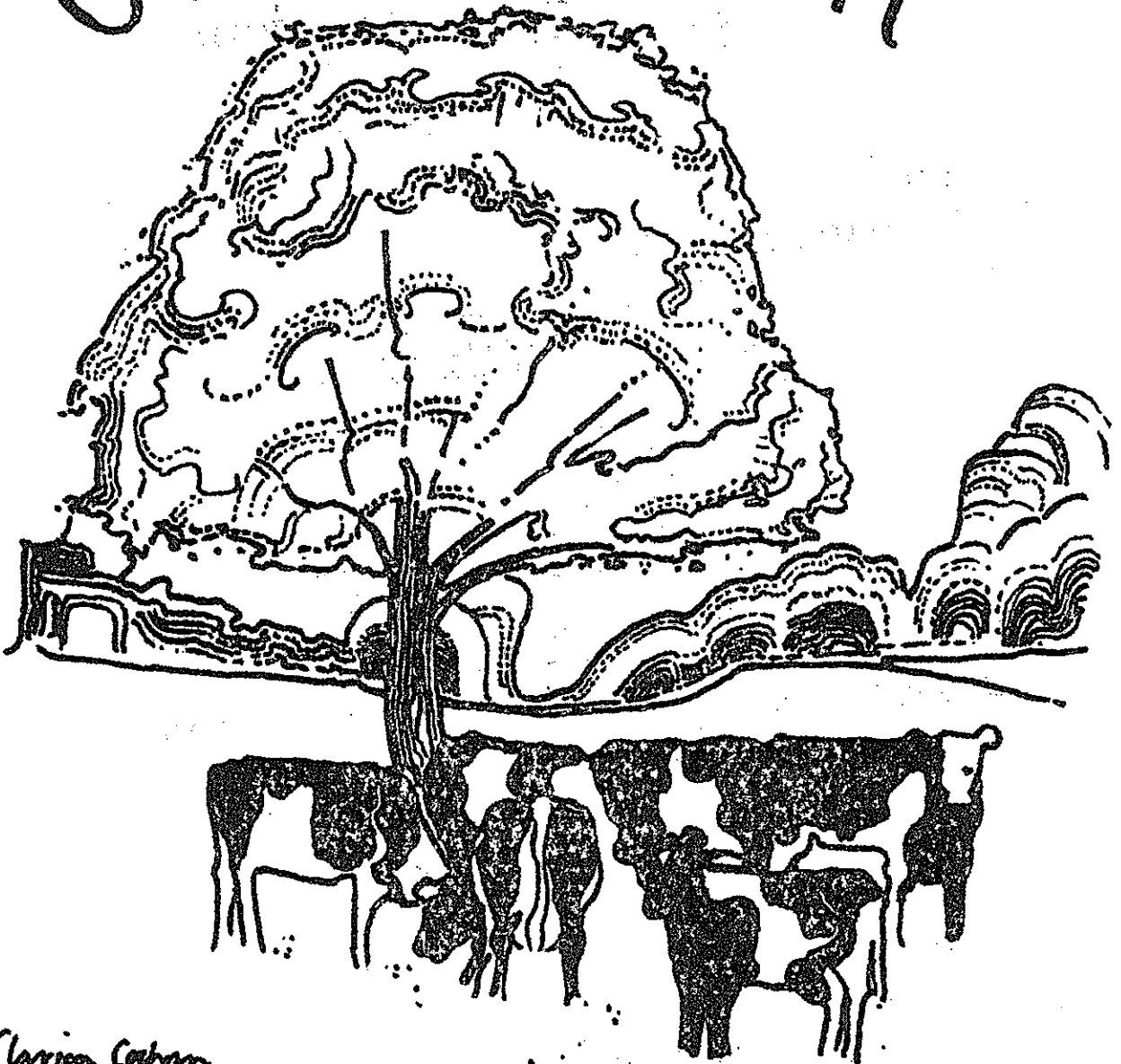


No 9

MAY 1977

Out of Reach



Claviers Cochran

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Geoffrey Woollard, Chalk Farm,
Bottisham. Tel. Cambridge 811209

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Mrs. Margaret Cook, Mill House,
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck.
Tel. Cambridge 811335

Parish Councillors

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Tel. Newmarket 741437

Ray Folkes, 8 Great Lane.

Harvey Harrison, Tilden House,
Burwell Road. Tel. Newmarket 741150

Joyce Harrison, Prospect Farm,
40 Great Lane.

Rodney Housden, Manor Close.
Tel. Newmarket 741386

Clerk to the
Parish Council

Alison Housden

Village Hall Committee Members:-

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Springhall Farm. Tel. 741426

Bill Estell, 5 Ditchfields.

Ray & Anita Folkes

Harvey Harrison

Joyce Harrison

Rodney Housden

Albert Johnson

Sam & Heather Mitchell, The Wilds, Burwell Rd.

Bob & Emily Smith, Meadow View, Delph End.
Tel. 742130

Phyllis Webb, Blackberry Drove.

Co-opted Member - Nicholas Hellowell,
4 Swaffham Rd. Tel. 742081

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Ray Folkes

Harvey Harrison (Business Manager)

Joyce Harrison (Distribution)

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EDITORIAL

As it is now the Merry Month of May I have included in this issue a short article on seasonal merrymaking in the area, centering on Reach Fair. Since the magazine started Mr. Stan Webb has told me a great deal about the village history and this account is based on his memories, backed up by a little research and additional information gleaned from other folks with long memories.

There are no Shire Hall Titbits this month because of pending County Council elections. Thanks are extended to Geoffrey Woollard for his regular news contribution and his encouragement over the last few months.

Many of you may have noticed that the Conservative Party supporters have been quick to make use of the magazine and I think it right to point out now that, on political issues, magazine policy is to maintain an unbiased position, whilst allowing space to anyone who wishes to contribute. It so happens that, so far, no approach has been made to 'Out of Reach' by those of other persuasions!

One further point this month; I have been to the Village Hall since the insertion of the new ceiling for a 'knock-about' and it does seem that there is insufficient height to make Badminton a practical proposition.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications have been approved in respect of R. Morris and Mrs. G. Waite.

The district Council regard the request for a pedestrian access to the Swaffham Road Council houses desirable rather than essential. The money available is being used to keep Council properties in as good a structural condition as possible and, regrettably, little is left for such improvements.

There is to be a substantial cut-back in maintenance of roads other than 'A' roads and so the Highways Department are unable to help during 1977/78, in the prevention of road encroachment into the Village Green.

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BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

A reminder that the competition will be judged sometime during May. Please do what you can to maintain or improve the appearance of the village.

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FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

A successful Easter Egg Bingo was held in the School on Friday 1st April. We thank all those who attended and also those who sent gifts or donations for the prizes.

The Easter Dance is on Saturday 16th April, when we hope many people will come and dance to the music of the "Backwater Band". Tickets are £1 including refreshments, and there will be a Tombola Raffle and an ordinary Raffle. We hope everyone who comes will have an enjoyable evening.

This term our activities are mainly concerned with celebrations for the Silver Jubilee. In order to provide the children with a lasting memento of the Jubilee, the Friends of the School Committee have arranged to buy from their funds, enough Presentation Crowns to give one to each child attending school, either full or part-time. There will be a ceremony to present these crowns on Friday, 3rd June, at 1.45 p.m. in the School. We hope many parents and friends will be able to join us on this special occasion.

On Saturday, June 4th, the Friends of the School Committee is helping the school to run a Summer Fair, to raise funds for books and equipment. The Morris Men will be dancing and we shall have stalls, competitions, displays, and refreshments. We hope to provide an afternoon of entertainment and fun, so come and join us - and bring your friends too!

S. Butcher,
Secretary.

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We are NOT OUT OF REACH. For prompt attention contact

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REACH'S ONLY PUB

MERRY MAKING MAY

May 1st, apparently, was a traditional holiday for the Cambridgeshire chimney sweeps. That may not have been a particularly noticeable event but some readers may remember 'May Dolling'; highly decorated, begarlanded dolls, no doubt originally hand made, were carried through the streets by young girls from early morning. The purpose, apart from the fun of preparing the dolls, was to show them in exchange for gifts of money or sweets. Traditional Maytime songs accompanied the merry-makers, such as this one:

Sing a song of May-time,
Sing a song of Spring,
Flowers are in their beauty,
Birds are on the wing.
May-time, playtime,
God has given us May-time,
Thank Him for His gifts of love,
Sing a song of Spring.

Fairs were held in many centres, including of course, our Reach Fair during Rogation Week. This is the time of prayer for the crops. The local Churchmen, often with a following congregation, traditionally travel to various points in the Parish for Blessing Rituals.

Reach Fair dates from, or perhaps long before, the granting of a charter to the burgesses of Cambridge by King John in 1200. It is still opened at midday by the Mayor after the customary procession and distribution of coppers along the route from Cambridge. The opening ceremony is followed by the Mayoral Luncheon and speeches including those of Aldermen and Councillors attending the Fair for the first time (amusingly referred to as colts or fillies according to sex).

The small amusement fair which opens on the Green today is a sadly reduced form of what it was not so very long ago. Up until the early decades of this century celebrations were far more extravagant and the business and festive gathering relatively enormous. The main reason for the fair then was horse dealing. Literally hundreds of horses and their dealers would converge on the village, in some cases from far abroad. One can imagine the excitement, and the smells, mounting over the preceding weekend as these horses, traders, cloth merchants and painted travelling caravans and.....

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Merry Making May Contd.....

trailers approached the village. Tents, screens and tethering posts were set up around the Green and beside the approach roads. At one time there was an entry toll to the village imposed on the Fair Monday and so traders would try to arrive before then. Sometimes there was a minor amount of cattle trading. As with all such events the preparations and setting up of the fair took far longer than the post bartering run down; dealing was usually completed and the animals cleared by 5.00 p.m.

The festive side of the fair included swinging boats, roundabouts, coconut shies and the sale of such favourite goodies as rock, brandy snaps, bullseyes and shellfish and hot peas (Mrs. Holland's Pea Stall seems to have been a prime attraction up to the 1930's).

Reach residents honoured the occasion with annual hair cuts and new outfits; this was 'Easter bonnet' time for the village. Most housewives tried to have a home cured ham in readiness for visitors - invited or unexpected - and also served a Christmas pudding and an iced fruit cake, perhaps with Reach Fair piped on top.

The Chapel was the predominant church in Reach for some time and in the earlier 1900s. There were two 'Anniversary Day' services held, one on the Fair Sunday afternoon and another in the evening, the latter often being so well attended that the congregation overflowed into the grounds outside. Many families also celebrated Anniversary Day with a communal afternoon picnic.

Previously there were a large number of public houses and licenced homes in the village and these played a major role in maintaining the festive spirit as the day wore on, sometimes with pugnacious consequences - but this must all have been part of a traditional occasion that no one wanted to miss. What a pity it is that the original purpose of the Fair has been lost and its importance diminished!

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High Street,
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NEWMARKET 741222

TRY OUR NOTED PORK SAUSAGES

CHURCH REPAIR STALL AT REACH FAIR

Gifts of any kind for this stall will be gratefully received. Please give them to Mrs. Fuller, Miss Whitehead, any member of the Church Committee or leave them with Mrs. Peacock, or bring them to the stall. Thank you.

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From the Vicar:

Harold Macmillan coined a phrase in the 60's which has become part of our language and communal memory: 'you never had it so good'. Jim Callaghan may well have done the same in his prophecy of the 80's as 'a golden decade'. And it's interesting to note that for the first time in many many years hope has not only begun to grip this country, but removed from the distant to the immediate future. There is a vast difference between hoping that things may get better 'some day' and looking forward to real improvement in a mere three years.

But if so, two questions suggest themselves. First, what will be the basis of this golden time? Oil will have a lot to do with it; but oil doesn't last for ever. Hence, the second query: what do we do with it while we have it? Is it possible to turn this unlooked for abundance into a richness in the quality of our living, our culture as we call it, that will continue when the oil is gone? 'Learn from your dreams what you lack', W.H. Auden told us. 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness', was Jesus' warning, 'and all these (lesser needs) will be added'. So we have to choose; and as Auden said again, 'the distresses of choice are our chance to be blessed'.

St. Mary's and Reach

Worship in May

1 SS PHILIP & JAMES; EASTER III

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)
9.30 a.m. Matins & Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)

8 EASTER IV

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)

15 ROGATION SUNDAY; EASTER V

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong & Procession (Reach)

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105, The Causeway, Burwell
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Newmarket 3166

FOR PROMPT SERVICE

Worship in May Contd.....

19 ASCENSION DAY

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

22 SUNDAY after ASCENSION

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)

11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)

6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)

29 WHITSUNDAY

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)

11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)

6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)

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VILLAGE CENTRE NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Committee took place on April 4th as advertised. The attendance was sparse and disappointing; I suppose this is usual at A.G.M.s, but can I remind everyone that this is an opportunity to question accounts and work and to make suggestions about the running of the Hall.

A committee meeting took place on April 18th at which a considerable amount of time was taken up with financial affairs. Although our bank balance at the time of the A.G.M. looked very healthy, the ceiling and electric wiring bills had not been paid and these account for the greater part of the £1,000 in hand.

This leads up to the obvious subject - fund raising. Please support our events as much as possible - this is our only way of gaining the necessary finance for improvements.

A paper collection is still in operation. Please let someone know if you have paper to collect.

Four people in the village have volunteered to run a Table Tennis Club in the Hall (for all ages). Notices for an inaugural meeting will be posted shortly to discuss the idea.

John O. Robinson.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MAY 5TH 1977

8 a.m. - 9.p.m.

VOTE GEOFFREY WOOLLARD - CONSERVATIVE

YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATE

Published by G. Woollard, Chalk Farm, Bottisham.

REACH JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The village meeting held last autumn to discuss the Jubilee celebrations produced no real ideas or suggestions, let alone enthusiasm. However, the Annual Parish Meeting agreed that something ought to be done to mark the occasion; such that our children will be able to look back and say 'I remember Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee. In Reach we did such and such'.

It was resolved that a licence be obtained for a door to door collection and that the money raised be used to provide every child under the age of 16 in the Parish of Reach with a Silver Jubilee Crown as a permanent reminder of this auspicious occasion. Private donation envelopes are stapled to the back of this copy of the magazine and will be collected from each household on Wednesday May 4th. Please give generously. (We appreciate that there will be some duplication of this memento from the Friends of Swaffham Prior School but the village crowns will ensure that no child is left out).

The idea of a free tea party for all the children was also accepted. This will take place on Jubilee Day, either on the Green or in the Village Centre; the children will be given their crowns and a collective photograph taken. Money left after the purchase of the crowns will be used to buy goodies for the party. However, the organisers need YOUR help to make the occasion memorable and successful:

TEA, MILK, ORANGE SQUASH, SUGAR, SANDWICHES, CAKES, BISCUITS and PACKETED SAVOURIES will all be welcomed. To avoid the whole party taking place on crisps and orange squash - Mothers, please fill in the form on the back page of this issue and hand it to Alison Housden, Anita Folkes, Joyce Harrison or give it in at the shop.

Please help to make this a success. People have volunteered their time and effort to organise it - the children, hopefully, will come along and enjoy it - so, PLEASE MOTHERS - do your bit.

Jubilee Committee.

REACH CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

Saturday June 4th at 8.00p.m.

In the Village Centre

CLAYTON & SON

Old Estb. firm of Estate Agents & Auctioneers
of Antique Furniture etc. held at Reach Community Centre,
Nr. Cambridge twice a month.

Phone Office Mildenhall 712390 - Evenings.

RECIPES

RHUBARB CHUTNEY

- 5 lb. rhubarb, washed and cut into small pieces
- 1 lb. onions, skinned and minced
- 2 lb. sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ground ginger
- 2 oz. ground mixed spice (or $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. curry powder)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pts. vinegar

Place the rhubarb, onions, sugar, spices, salt, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of the vinegar in a pan and cook slowly until the rhubarb is tender. Add the remaining vinegar and simmer gently until of a thick consistency, with no free liquid; stir occasionally. Pot and cover. Makes approx. 6lbs.

J. Johnson.

RHUBARB WATER - a refreshing drink for hot days

- Bruise rhubarb with a rolling pin
- Boil up with water - 1 gall: 2 - 3 lb. fruit
- Strain
- Dilute or not to taste
- Sugar may be added but it is more thirst quenching without.

Stan Webb.

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-----Cut Here-----

JUBILEE TEA PARTY

Fill in this form and return it to one of the caterers mentioned on Page 7.

My child(ren) will be coming to the free tea party on Jubilee Day and I will be pleased to supply the following to help the catering. Tick items that you can provide.

TEA	COFFEE	ORANGE SQUASH	LEMON SQUASH
MILK	SUGAR	SANDWICHES	CAKES & PASTRIES
SAVOURIES (Crisps etc.)			

Signed.....Mother

Children attending will be:-

.....
.....