Within Reach



August/September 2026









Just giving a bit of picture space to two of the least popular garden birds . . . .

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From the Editor



So, our lovely hot summer continues and as far as I'm concerned, the only downside is the lack of rainfall. Unfortunately, that looks set to continue. Although we should see some rain during the remainder of August, forecasts suggest it will still be well below average. Danuta's article on page 15 explains how she and Richard are coping with the dry conditions and the changes they plan to make to what they grow in future years. Climate change is also the focus of Nick's article on page 8 and features prominently in Rosanna's piece on page 5.

And wonderful news that the Dyke's End has become the CAMRA Cambridge and District Pub of the year 2026 (see our back cover page and also page 12).

Whatever the weather, life goes on in our wonderful little village. On page 7 you'll find details of what promises to be a very special day on Saturday, 5 September, when Sports Day will be combined with a BBQ Party on the Green in aid of Macmillan. Please take a look and make sure the date is in your diary.

As for the repair of the Village Hall wall, progress remains slow but encouraging. We have cleared one funding hurdle and expect to hear soon about the final stage of the application process. Even so, the work is unlikely to be completed until the end of September.

Coincidentally, the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) has provided us with a press release which, as significant beneficiaries of its generosity over the years, I'm delighted to publish. You'll find it on page 26.

We're also pleased to welcome a new advertiser. Cambridgeshire Coins has signed up for the next six issues and you'll find their advert on page 25. They buy and sell banknotes, coins, gold, jewellery, medals, silver and watches.

Finally, while I was putting the finishing touches to this issue, the heavens opened and it absolutely poured! Thankfully it didn't last long, so I don't think there's any need to rewrite that first paragraph…

David Parr

Front Cover picture courtesy of **Rosanna Moseley Gore**

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

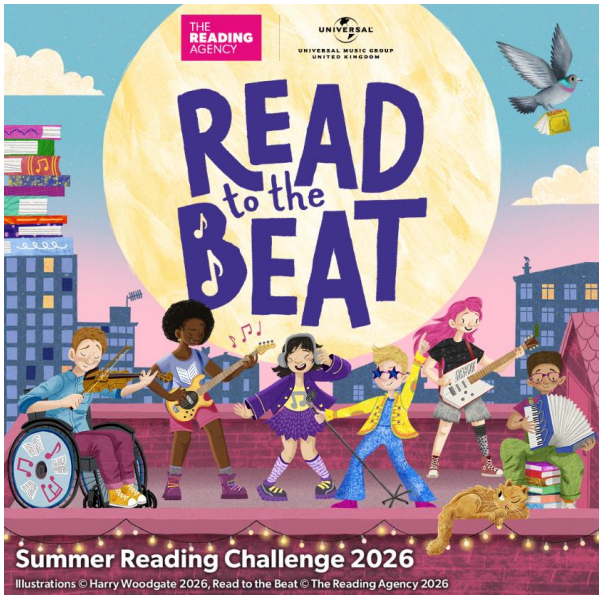
Village Update



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

Library Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme is Read to the Beat – inspiring children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.



Developed by The Reading Agency with Universal Music Group UK, this year's official Read to the Beat book collection includes books about musicians, characters discovering music, sound science, cultural traditions, rhythm, storytelling through sound, breaking down barriers to music, creative expression and following your dreams. The annual Summer Reading Challenge is open to pre-school and primary school aged children and is for all reading abilities. It is free to take part.

How to take part:

- Children sign up at their local library or mobile library where they'll be given a collector's folder and bookmark, or online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- Set a reading goal and read anything your like
- Collect a sticker for each book read

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

Pokémon at Anglesey Abbey

This summer at Anglesey Abbey they are bringing back some favourite activities, including the much-loved sand pit, alongside exciting new experiences. Every Tuesday there will be creative craft workshops and on Thursdays there will be special events throughout the summer holidays. From circus skills workshops to performances by the Raving Bathing Belles and plenty more surprises, there's something new to discover each week.

Calling Pokémon fans new and old! This Summer of Play, Pokémon are jumping into the great outdoors near you. Are you ready to share the magic with a new generation? From 18 July to 31 August, on top of an already jam-packed Summer of Play, discover all-new Pokémon zones. Get stuck into the Pokémon Trading Card Game, flex your skills and collect Mega Evolution stickers! See the Anglesey Abbey website for more details, times, and prices- plus lots of the other events they will be running over the summer!

Get Activated – Summer activity campaign

Cambridgeshire County Council's Get Activated summer activity campaign is back for 2026 – promoting hundreds of free or low-cost activities for children, young people, and families. From sports, arts and crafts and outdoor adventures, to wellbeing sessions and community events – families will be able to enjoy a wide range of activities to keep everyone active, entertained, and having fun. Highlights this year will include:

- A free special event at **Wisbech Adventure Playground** on Wednesday 5 August for National Playday, including various fun-filled play opportunities and activities for all to enjoy.
- Explorers aged zero to five can use the principles of 'forest school' for a morning of discovery, adventure and fun in the gardens of **Peckover House in Wisbech**.
- At **locations across Cambridgeshire**, join 'Teddy on Tour' for outdoor play activities and a picnic.
- A series of interactive sessions at **libraries across Cambridgeshire**, with hands-on activities designed to inspire creativity, encourage healthy choices and promote sustainability – from creating musical shakers and a delicious fruit sundae with a professional chef, to making a plant pot from newspaper.
- Active Lifestyles is hosting a wide range of free activities for children and young people across **Huntingdonshire**, to keep them moving and having fun.

For more information, visit the 'Get Activated' pages on the Cambridgeshire County Council website or their social media pages.

Keep well and enjoy the sunshine!

Alex de Giorgio-Miller

MP Update



On 4 July 2026, I marked two years since being elected as your Member of Parliament. It remains a huge privilege to represent the constituency of Ely and East Cambridgeshire and I continue working hard to stay visible, accessible and focused on the issues that matter locally.

Since my election, I have closed more than 17,500 cases where constituents have come to me for help, advice or information. Housing remains the most common concern, followed by roads and support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. I have also helped residents with NHS services, buses, planning, HMRC and visa applications.

I have now held 55 surgeries across the constituency and seven community meetings, giving residents the chance to speak to me directly. My recent meeting in Bottisham was particularly well attended, with lively discussions on bus services, council tax, school funding, gambling and the horseracing industry. Thank you to everyone who came along and shared their views. My next community meeting will take place in Ely in the autumn.

In Parliament, I have spoken in debates and pressed the Government on your behalf, both in person and in writing, about issues affecting our communities. These have included limited access to local NHS services, such as dentistry and GP appointments, the need for fairer funding for Cambridgeshire's roads, the urgent need to improve SEND provision, the protection of our chalk streams and safety concerns surrounding battery energy storage systems associated with solar farms.

I have also met ministers directly to raise a wide range of local concerns. In one case, I arranged for a constituent to meet a minister in person to discuss the urgent need to remove asbestos from public buildings. Alongside this work, I have continued to speak up for the farmers who produce the food we need and the local businesses that create jobs and drive our economy forward.

Better connectivity remains another major priority. Too many residents still struggle with poor mobile phone signals, unreliable broadband and public transport that does not meet the needs of our rural communities. I will continue pressing for the investment and improvements our area deserves.

Although Parliament is entering its summer recess, my local work continues. I will be meeting residents, businesses, charities and community organisations throughout the summer. Staying in regular contact with local people ensures that their experiences and priorities shape how I represent our area in Westminster.

To book a surgery or invite me to visit your organisation, please get in touch.

Charlotte Cane MP

charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601

You can also sign up for my fortnightly newsletter: www.bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch has been developing in recent years. Not only have we acquired a new logo, but there is now a much greater emphasis on community engagement. When Neighbourhood Watch got started in the UK over 40 years ago, there was no need to encourage people to engage with their neighbours. It was the norm to be regularly chatting over the back garden fence and to stop and chat in the street. Now when neighbours go dashing past in their cars it is not so convenient. Now it often needs a different approach e.g. getting people together, for say, a coffee and a chat and it can be surprising what a difference it makes for some people.

Social media has a roll to play, but it is not the be-all and end-all. I recall a cartoon in the paper some years ago. It was a funeral scene - and the coffin was entering the chapel and just two people sitting in the seats. One turned to the other and said "but he had 400 friends on Facebook!"

Keeping a watchful eye out and reporting suspicious activities to the police, or to the council where appropriate, is still part and parcel of what we are about. So many times, someone will walk past and say "tut – tut that would not happen in my day." It would be much better to report it. And reporting it on Facebook is not sufficient – it doesn't cut the mustard.

I cannot claim that it is essential to have Neighbourhood Watch to achieve these ends, but it certainly helps. If you would like to know more you can contact me at eastcambs@cnwa.org.uk

Kevin Evans

Rosanna's Ramblings



As I accurately predicted in my last ramblings, when the weather was absurdly cold for the time of year, a heat wave followed by the time the last issue of this magazine came out. Then another one. And now another one as I write this.

And it's got me thinking about parallel universes. Bear with me a moment. I did love Star Trek in my youth, but I'm not about to talk about kinks in the Space-Time Continuum. A recent accidental viewing (blame YouTube) of a talk on the latest thinking on Black Holes sent me into a combined depression and state of befuddlement. So, I'm talking about the parallel existences that we seem to have all around us.

Charles had to go into Cambridge the other Saturday, on a very hot day indeed, to represent his college at a graduation ceremony at the Senate House. Dark suit, gown, discreetly hidden bottle of water. Oh, and grumpiness … great grumpiness. And town was, in his words, 'heaving' with boisterous and noisy youths, dressed in virtually nothing, apparently enjoying the summer heat to the full. How is such a thing possible? I know one man's meat is another man's poison and all that. But from our perspective, how is it actually possible that people might enjoy being roasted, and steamed, grilled and spatchcocked on a crowded pavement, pressed against railings like sausages on a griddle? The careless enthusiasm of being too young to worry about skin cancer, perhaps, combined with a copious consumption of alcohol in the middle of the day, probably explains a lot.

We've just driven back into Reach having visited friends for lunch in Cambridge. On our way home, we'd foolishly attempted to 'pop into Tesco' on the Newmarket Road, only to find the sun beating down so relentlessly on the treeless expanse of inhumane carpark that there was simply nowhere safe to park with Milo in the car, so we gave up. Grumpiness reigned, again. But on our way back between Swaffham Prior and Reach, we passed a man cycling along with the insouciant air of someone who was positively enjoying an afternoon outing, bare headed, not seeming even to be breaking into a sweat, and the temperature was 33 Celsius. Again, how is such a thing possible?

And then there's the World Cup, which I understand, only by Googling it, will be over by mid-July. Clearly it means the absolute world (well, it would, wouldn't it?) to millions of people. But surely there must also be millions of people like us who: 1) have no interest in sport, 2) do not possess a television and 3) don't get whipped up into patriotic fervour by anything. I can't believe it's *just* us?!

Last week, it took Charles 90 minutes to drive home from Cambridge in the middle of the afternoon on a Wednesday, while it only took me 30 minutes after 6pm that evening which is usually a horribly busy time. He was nonplussed, I was informed by a patient that it was everyone heading home, or to the pub, early to catch the England match. We scratched our heads. England won, apparently. But whether by the time you read this you'll be filled with joy or despair over the subsequent unfolding of the tournament, who knows? We, being clearly odd, won't care either way.

Having a dog, in the heat, means that we can only go out for walks very early indeed (5.30am this morning) and after sunset at night. Even then it's been too warm. But Thomasina, who I saw across the river at around 6am, was wearing a cardigan. I was just about coping in my T-shirt.

Our parallel universes weren't completely separate, though, as she was calling for her dog to come back as she was off chasing a deer into the distance and an hour later we were calling for Milo who disappeared for 50 minutes only to be discovered finishing off eating a rotten muntjac carcass. I'm sure physics will have a word for the temporary intersection of otherwise separate phenomena. Perhaps it's a wormhole, but that's hardly appropriate for our current drought because goodness knows where any worms might be hiding in the absence of any rain.

And there's another strange thing. There's been no rain, or no rain to speak of, for many weeks. I had to pick a Drought Posy of dry dead things to take to our friends at lunchtime because there were scarcely any flowers in the garden. And yet, the apples are swelling in the orchard.



And the particularly good place we found last year for sloes is already showing green fruit of a significant size, bigger than they ever get in some years. Do they know something we don't?



In the parallel universe inhabited by insects, this heat and dryness is clearly A Good Thing. We've seen more butterflies and moths than we can remember for years, more pipistrelle bats at dusk feeding on all the little flying things and more swifts wheeling and squealing in the sky too. That has to be a good thing. If it has to be hot for those things, I suppose we shouldn't be too begrudging. And when Charles and Luke checked their hives yesterday, they found an absolutely huge amount of honey – unprecedented, nearly and that surely is a very good thing indeed. The high temperature doesn't stop the bees from 'working their socks off', as Charles says.

The heat does, however, stop me from wanting to work at all, socks or no socks. It stops me wanting to do anything, other than grumping, of course. I can do that really, really well. Just don't make me demonstrate it in the pub garden, or outside anywhere. I'll just metaphorically go into the garden and eat worms, though there won't be any and you wouldn't catch me out in the garden looking for them!

Rosanna Moseley-Gore

The Swaffhams' Women's Independent Group (SWIG)

In 1971, the overland route to India was opening up and the 'hippie trail' was making its way through Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan. A road off the beaten track promising wonder and excitement. The late 60s, 70s and even early 80s were times when almost anything was possible for many young people.

It was a time of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bowie. There was Woodstock, Mary Quant and Biba. After the miniskirt came flared trousers, platform shoes and then punk rock. On the stage were The Rocky Horror Show, Hair, Jesus Christ Superstar. The 1970s was a decade marked by bold self- expression and a growing sense of independence and with all of this came a greater desire to travel.

Our speaker in July was Alastair Cairns Hull who came to talk about his book The Travellers' Tales. Alastair travelled the hippie trail and without realising it, started gathering inspiration for the characters and places in his book. It was only when travelling later to Ethiopia with his wife, Hazel, that Alastair started 'writing' the book in his mind and then 6 years later he finally put pen to paper. The Travellers' Tales is a book of fiction reflecting the journey of several young people as they set out on the hippie trail in 1971. We were lucky enough to hear extracts read by both Alastair and his wife, Hazel.



Alastair also talked about the trials and tribulations of 'self-publishing'. After much rewriting and money spent on a copy editor, plus coping with any copyright problems, having the cover design brought to life, setting up an email address and website dedicated to the book, the excitement of finally holding a copy of the book in his hands was immeasurable. Then came the issue of spreading the word about the book! Alastair donates half the money he receives for each copy of the book to the Malala Fund, which is dedicated to supporting young girls and women in education in Afghanistan. A highly entertaining and inspiring talk.

If you are interested in joining our group or would like to come along for a visit, please get in touch with Kaye by email kayejanelew@gmail.com or Kate on 07752 011308. We meet in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7:30pm on the third Monday of the month. Our meeting in August will be a talk by Susan Grossey on Policing and Crime in Regency London and Cambridge and in September we are going to Anglesey Abbey for a screening of Pride and Prejudice in the grounds. It would be lovely to see you there.

Kate Muscroft, Committee Chair

katemuscroft@gmail.com

Events in Reach on Saturday 5th September 2026





Nature in Reach



The dry and hot weather that characterised the first half of 2026 has continued. All manner of records are being broken and the Met Office has stated *'What we used to think of as extreme, we increasingly consider as normal, we are right now living in a time of historic and unprecedented change and in terms of temperature, on annual, seasonal, monthly and daily timescales, (the) evidence shows the climate of the 20th Century has now gone'.*

Most processes in nature are closely linked to climate. Many species will struggle to adapt to this pace of change and the increased frequency of extreme weather events. A few, however, will find opportunities to benefit. One such example is the little egret. Milder winters have enabled the bird rapidly to re-colonize the UK from the mid-1980s and to resume breeding in our area.

Sightings Log

4 June: a great spotted woodpecker flies over the Hythe, a buzzard rides the morning thermals over Tubney Fen.

5 June: Rosie Almond reports *'Just had a funny and very close encounter with a stoat near Reach Wood - it clearly hadn't seen me or Archie and came running along the path right up to his nose (he was also preoccupied sniffing a bush)'*

10 June: Janet Hall mentions that a blackcap pair has raised a large brood within one of her fruit cages which offered protection from predators.

Jonathan Latchford reports seeing a water vole in the Catchwater at the bottom of his garden, his first such sighting for some time.

Michael Allen says that two jackdaws have fledged from a nest under the eaves of the chapel. They remained stubbornly flightless for some time despite frequent scalding from their parents.

14 June: a lesser whitethroat calls from the scrub that covers the chalk 'cliffs' at Reach Wood. Locally this species seems to favour scrub on the thinnest of soils.

15 June: a meadow pipit and a corn bunting are heard and seen on Tubney Fen. A cuckoo is heard and seen at the very top of the hedgerow that bounds then Pocket Park.

16 June: two sightings of great spotted woodpeckers on the Hythe (again) and on a bird feeder at Claire Halpin's stable.

18 June: yellowhammer and common whitethroat call from shrubs on the edge of the field adjoining Straight Drove which is currently lying fallow.

29 June: a falcon circles among clusters of swifts above the village. The swifts appear unperturbed. The falcon is too high to identify without binoculars but is probably a hobby. A fledgling great tit shows curiosity and no fear as I weed in our garden.

7 July: Mark Peck, Chair of the Wicken Fen Bird Ringing Group, reveals that his team had ringed a brood of little owls raised in the woodyard on Little Fen Drove. Hilary Fielding mentions that she used to see little owls in the vicinity of Swan Lake and wonders if they are related.



8 July: Jonathan spots a large grass snake swimming in the Catchwater.

Mid July: Graham Lingley reports the presence of two wren fledglings in his garden. He believes that they came from a nest in ivy that cloaks his garden wall.

Steve Boreham has produced reports on plant biodiversity enhancements undertaken in recent years around the village:

At Reach Wood meadow, Steve concludes:

"The good news is that whilst overall biodiversity has declined a little over the last couple of years, the number of introduced established wildflower species has remained steady at around 13.

This means that the biodiversity of the test area appears to have been permanently uplifted



I would have to say that this experiment has been a success and that it offers a proof of concept that autumn wildflower seed sowing really can enhance the biodiversity of meadow areas".

At the cemetery Steve reports:

"Although plant biodiversity was a little lower last year and this year than in the period 2022 - 2024, there is still considerable value in the un-mown parts of the Cemetery.

Unfortunately, I did not record any bee orchids this year. From what I understand of this species, it can be very fickle, suddenly springing up when conditions are right after not flowering for several years.

I can't be sure that the lower species numbers are due to dry conditions this spring and summer, but I'm sure that it can't have helped.'

On the Catchwater banks Steve states:

"In 2023 we planted a wildflower mix at two locations on the lode bank after the IDB decided to remove the accumulated sediment.

I have been recording the species present each year since. I may not have captured everything of course.

In one area, five of the species in the wildflower mix have become established. At the other it is only two species.

Ox-eye Daisy and Knapweed are two of the most visible successes.

The initial uptick in plant biodiversity after sowing (30-35 species) was not maintained in subsequent years.

However, both areas have maintained 22-25 plant species in the last two years.

I am still amazed by the 'churn' between years, with species being lost and others appearing for the first time.

The biodiversity of the areas that we raked and sowed seems to be remarkably good compared to the somewhat monotonous banks of nettle, mugwort and burdock elsewhere".

19 July: there is a field of fennel that comes to the roadside in Lower End, Swaffham Prior. The plants are a fine sight and on a hot evening, the aromatic scent they produce is striking - strong enough to be picked up in a passing car.

20 July: a red kite flies low out of the tall hedgerow that borders the willow avenue by Tubney Fen. It is an opportunity to view the bird's creamy yellow head and variable plumage close-up. In the past, this location harboured a buzzard nest but no longer. Kites are perhaps squeezing buzzards out of territories around the village.

22 July: Charles Moseley mails to say that a *'flamboyant Jersey Tiger moth greeted me in the garden (this) morning. What a delight!'*

Throughout this period, I am amazed at the abundance of butterflies and dragonflies around the village. For example, the drifts of scabious and knapweed by the footpath from Reach Wood to the allotments are awash with marbled white, meadow brown, red admiral and peacock butterflies and there is an occasional presence of a comma or painted lady. I assume that this year's warm dry conditions have contributed to the increase - but what appears to be a year on year improvement in insect numbers suggests other factors are at work. The most obvious would be the increasing number of fields around the village that are no longer under intensive arable production and thus free of insecticide and full of the plant species on which insects depend. Graham also comments on the presence of large numbers of butterflies at the Reach solar farm - *brown ones (mostly gatekeepers), small blue ones (never settle so could not ID definitively) and lots of white ones, as well as the usual peacocks and admirals*. He encourages people to take part in the Big Butterfly Count https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/ which runs until 9 August and will assist in working out whether the bigger picture for butterfly populations reflects what appears to be happening in Reach.

Finally, I wanted to observe a marked decline of collared doves around the village. There could be several possible reasons for this including trichomonosis, a virulent parasitic disease, which has heavily impacted greenfinches and chaffinches locally and competition from growing numbers of wood pigeons which put pressure on shared food sources and garden territories. Sparrowhawk predation may also have played a role.

Nick Acklam

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club



The club ceased meetings on 5th May for our Summer break when members showed and discussed their most successful images entered during the year. Our Autumn term commences on 8th September with a Welcome Evening when Cups & Trophies awarded from last season for the internal Print and Projected Digital images will be presented by the Chairman.
The Summer recess however has so far been busy as we exhibited our members work at the Swaffham Feast which took place at Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Saturday 16th May. Prints and Projected Digital Images were displayed for visitors to view and enjoy during the day.

On the 7th June we attended a Federation Engagement Day at Duxford Air Museum when 16 East Anglian clubs took part in the EAF Duxford Challenge Competition. During the day members also enjoyed iconic WW2 exhibits and captured wartime re-enactors such as Aircrew, Pilot, Staff Sergeant, Civilians, WRAF, Nurse and Lindy-Hop dancers.

Our Club Outing this year was on the 12th July to Cambridge when members were asked to capture photographs on a theme of either People, Unusual, Water or Architecture to enter 4 digital images for The Metcalfe Trophy on 29th September.

In our Autumn term we look forward to a Zoom meeting 'Home & Away' by Peter Ormsby from Glasgow on 15th September and on 22nd September our members Debra & Jim Bennett will demonstrate how to master basic Photoshop techniques. We will also enjoy Table Top Photography on 24th November and a 3-way Friendly Cup Print Battle with Melbourn and Ely Photographic Clubs, hosted by ourselves and judged by Jonathan Vaines from Bedford.

On 27th September our club will hold an Exhibition at Swaffham Prior Village Hall when members will display 160 prints and 200 projected images, to be officially opened by Paul Radden our East Anglian President at 11 am, when awards will also be presented. Prints will be for sale, £40 mounted and £25 unmounted. Refreshments will be available all day so please come along and view our exhibition and sample our excellent cakes!

Our meetings are held Tuesdays at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD, from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, except the third Tuesday in each month via Zoom conferencing.

Visitors are always welcome to join our weekly meetings and zoom presentations for a small fee of £4.00.

If you are interested in joining this active club, please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett, for further information and a copy of our 2026-2027 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. I look forward to meeting you.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB
Chairman

PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

"The Little Chapel in the Fen"

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 4th October

3pm

Traditional harvest service and hymns
Produce welcome

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

For more information contact Nicola: 07968 658319

Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group

Community Diagnostic Centre and Minor Injuries Unit at Princess of Wales Hospital, Ely

The PPG thought it would be useful to share some information on the services available to Burwell Surgery patients at the Princess of Wales Hospital site in Ely (Lynn Road, Ely, CB6 1DN).

Ely Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC)

The Ely CDC opened in 2024 and enables patients to access **planned diagnostic care** closer to home without the need to travel to Addenbrooke's or another acute hospital site. There is plentiful, **free parking** including a new multi-storey car park and the **CDC is open 8am to 8pm (blood tests available 8.10am to 4.30 pm).** The CDC currently provides the following diagnostic services (other services are planned for later in the year):

- Blood tests (Phlebotomy). If your GP gives you a printed form for a blood test, then Ely CDC is one of your options. It also does hospital blood tests for Addenbrooke's. You can book a blood test appointment at Ely CDC here: https://app.10to8.com/book/ely-cdc/
- CT
- MRI
- Respiratory
- Spirometry
- Ultrasound
- X-Ray
- Fibroscan
- Teledermatology

Ely Minor Injuries Unit (MIU)

As the name suggests, the Minor Injuries Unit provides assessment and treatment for **patients with minor injuries or illnesses that do not require emergency care** at an Accident & Emergency (A&E) department. However, MIUs are not A&E. **If you are experiencing chest pain, shortness of breath, or any life-threatening symptoms, call 999 or go directly to your nearest A&E department.**

MIUs are led by highly-trained nurses and paramedic practitioners, supported by experienced healthcare assistants and administrative staff. They are qualified to assess, examine, diagnose and treat a wide range of minor conditions. Patients should be aware that **no GPs or doctors are based within these units**. Also, **children under two years old cannot be treated at the MIU** and should be taken to your nearest A&E. **The MIU is open 8.30am to 6pm, 7 days a week, including Bank Holidays. However, X-ray times are different: 9am to 4.45pm on Monday to Friday, and 1pm to 5pm on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.**

The MIU is a walk-in service, but some appointments may be booked through NHS 111. It can treat the following: minor head injuries; limb injuries (fractures, sprains, wounds, burns, bites, stings); minor burns or scalds; simple wounds; minor eye injuries (not including conjunctivitis or anything non-invasive); foreign body removal; minor infections (for example, sore throat, earache); minor abscesses; X-Ray requests.

For more information about what this service can (and cannot) offer, visit: https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/service-detail/service/minor-injury-unit-87/

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

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.

The Dyke's End

The big news is that the Dyke's End has been voted the CAMRA Cambridge and District Pub of the Year 2026. Dan and Ruth have put in a great deal of hard work since their arrival in the village four years ago and its great to see their efforts rewarded. Please have a look at the pictures and commentary on the back cover page of this magazine. And coming up soon . . . .



Food at the Dyke's End

- Wednesday: Food vans 5 - 8pm
- Thursday: Pie and a Pint Night 6 - 8:30pm
- Friday: Fish and Chip Night 6 - 8.30pm
- Saturday: Soups, Stews & Sandwiches lunch menu 12:30 - 2pm
- Sunday: Sunday Roast 12 - 3pm

The Dyke's End
8 Fair Green, Reach CB25 0JD
www.dykesendreach.co.uk
dykesendpub@gmail.com
01638 743816

Energy Developments around Reach – an Update

This note provides an update on the two energy development proposals that will affect the village should they proceed. The Parish Council is monitoring events, which are currently playing out between developers and the Planning Inspectorate.

Grenergy Battery Storage

On 22 May Grenergy appealed ECDC's decision to refuse its planning application for a battery storage scheme on Hightown Drove, adjacent to the 24Acres.

The PC has now written to the Planning Inspectorate, which considers such appeals, reaffirming our opposition to the application and reiterating the harms that the scheme would bring should it be approved.
Whilst national planning policy does not require a 'green' energy developer to demonstrate the 'overall need' for its scheme when seeking planning permission, our letter questions whether this scheme is in the country's or our locality's best interests, given that Government itself has already identified that there is a massive oversupply of battery storage schemes. We therefore suggest that this proposal is unnecessary. Our letter can be accessed on the Reach PC website:
https://reachparish.gov.uk/news/pc-letter-to-planning-inspectorate-regarding-grenergys-appeal.

Burwell PC, the National Trust, BEAT and local residents have also restated their opposition to Grenergy's proposal. We don't yet have a date when the Planning Inspectorate will decide this appeal.

Kingsway Solar and Battery Scheme

Kingsway withdrew its application for a Development Consent Order (the type of planning permission required for a project of this size) to the Planning Inspectorate on 17 June. This was just days before the Planning Inspectorate was due to decide whether the application was fit to proceed to public examination. It is clear that the Planning Inspectorate had many reservations about the application and would almost certainly have rejected it had Kingsway not withdrawn it. The Inspectorate's detailed concerns can be found at:
https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010165-000318-Final - s51 advice to applicant following withdrawal at acceptance stage - 17 June 2026.pdf

Kingsway has indicated that it intends to submit a revised application and we understand that this could be within a matter of weeks. There is nothing to suggest that a revised application will address the PC's concerns about the adverse impact of the pylon route that Kingsway proposes to connect its solar and BESS installation to national grid at Burwell. The pylon route threatens the outlook from many parts of the village and would damage the sense of place along the northern end of the Devil's Dyke. The PC's formal opposition is laid out here. https://reachparish.gov.uk/download-attachment/4156.

The Parish Council Alliance (of which Reach PC is a part) and its team of experts are ready to respond should a resubmission be approved by the Planning Inspectorate. The Alliance continues to assess that its grounds for opposing the proposal are strong. Should Kingsway's re-application be allowed to proceed to public examination, the Alliance will provide guidance as to how individuals can register as Interested Parties and submit comments, known as Relevant Representations, to the process. This will be your chance to voice your concerns directly.

Nick Acklam

Xtreme360 Indoor Padel Tennis Club in St Neots



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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Tales from a Reach Garden



We often have birds nesting in our garden in the various trees, hedges, clematis and grapevine. Besides the robins, various tits, blackcaps, blackbirds (and the inevitable woodpigeons), over the years, we have even had kestrels and buzzards nesting in the garden.

Fortunately, the buzzard nest was in a corner we don't frequent in summer when there's too much to do in the vegetable garden, but we were aware of their nearby mewing calls and flights to and from a telegraph pole behind our house, which they used as a platform for viewing interesting prey and eventually, when the parents called the fledglings together and they all flew off in the direction of Wicken Fen. This year we've also had the joy of listening to the cheeps, whistles, tweets and chatter from a family of goldfinches who we've seen fly in and out of a medlar tree, sipping at the bird bath and resting on the dead branch of an old crab apple.



A pair of goldfinches in our garden

The small bird bath has drawn in a lot of birds in this very hot and dry weather. We keep the bird bath in the shade and replace the water every day. The smaller, more skittish birds flit in for a sip then dart off; thrushes fly in for a dip and a splash (which they seem to enjoy), but the wood pigeons wallow, while airing one wing at a time apparently unafraid of any potential birds of prey. The buzzards haven't nested in the garden since the telegraph pole was removed a few years ago and the wood pigeons have become more daring.

We had been using water from our water butts to replenish the bird bath, but most of our water butts are empty now and we're having to be sparing with our use of tap water since the hosepipe ban. It's been a challenge keeping our vegetables watered. We never water the lawn nor trees (including the fruit trees) nor the flower beds, except for when they are freshly planted and to help establish their roots, which tends to happen in spring and autumn anyway. There are a lot of vegetables to water by watering-can and we decided that only lettuce would be watered, sparingly, every day. Everything else is watered on alternate days and some - such as the onions and garlic and the new potatoes - we stopped watering altogether once the hosepipe ban was announced. Thankfully we planted most things through fabric mulch which minimizes water loss, so watering on alternate days seems to work. We water the vegetable garden in the morning and the pots (mostly aubergines) in the evening, which happens to be beneficial to us as well as the plants. Irrigation via watering can involves a lot of heavy lifting to hoist the water over the various critter-barriers around the beds. I use a smaller 7 litre can, while Richard uses the 9 litre (2 gallon) one. It involves some awkward body-positioning while aiming the flow of water directly at the base of each plant. My arms and abdominal muscles are looking more toned after a week of watering the vegetable garden alone while Richard and our son Dan were walking in the North York Moors, but oh my shoulders ached!

We lifted the garlic when the leaves died back and they are very puny this year, some bulbs are barely bigger than the cloves that were sown back in spring. We'll have to plant the garlic cloves in autumn to ensure some natural irrigation and bigger bulbs. Most of the onions still have green foliage, but foliage of the early onions is fading and those will be lifted soon. The leaves and stems on the new potatoes were already shrivelled, so most of them have been lifted. It wasn't a bad crop of salad potatoes, but they are more floury in texture than usual.



Climbing beans at the end of a bed of butternut squash

The climbing beans (Cobra and Algarve) seem to have enjoyed the warmth putting out lots of flowers and lots of beans too. There have been a lot of beans to blanch, a process which uses a lot of water, so we've saved the water in a big bucket and use it to irrigate the pots. Alas, our traditional runner beans have also put out loads of flowers but only started to produce beans when the weather cooled down last week. This is the last year I'll grow them; the beans are very tasty and freeze well, but they struggle in our increasingly hot and dry summers and need too much water to do well.

In addition to the heat, we've also had a lot of wind to contend with this summer, which also dries out plants forcing the roots to take up yet more water. We've been able to protect most of the lower-growing plants, but the taller climbing beans had to cope with a lot of leaves crisping at the edges

The aubergines growing in pots on our patio also had to contend with some northern winds blowing through gaps in the hedges, so the leaves are more cupped than usual. I often add some watering gel to the compost when planting the aubergines in pots, it helps to retain moisture near the roots. We also add a large saucer under the pots to retain water that has percolated through the soil, eventually as the plants mature, the roots are long enough they can take up the water, so when the saucers are dry and the soil surface under the mulch is also dry, we know that the pots need water. The pots are also mulched using either wood chip, gravel or …corks from bottles of wine. I've been doing this ever since a trip to a café near Stellenbosch in South Africa in 2004, where I wondered about a lot of corks around the base of an ornamental plant in a large pot by the table where we were sitting. Stellenbosch is a town famous for its wine in South Africa, so the source of the corks was obvious, but I was surprised to see so many of them in the pot. When I asked about the wine corks to a waitress attending our table, I was told it was mulch. This made a lot of sense as the good thing about using corks as mulch is that they are easy to remove and reuse when repotting. The one downside is that blackbirds find them fascinating and will flick them out of the way when looking for a tasty morsel in spring. They are easy to replace though and are rinsed and reused and added-to every year; that's over 20 years-worth of corks mulching our pots. Cheers and happy watering!

Danuta Gibson



Wicken Fen

Summer has reached its climax, with fen flowers blooming and insects buzzing at Wicken. The Summer Nature Trail is open until 30th September and gives views of orchids and other colourful wildflowers. If you want to learn more about the flowers of the fen, we have a guided walk on 20th August (book via our website).

August is also a brilliant month for butterflies and dragonflies on the Fen. Wicken is a designated British Dragonfly Society hotspot location, home to over 20 breeding species of dragonfly and smaller damselfly.



Four-spotted Chaser Dragonfly by Rob Coleman

One Sunday 9th August, between 9.30 and 10.30am, our moth experts will be sharing finds from their overnight session, with a chance to drop by both the visitor centre and Adventurers' Fen car park to meet the moths (no booking needed).

Boat trips are running most days, depending on weather conditions. Cycle Hire is open daily during the school holidays then from Thursday to Sunday through September and October. For more information, including prices, please visit our website.

For families, we have a brand-new Mega Bugs trail on Sedge Fen throughout school holidays, plus lots of events and workshops, including:

- Bug Hunters (21 Aug) Age: 3+
- Pond Dipping (4, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 25, 27 Aug) Age: 5+
- Young Ranger Days (28 Aug) Age: 7-12
- Family Printing Workshop (5, 14, 26 Aug) Age: 5+
- Head to our website for more information and to book: nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Our daily opening hours are:

The Docky Hut Café: 10.00am-5.00pm
Visitor centre and shop: 9.30am-5.00pm
Nature reserve: Dawn - Dusk

Burwell Museum



Hello again, I'm writing this as we are in the grip of a record breaking heatwave so I hope the weather is still nice when you are reading this.

We have been busy again over the last couple of months with us finally finishing our Tea Room extension (bar any lighting and heating). Thanks must go to P&B Flooring for donating the flooring to us – it makes such a difference. Come along and support us and give it a road test!



At the end of May, we had a group of paranormal enthusiasts from Kings Lynn visit us and our new larger Tea Room was put to use! It was a lovely evening and it allowed us to take the following photos:



We can host group meetings or visits, birthday parties, etc, just get in touch with us and ask!

We now are in full organising mode getting ready for our 1940's event which is on the 12th July so we hope you have joined us for this.

Unfortunately, all the wet weather over the winter and the strong winds recently have caused a lot of our fencing posts to break due to rotting through. Our volunteer Clive Monk has been very busy replacing or mending them – only a few more posts to go! Thanks Clive.

August will be very busy for us, with our Classic Car Show on the 16th August and our special School Holiday Thursday openings. We will be open every Thursday in August (11am – 3pm) and it will be free for children (1 adult per 4 children). We are planning lots of lovely activities which will include craft, hunts and hopefully some story telling.

We are also open to anyone else who wishes to visit us too, with our tearoom and all our other buildings being open as well – but beware it could be noisy with the kids!

This year we have partnered with the 1st Burwell Scout Group (as there is no Carnival) to run our food offering at both the 1940's event and the Classic Car Show with all ingredients being supplied by Spinney Abbey and Lanes Bakery – a truly local affair! We will be splitting the profits with them so please do come and support us.

You will be able to pre-order for our Classic Car Show event so check out the website.

Our next three event dates for your diary are:

- **Classic Car Show 16th Aug**
- **National Heritage Weekend 12th/13th Sept**
- **Halloween 24th Oct**

Our events team are also busy planning some workshops for later in the year – wreath making (14th November) and cake decorating (28th November) so look out for the advertising and booking on our website shortly.

We hope you will join us at one of our upcoming events and try out our food offereings. If you can't make these but want to still get involved and become a volunteer, please do get in touch or turn up on a Tuesday and ask for Clive or Richard. See you soon.

Burwell Museum Trustees



Letter from the Vicarage



"Summertime, and the living is easy…" Whether or not we go away during the summer months, for most of us there are changes to our normal routines, with the longer days, the warmer weather (!), more relaxed mealtimes, barbeques and outdoor eating. It can be a good time for rest, 'recharging the batteries and reconnecting with family and friends.

It's also a great opportunity for spiritual refreshment. Over the summer, we have new resources in both our churches to help deepen your experience, with a theme of pilgrimage and prayer. We have a Lammas, or 'Loaf' Tide Pilgrimage Walk on 8th August and anyone welcome to join us during the day, as we walk between our two churches and celebrate the very first fruits of the harvest.



For some, summer holidays bring additional challenges, with children off school, many clubs and activities taking a break and already over-stretched resources. To help support families, we will be extending our usual Friday morning Refresh Café, to welcome families with children of all ages.

Fun Fridays will be 10am – 12.00pm at St Mary's, from 24th July to 21st August, with outdoor and indoor activities, alongside our Refresh Café toddler area, with refreshments, including a simple lunch. We are also holding Connect Café for families on 12th August and a special Art event on 19th August for adults and children.



Pop-Up Pantry at Burwell Day Centre continues monthly, on the 1st Friday of the month, 2.00 – 3.00pm. Our aim is to support those in our community who are struggling with financial need, offering short life fresh food items, toiletries & hygiene products and cupboard basics. Others in the community can contribute by donating items in the named baskets in the Co-op and chemist or contacting us if you have surplus fruit and vegetables from your gardens or allotments and we will distribute at the Pantry, or our Pop-Up in the Porch at St Mary's.





St Mary's Open Day will be on Saturday 26th September, when we hope to open the tower for tours, weather permitting. We are also planning to hold a Pet Service in Reach on Sunday 4th October, World Animal Day and the date that marks 800 years since the death of Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals. More details nearer the time,

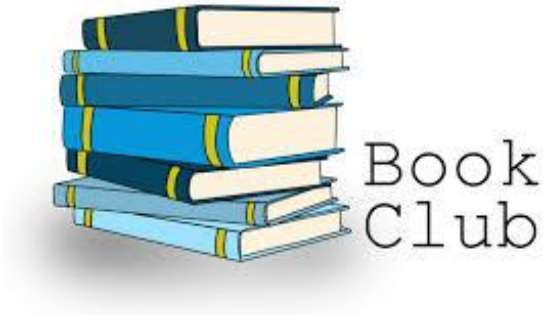


To find out more about what's going on at St Mary's or St Etheldreda's in Reach, please see our Facebook pages and website. Most weeks, we livestream our weekly 10.00am Sunday service on Facebook. Please get in touch if you would like more information about these or any of our events or services, including weddings, christenings and baby thanksgivings, or if you would value an opportunity to chat.



Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams, Vicar of Burwell with Reach, 01638 741262 vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk
www.stmarysburwell.org.uk;
www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell/

Dyke's End Book Club



Next meetings: **Thursday 13th August 2026 and Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7pm** in the **Dyke's End.**

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



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@reachparish.gov.uk

District Councillor's Report

Two committee meetings were held this past month.

Operational Services on 22 June

- Community Safety Partnership report was presented and noted
- Budget report for the previous financial year showed an underspend of £476,084 for the year, but some of this was due to bills not yet paid. The capital spend was also under budget by £5,572,775, but some expenditure was not yet billed.
- Register of Buildings of Local Interest, for buildings or neighbourhoods that were interesting but not meriting a National Grade, was presented and noted.
- Performance Report for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services showed marginal improvement in performance.
- A report on the new waste bin strategy was presented, showing that the service had been delivered quite well, with a few teething problems.

Finance and Assets on 25 June

- The Climate and Nature Monitoring Report was presented and accepted.
- A grant of up to £100,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding was allocated to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre in Soham towards the expansion of the theatre to enable larger youth participation and provide enhanced and inclusive welfare and safeguarding spaces to continue to operate with full compliance with the Children in Entertainment Regulations.
- A new fee for Planning was introduced to give some limited time to give guidance on possible applications without the formality of a pre-app or full application.
- The Council's Proposed Business Grant Scheme for capital grants to small businesses was approved. Further information is available from: Business Grant Scheme 2026 to 2027 | East Cambridgeshire District Council
- This Committee has a year-end underspend of £1,331,912 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,969,054. Most of this was due to savings on staff salaries because of staff not being replaced immediately.

Food caddies

There have been reports of animals knocking over food caddies and eating the contents. *Please make sure that the food caddy is locked, by turning the handle all the way to the front, when you put it out.*

Surgeries

There will be no surgery in August, and we shall resume surgeries in September. However, you can always contact us by telephone or email:



Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk) 07976 607512 and **John Trapp** (john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk) 07942 685599

Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Nick Acklam	Parish Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Parish Councillor and Vice Chair	Present
Catherine Gibson	Parish Councillor	Not Present
Edward Hall	Parish Councillor	Present
Tim Quilter	Parish Councillor and Chair	Present
Vacancy	Parish Councillor	
Vacancy	Parish Councillor	
Susan Bailey	Parish Clerk	Present
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Not Present
John Trapp	District Councillor	Not Present
Yannifer Malinowski	County Councillor	Not Present

Apologies for absence – Received and approved
Forum for members of the public - There were none.
Declaration of Interests - There were none.

1. Planning Applications
Since the publication of the agenda the PC had been informed of two planning applications.
25/00966/VAR Land Southwest Of Hill Farm Fair Green, To Vary Condition 11 (width of access) of previously approved 18/01397/OUT
The PC had previously written to planning "*Reach PC is content that the access is not widened but would like to suggest that a Legal Modification Order be established to detail the legal widths of both byways 7 & 8.*
Additionally, the PC would like to comment on the visual impact of metaling the track and the creeping urbanization of such and oppose this." ***Clerk*** to resend the letter.

26/00537/FUL 12 Great Lane, Installation of replacement windows
Councillors had viewed this application and considered that the windows were in keeping with the cottage & that there was no comment to be made.

2. District Councillor Report
Since the last report we have had only a Full Council meeting. Cllr Pettit was re-elected as Chair, and Cllr Horgan as Vice-Chair.
The most significant change has been the defection of one member of the Lib Dems to Independent, and the creation of a group called the 'Conservative and Independent Group' in ECDC, so the two groups are now thirteen and fifteen members. No longer are decisions made on the casting vote of the Chair, but on simple majority on all Committees.
The Administration put up a motion, Future of the A10, on dualling the A10 throughout its length between Ely and the A14; although it would make a difference it was impractical and very unlikely since the Combined Authority would have to provide 15% of the cost, and the Lib Dems argued that the real bottleneck was the junction of the A10 with the A14 which should be the priority and a more realistic solution that could be achieved quicker than a full dualling. One of our two motions was on High Street Bank Closures and Financial Inclusion in East Cambs that was reduced to meaningless platitudes by an amendment; the other, proposed by Cllr Cane MP on Fair access to employment for care-experienced and disabled applicants, was rejected with some Tories citing arguments that clearly demonstrated that they had not fully appreciated what was in the motion; its total rejection was a surprise, and in anticipation of the rejection, Charlotte asked for a recorded vote. The debate can be viewed on YouTube.
Finally, the new bins arrived in Commercial End on Friday 29 May 2026; a close call. Do we know of any missing deliveries in the Parish? Cllr Charlotte Cane MP, Cllr John Trapp

3. County Councillor Report No report received.

4. Minutes of previous Meeting Approved as correct.

5. Finance Nothing to report.

5.2 Parish Council Members
Another complaint had been received regarding unnecessary parking on the Village Green. The PC had informed the village Hall committee and asked them to explain to hirers why it is not ideal.

The Green is in good condition at the moment and historically vehicles had parked on the Green, usually when there was a larger event & with permission from the PC. The PC will monitor the Green & continue to discourage parking. ***Clerk*** to contact the church.

5.3 Play Spaces
A new play spaces officer was appointed, resident Lisa Edwards. She will carry out monthly inspections of the play area and swings on the green. ***Councillor Hall*** will supply Lisa with an inspection form and terms of reference to ensure everyone is in agreement as to what is expected of the officer. Lisa is happy to arrange any small jobs or repairs that are required, these will need to be agreed by The Clerk and expenses payments made at the next PC meeting.

5.4 Rights of Way Nothing to report.

5.5 24Acres Committee Nothing to report.

5.6 Friends Of Reach Wood Nothing to report.

5.7 A to B1102 Group Nothing to report.

5.8 Nature Recovery Plan Nothing to report.

5.9 Hythe Restoration Group
A letter had been received from AW's agents regarding the return of the unused land at The Hythe. Unfortunately, the return of the land is becoming contingent on improved tanker access to the site. The PC has no power to assist with this, CCC highways are responsible. ***Councillor Acklam*** to reply, reiterating the PC's view that the land was taken from the community and now that it is no longer required it should be returned to the village.

5.10 Website, IT & public communications Nothing to report.

5.11 Energy developments in the locality
Grenergy Battery Storage
On 22 May Grenergy appealed ECDC's decision to refuse its planning application for a battery storage scheme on Hightown Drove, adjacent to the 24 Acres land.
The PC will be writing to the Planning Inspectorate, which considers appeals, reaffirming our opposition to the application and reiterating the harms that the scheme would bring should it be approved. Our position is laid out in our letter to ECDC of August 2025 https://reachparish.gov.uk/news/objection-letter-to-grenergy-battery-storage Furthermore, whilst national planning policy does not require a 'green' energy developer to demonstrate the 'overall need' for its scheme when seeking planning permission, we will also challenge the underlying assumption that this scheme is in the country's or our locality's interests and that its significant harms are therefore acceptable. We can do this on the basis of evidence from government itself which details the massive oversupply of battery storage schemes, and which came to light after our letter of opposition was issued.
Residents have been very clear in their opposition to this application. Those of you who wrote individually to ECDC are encouraged to write to the Planning Inspectorate to confirm that your opposition remains. The PC would welcome (by 22 June and to n.acklam@reachparish.gov.uk please) comments from anybody in the village that might assist the drafting of our letter the Planning Inspectorate.

Kingsway Solar and Battery Scheme
Kingsway submitted its application for a Development Consent Order (the planning permission required for a project of this size) to the Planning Inspectorate on 21 May. The Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide whether Kingsway's application is sufficient to allow it to proceed to public examination. Whilst many stakeholders, including the PC and the Parish Council Alliance, have severe reservations about the adequacy of the submission, we expect the Planning Inspectorate to allow the application to proceed. If our expectations are correct, then there will be a 30-day period during which individuals can register as Interested Parties and submit comments, known as Relevant Representations. This will be your chance to voice your concerns directly within the planning process. We will provide advice on how best to do this shortly. Our hope is that the Parish Council Alliance and Kingsway Solar Community Action Group will organise a workshop in Burwell or Reach to assist individual residents.
The PC has already voiced its opposition to this scheme because of the adverse impact of the pylon route that Kingsway proposes to connect its solar and BESS installation to national grid at Burwell. This threatens the outlook from many parts of the village and would damage the sense of place along the northern end of the Devil's Dyke. In October 2025 we wrote to Kingsway detailing our objections to the pylon route and offering a willingness to work with it to develop a less damaging alternative https://reachparish.gov.uk/download-attachment/4156 Kingsway saw fit not to acknowledge the letter or to engage with us. Since then, we have not stood still and, as part of the Alliance, have secured legal advisers and independent experts in key technical areas including hydrology, battery energy storage and landscape and visual impact. This expert input will be vital throughout the public examination process and will help ensure local concerns are properly and rigorously represented.

6. Approve Annual Governance Statement Agreed and signed.

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

8. Play spaces annual inspection report
The annual safety inspection of the playground and swings on The Green had been carried out in May, and a report received. All items on the report were low or very low risk. No items are urgent or would be financially beneficial to do now. Future maintenance costs should be added to the Assets register to allow the PC to plan accordingly.

9. Tree works
A Cherry tree on The Hythe is in poor health; the PC has previously spent money on this tree. Councillor Acklam had been in contact with the ECDC tree officer and concluded that the tree should be felled to open up the area and allow the trees around it to thrive. This will be postponed until September due to the bird breeding season.

10. The cemetery
A complaint had been received about the unkemptness of the Cemetery. Particularly the weeds & grass growing along the front fence and the overgrowth of the cemetery path. However, on making further enquires it seems that about 50% of people who regularly visit the cemetery are happy with the maintenance approach & therefore 50% unhappy. The PC operates a low maintenance regime to encourage biodiversity within the cemetery. There is also an ongoing problem with Muntjac deer getting in and eating flowers. The path has previously been renewed and additional fencing put up. ***Clerk*** to check what previous work had been done. ***Clerk*** to also contact the Payback Scheme to see if they are able to assist with weeding and painting the front railings. Working parties, under PC supervision, are also encouraged. ***Clerk*** to add to next agenda.

11. Parish Council IT
Resident Jake Rote had agreed to become the PC IT Officer, he attended the meeting to discuss actions. Jake has a long history of work in the IT industry and is fully briefed on GDPR requirements. ***Councillor Quilter*** to draw up a terms of reference so both Jake & the PC understand responsibilities. ***Councillor Hall*** to liaise and handover.

12. Councillor Vacancies
Councillor Quilter to post on FaceBook asking for new Parish Councillor members.

13. Payment

E.on – Power on the green	£40.82
CR Contracting – Mowing contract	£281.00
Village Hall – yearly Hire	£264.00
Fenland leisure – play spaces inspection	£144.00
HAS – Year End Audit	£720.00

Draft Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7.30pm

Attendance

Nick Acklam	Parish Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Parish Councillor and Vice Chair	Present
Catherine Gibson	Parish Councillor	Not Present
Edward Hall	Parish Councillor	Present
Tim Quilter	Parish Councillor and Chair	Present
Vacancy	Councillor	
Vacancy	Councillor	
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Not Present
Charlotte Cane	District Councillor	Not Present
John Trapp	District Councillor	Not Present
Yannifer Malinowski	County Councillor	Not Present

Apologies for absence Received and approved.

Declaration of Interests There were none.

Forum for members of the public There were none.

1. Planning Applications There were none.

2. District Councillor Report
Two committee meetings were held this past month.
Operational Services on 22 June
- Community Safety Partnership report was presented and noted
- Budget report for the previous financial year showed an underspend of £476,084 for the year, but some of this was due to bills not yet paid. The capital spend was also under budget by £5,572,775, but some expenditure was not yet billed.
- Register of Buildings of Local Interest, for buildings or neighbourhoods that were interesting but not meriting a National Grade, was presented and noted.
- Performance Report for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services showed marginal improvement in performance.
- A report on the new waste bin strategy was presented, and it showed that the service had been delivered quite well, with a few teething problems.
- The Long Term Empty Homes Strategy was debated, and it was agreed that it should be forwarded to Full Council.

Finance and Assets on 25 June
- The Climate and Nature Monitoring Report was presented and accepted.
- A grant of up to £100,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding was allocated to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre in Soham.
- A new fee for Planning was introduced to give some limited time to give guidance on possible applications without the formality of a pre-app or full application.
- Progress on the Mepal Crematorium was presented and noted.
- The Council's Proposed Business Grant Scheme for capital grants to small businesses was approved.
- This Committee has a year-end underspend of £1,331,912 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,969,054. Most of this was due to savings on staff salaries because of of staff not being replaced immediately.

The PC discussed the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). A decision is expected by end of July.

3. County Councillor Report No report received.

4. Minutes of previous Meeting
Clarification. Playground handover by Councillor Hall not Councillor Quilter.
Correction: Graveyard wording. (Councillor Quilter to amend). Agreed as amended.
Minutes approved as correct.

5. Finance Nothing to report.

5.2 Parish Council Members
A traveller camp had arrived on Black Drove – after talks with the CCC liaison officer a notice, to move on, had been served on the travellers. That group have moved on, but waste in piles had been left, notification to ECDC of fly tipping had been reported by a Reach Resident.

Councillor Acklam said that he had received a complaint about an increase in dog poo on Straight Drove and the footpaths of Reach Lode. There did, indeed, seem to be an increase in such deposits which were insanitary and posed a threat to the health of other dogs. The PC agreed to circulate a note reminding residents to clear up after their dogs.
Request from resident – Ditchfield street lighting needs still needs fixing. This has been outstanding since last winter. ***Clerk*** to escalate with CCC.

5.3 Play Spaces
Discussion took place regarding the new Playground Officers duties. Expectation are that the PC receives an email report each month.

5.4 Rights of Way
Councillors Fielding and Acklam had met with Mark Peck, the County Council's rights of way officer, on 7 July. He hoped to tackle, this autumn, an area of Straight Drove that became water-logged and heavily rutted in the winter. He also agreed to look at a similarly afflicted stretch of Barston Drove. Mr Peck had taken responsibility on behalf of From the Ground Up, to look at the feasibility of the PC's proposal to create a footpath, on County Council land, linking Reach Plantation to the Devil's Dyke. He undertook to come back to the PC once he had spoken to County Farms about existing leases on the land. Mr Peck also acknowledged the poor state of the public footpath linking communally owned land at the north end of Chapel Lane to the Hythe. He undertook to get it cleared and to install an improved walking surface and clearer signage.

5.5 24Acres Committee Nothing to report.

5.6 Friends Of Reach Wood
No report received, however, it was noted that some clearance work has been conducted.

5.7 A to B1102 Group It was reported that consultation is ongoing around the new T4 bus schedule.

5.8 Nature Recovery Plan Nothing to report.

5.9 Hythe Restoration Group Nothing to report.

5.10 Website, IT & public communications Nothing to report.

5.11 Energy developments in the locality

a. Grenergy. The PC had written to the Planning Inspectorate, which was considering Grenergy's appeal against refusal of its battery storage scheme. The letter had reiterated the PC's opposition to the proposal. The letter emphasised that, since the application was refused, it had become increasingly apparent that additional battery storage was unnecessary and that the proposal was vulnerable to cyber attack.

b. Kingsway. The developer had withdrawn its Development Consent Order Application on 18 June. This was a temporary measure designed to address the many flaws in the application that had been identified by the Planning Inspectorate. A resubmission was expected in a matter of weeks. Councillor Acklam commented that it was unlikely that the developer would be able to address all of the flaws in such a short period. He reported that the Parish Council Alliance and its team of experts stood ready to respond should a resubmission be approved by the Planning Inspectorate. The Alliance continued to assess that its grounds for opposing the proposal were strong.

6. Asset of Community Value

The PC discussed ECDC's decision to reject nomination of land at the north end of Chapel Lane as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The PC took note of legal advice, paid for by a resident, that a stronger case for registering the land as an ACV could be made. The PC agreed to consider whether it was feasible to take on the additional work involved in a resubmission. It also noted an offer from a resident to pay the legal costs involved in registering the land in the PC's name at the Land Registry. A decision on next steps would be taken at a forthcoming meeting of the PC.

7. The cemetery Payback Scheme will continue to be investigated.

8. The Hythe & Anglia Water

The PC reflected on the disappointing response from Anglian Water which had belatedly made return to the village of land at the sewage works contingent on the PC addressing parking issues that made it difficult for AW's tankers to access the site. The PC considered AW's conditions as both impractical and unreasonable. It was agreed that thought should be given to mounting a media campaign, highlighting the current situation, in a bid to encourage AW to soften its stance. Councillor Acklam agreed to scope the options and costs ahead of the next meeting of the PC. It was noted that Charlotte Cane MP had written to AW to express her disappointment at its stance.

9. Payment

E.on – Power on the green	£17.64
CR Contracting - Mowing	£336.00
S Bailey – Clerk salary	£Confidential



Cambridge Community Foundation

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation surpasses £40 million in grants awarded to support local communities

The Foundation is celebrating over two decades of connecting local generosity with local needs.

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has announced that it has now awarded more than £40 million in grants to support communities across Cambridgeshire since it was established in 2004.

Since its founding, the Foundation has supported over 3,000 charitable and community organisations, helping fund projects that improve health and wellbeing, support both young people and older residents, strengthen community connections, create opportunities for people facing disadvantages, and more.

The £40 million figure represents grants distributed through a wide range of charitable funds established by local organisations and individuals who want to make a lasting difference in their community.

The Foundation's portfolio of over 70 funds includes partnerships with councils, philanthropists and local businesses like The Cambridge Building Society, Birketts, Cheffins and more, each with a community fund that focuses on supporting particular causes and/or geographic areas.

Michael O'Toole, Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, said:

> *"Reaching £40 million in grants awarded is a remarkable milestone, but what matters most is the difference that investment has made for people's lives across Cambridgeshire.*
>
> *Behind every pound granted is a story of local generosity creating local impact. This achievement belongs to our supporters, partners, volunteers, trustees, staff and community organisations who have worked alongside us over the past 22 years to address need and create opportunity.*
>
> *We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved together, but we also know there is much more to do. Communities continue to face significant challenges. Cambridge remains one of the most unequal cities in the country, with a 12-year difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived residents. We are also seeing many disparities across health, employment, education and more between the north and south of our county.*
>
> *Our ambition is to grow local giving, build new partnerships, and ensure even more funding reaches the organisations making a difference on the ground.*
>
> *As we celebrate this milestone, we remain firmly focused on the future and on supporting a thriving, resilient Cambridgeshire for generations to come."*

One of the most recent grants that helped the Foundation reach this milestone was awarded by The Cambridge Building Society Community Fund to Concrete Rose Collective CIC. The grant is helping to establish a 'bank of mum and dad' for care-experienced young people and care leavers facing financial barriers at critical moments in their lives. Mike Farrington, Operations Lead at Concrete Rose Collective CIC, commented, *"Most people have a 'safety net' of friends or family to turn to when they need a bit of extra financial support. That is not always the case for the young people we support"*. The initiative will provide access to emergency and opportunity-based funding for costs such as housing deposits, training courses, and employment-related expenses, helping young people overcome barriers to independence and progress.

Peter Burrows, Chief Executive of The Cambridge Building Society, said:

> *"Congratulations to Cambridgeshire Community Foundation for reaching this major milestone. Working together, we have pledged more than £400,000 to good causes and charitable projects – including innovative multi-year grants to support charities like Concrete Rose – to help tackle housing issues and deliver long-lasting change across the communities we serve."*

The Foundation celebrated their milestone at a special event in July, kindly supported by CCLA Investment Management and hosted by PEM. The event brought together the current and former team, including the President, Vice Presidents, staff, trustees, ambassadors, and volunteers, whose dedication has helped shape the organisation's growth and impact since 2004.

As Cambridgeshire Community Foundation looks ahead, it remains committed to growing local giving, ensuring that charitable funding continues to reach the people that need it most in the county we call home.

Diary Dates

August	Event	Location	Time
Sunday 2	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 4	No Parish Council Meeting in August		
Wednesday 5	Bin Day (Black, Brown/Green and Food Caddy)		
Wednesday 12	Bin Day (Blue and Food Caddy)		
Thursday 13	Book Club	Dyke's End Pub	7.00pm
Wednesday 19	Bin Day (Black, Brown/Green and Food Caddy)		
Wednesday 19	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
Wednesday 26	Bin Day (Blue and Food Caddy)		
September	**Event**	**Location**	**Time**
Thursday 3	Bin Day (Black, Brown/Green and Food Caddy)		
Saturday 5	BBQ on the Green in aid of Macmillan	Village Green	2.00-5.00pm
Saturday 5	Sports Day	Playing Field	From 1.00pm
Sunday 6	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	8.30am
Tuesday 8	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 9	Bin Day (Blue and Food Caddy)		
Thursday 10	Book Club	Dyke's End Pub	7.00pm
Wednesday 16	Bin Day (Black, Brown/Green and Food Caddy)		
Wednesday 16	Holy Communion	St Etheldreda's, Reach	10.30am
16th to 20th	Dyke's End Beer Festival 2026	The Dyke's End Pub	
Wednesday 23	Bin Day (Blue and Food Caddy)		
Wednesday 30	Bin Day (Black, Brown/Green and Food Caddy)		

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.



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

The Opening of Reach Fair in 1962 and 2026.

Chris Patterson

Contact Information

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	
Magazine	David Parr 07887 563720 davidmparr@btinternet.com	
Parish Council – see "Know Your Parish Council"		
Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities	Pam Waters (Clerk to the Trustees) 01638 741035	
Tents and Village Games	Claire Halpin-McDonald 01638 743330	
Village Hall		
Chair	David Thomas	
Finance	Andrew Trump	
Bookings	Diana Greer	

Then and Now pictures – see facing page







It was in the summer of 2022 that CAMRA first came calling, soon after Dan and Ruth took over. Even at that early stage, CAMRA was convinced they would make a success of it and they did, becoming the CAMRA Cambridge and District Pub of the Year 2026.

Within a few months of taking over, they had introduced ales from local breweries, including Moonshine and Milton and the sadly missed Crafty Ales. Woodforde's Wherry remains a firm favourite to this day. The food is superb, both in quality and presentation and the Sunday roasts have become legendary.

The CAMRA Good Beer Guide describes the Dyke's End as a "quintessential village pub" and really it is that and more. It combines a traditional village pub atmosphere with a strong community spirit, pub games, excellent beer and is an enthusiastic supporter of local events.
Visitors come from far and wide, arriving by many means of transport (see pictures below).
I walk, its less than 100 yards on the way there, normally a bit further on the way back . . . . *[Editor]*



