the grid following a review by a subsidiary of National Grid. Whilst this and other doubts about the need for this additional solar energy capacity raised serious questions about the viability of its scheme, Kingsway had indicated that it still intended to submit a planning application. The Parish Council Alliance and Kingsway Solar Community Action was therefore continuing to plan its opposition to the application.
Councillor Acklam said that he had been appointed to the recently formed steering group of the two bodies. He sought and received endorsement of the terms of reference of the steering group from the PC. Whilst there was some degree of delegated responsibility conferred by the terms of reference, necessitated by the pace at which Kingway's planning application might proceed, PCs would be kept fully briefed on developments. The steering group would meet again on 8th January.
Councillor Acklam said that the above mentioned review also raised doubts about the business need for the BESS proposed by Grenergy on land adjacent to Reach 24 Acres.

Following the meeting the PC was informed that ECDC Planning Committee would take the Grenergy application on 14th January. ***Councilor Acklam*** to attend to represent the public health and environmental concerns of residents to the committee.

7. Precept budget YE2027

Following discussion, the PC approve a precept rise of £1,880 for the YE 2027.
The increase is mainly due to a move of £1000 into restricted reserves for S137 spending. This is a limited amount that the PC can spend to benefit the village but that is not within its normal spending. Examples of this spending in YE 2026 are donations to both the AtoB1102 group and the Kingsway Action Group.
Additional spending for YE 2027 along with inflation rises, will include a new budget allowance for maintenance of the defibrillator and telephone box, and a larger increase in streetlight maintenance costs.

8. Applying to register communally owned land as an asset of the community

A communally owned area of land at the bottom of Chapel Lane which includes a grass area crossed by two public footpaths and a tarmaced section facilitating rights of access to two adjoining homes had been excluded from the registration of Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan. The PC wanted to ensure its future for the village and, on advice from ECDC, agreed to register it as a community asset. Following discussion it was agreed that ***Councillor Acklam*** would complete the registration.

9. Moving the defibrillator

Councillor Gibson will go ahead with arranging the installtion of the defib. and the refurbishment of the telephone box.

9. Payment

E.on – Power on the green	£60.08
The payment from last month was not made and is included in the above figure.	
S Bailey – Clerk salary	Confidential
Parish Council Websites – Website hosting	£314.64

Payments approved. ***Councillor Hall*** to authorise.



Diary Dates

February	Event	Location	Time
Sunday 1	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 3	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 3	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday10	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 12	Book Club	Dyke's End Pub	7.00pm
Tuesday 17	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Wednesday 18	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Tuesday 24	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Saturday 28	Call My Wine Bluff	Village Hall	7.30pm
March	**Event**	**Location**	**Time**
Sunday 1	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 3	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Tuesday 3	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 10	Recycling Day (Blue)		
Thursday 12	Book Club	Dyke's End Pub	7.00pm
Tuesday 17	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		
Wednesday 18	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Tuesday 24	Recycling Day (Blue))		
Tuesday 31	Recycling Day (Brown/Green)		

Grant Fund

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

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



They can be contacted by 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)*

After the many winter photos that featured in the last issue of the magazine I thought I would add just one more. This photo of Burwell corner during the winter 1981/82 when drifting snow blocked any access in or out of the village for a couple of days. The fields were devoid of snow but not so the roads.

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







L to R – Clare on Cyrus, Becky on Cisco and Leigh on Hero



Albie on Diesel

Reach Riders Group Festive Ride 2025



Elodie on Solly



Mya on Digger