

NO 30

MARCH 1972



E. Morris

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District Councillor

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Tel: Cambridge 811335

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Surgery Hours

Mon.) 9.00 - 11.00a.m.	Wed. 9.00 - 10.00a.m.
Tues.)	Thurs 9.00 - 11.00a.m.
Fri.) 4.30 - 6.30p.m.	2.00 - 4.30 p.m.

Sat. Emergencies only 9.00 - 10.00 a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics: 1st and 3rd Tues. in the month 2.00 - 4.00p.m.
at Surgery.

Child Welfare Clinics: 2nd and 4th Tues. in the month.
2.00 - 4.00 p.m. at Gardiner Memorial Hall.

EDITORIAL

I have spent a whole evening this month trying to think of a suitably stimulating and optimistic topic for this page. It must be symptomatic of the effect of the time of year, particularly with this year's disruptive weather conditions, that I am devoid of inspiration. I draw some reassurance from the fact that five of the seven adults I met today expressed the same listlessness. What a terrible waste it seems to let time pass in this unproductive, half-noticed sort of way. Why is it I wonder, that however much one wants or needs to resist, the influence of weather is so insidious and is this a peculiarly British sensitivity merely reflected in our conversation?

Never mind! St. David's Day is almost here, there are good specimens of daffodils in the kitchen even if the leeks have failed, the spring bulbs are coming up and, yet again, the snow is thawing.

Here's to the arrival of Spring.

J.J.

Congratulations to Stephen and Judith Neeves on the birth of their son, Edward (18.2.1979).

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A planning application has been received from Mr. Wheaton covering the conversion of the barn to a dwelling at Dykes End, the plans for which are on display for all to view at the Post Office.

Since the recent snow has disappeared, it has been noticeable that the footpaths have suffered considerably, and the Council has approached the Highways Division to see if repairs can be effected as soon as possible.

In the very near future, the yearly quota of trees will have been planted. P-L-E-A-S-E can we ask one and all to keep a keen eye on these, i.e. watering if necessary, in order they should get a good start.

Thanks for the anonymous donation of £5.

H.H.

DUPLICATOR FUND

After a very industrious evening on 16th February, our "Knit a Mile" evening did not quite reach a mile but after all the inches had been totalled and most of the sponsorship money gathered, the amount raised is a staggering £81.09. Thanks are due to Joyce Blocksage who thought up the idea, and encouraged many others to join in the highly successful evening. Only a small amount is still outstanding.

Obviously having passed our target figure - we have repaid the loan to the Parish Council - a suggestion has been made that we ought to purchase a good second-hand typewriter, in order to save the wear and tear on Jenny Johnson's machine, which she has generously loaned to us each month.

Again on behalf of all those who read this magazine, I thank all those who worked so hard - especially Joyce Harrison who knitted the most and Albert who didn't let the women have it all their own way - showing sex equality even with knitting needles - I wonder where I was!!

H.H.

Results of Mr. Cawthrow's Village Record Competition:

Karen Greenhill	1st Prize	£5	} 3rd Prize divided
Justin Moseley	2nd "	£2	
Paul Robinson		£1	
Antonia Moseley		£1	
Lesley Bridgeman	} joint project	£1	
James Robinson			

There were 7 entries altogether reflecting an encouraging degree of interest amongst our younger residents. Mike Greenhill presented his account late but also received a reward.

Mr. Cawthrow hopes to accumulate the data over five years and use it to prepare and illustrate a book which he hopes will be published.

Some Youth News

Lesley Bridgeman and James Robinson are two village teenagers who have recently achieved considerable success in Cross Country Running. Both ran in the Schools' County Championships at Peterborough on 3rd February; Lesley qualified for a place in the Intermediate Girls County Team and James was selected as first reserve for the Boys County Team.

The County teams were due to run in the Six Counties match on 14th February, but owing to intolerable weather conditions, this had to be cancelled. It is hoped that most of the snow will soon clear so that Lesley can run for Cambridgeshire in the Girls National Race at Windsor on 3rd March. James is reserve for the Boys National Event at Leicester on 24th March.

Lesley, who runs for Bottisham Village College and James, who runs for The King's School, Ely, are both active team members of the successful Melbourne Athletics Club.

We are not OUT OF REACH - For prompt attention contact

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FROM THE VICAR

(A sermon preached at St. Mary's on Sunday 4th Feb. 1979)

Old men, even middle aged men, can become quite emotional at the sight of a baptism. Two days ago we kept the Feast of Candlemas, or Christ's Presentation to God in the temple, when he was 40 days old. On that occasion an old man became more than emotional. His emotion boiled over into prophecy. That man, Simeon, took the child in his arms, blessed both parents, and then said to Mary, 'this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against.

'A sign which shall be spoken against'. Recently, in analysing some of the influences which keep men from worshipping, I mentioned that of Karl Marx, now so deep as to be almost subconscious, with his doctrine that offering one's life to God in obedience is what he called 'a fundamental alienation of the human will'. A kind of atrophy, a shrivelling of one's vital being.

Not long ago, I stumbled, with something of a shock, on a further influence, peculiar to the Fens. I discovered it while reading the book I mentioned last month in the Swaffham Crier, by a friend of mine, Alan Wilkinson, on The Church of England in the First World War. In Chapter v, on The Church at the Front, he's talking about the attitude of the working class soldier to the anglican chaplains. 'Working class memories are long', he says. 'No doubt some soldiers from E. Anglia thought of the C. of E. as the institution which had maintained a gaol at Ely under the civil jurisdiction of the Bishop from 1109 till 1836, temporal power hated by Fenmen. Some would have heard tell how in 1816 the Bishop had entered his cathedral preceded by his butler carrying the sword of state, for a service before the trial of 75 men who had rioted at Littleport and Ely because of rural distress. Five were hanged, nine transported, and ten gaoled. Afterwards, a group swore over the coffins that they would tell their children, generation after generation, what "the Bishop and the gentry had done to those Fenmen, who'd only done when they were drunk what the college lads had done many a time in Cambridge without anything being done about it". 'That story', he says, 'was still being told when soldiers went out from the Fens to fight in the first war'. (I gather there is a plaque commemorating it near the main door of the cathedral).

So there you have another reason, again acting so profoundly as to be virtually subconscious, for the alienation of the average Fenman from the old church of the land. But these forces are not limited to the far past
contd.....

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From the Vicar contd....

and the semi-conscious. Not long since a priest in the diocese mentioned to me that a shopkeeper in his parish had been warned by some of her customers when she first arrived not to go to church, as it might have a bad effect on her custom. And to come right up to date, I recently ran across a newcomer to our own community who had been similarly warned by a relative not to be seen going to church too soon, as it might be considered as putting a foot wrong by the rest of the village.

'A sign which shall be spoken against'. Now I find all this intensely interesting as well as deeply depressing. It begins to open one's eyes to the real extent of what one is up against. True, you may say; but shouldn't you be saying this sort of thing to those who don't, not who do worship? Strictly speaking, Yes. Yet I still think it important to consider these things if only as a help to us in seeing ourselves as others see us. But isn't it even more important to consider them as a help to understanding a little more sharply the way Jesus understood himself?

Take Karl Marx again. He saw spiritual obedience as a fundamental alienation of the human will, which is the deepest mystery of a man's being. Jesus saw it as the final exaltation of a man to his true and destined dignity. Who's right? It's up to you to find out for your own selves, on your own heartstring. 'Test the spirits', St. John says, test them and test what they say. There is no other way. And then those Fenmen hanged for rioting. That was abominable, and a cathedral service just before the trial typical of the C. of E. at its worst in the early 19th century, as frightened as any magistrate, and any government minister, of the appearance in England of the kind of sedition which had marked the French Revolution.

But what does it say to us who inherit the odium and bitterness of those sad days? It says at least one thing, that whenever anything is established, even so holy a thing as the Gospel, whenever even the preaching of the Gospel of forgiveness is placed on a basis of a public system like that of the visible church, it is exposed to all manner of hardening and distorting influences, which may end by changing it almost beyond recognition.

For instance, it wasn't the fault of the Bishops and clergy of the English church that Roman civilisation collapsed in this country in the 4th century, and that they then had to take the place of the old law-givers. They were the only people available. But by degrees that led quite naturally to a state of things in which the Bishop of Ely had his own court, and even his own prison, in the Middle Ages. It all happened so gradually, no one took much notice till such outrages as this, and

contd.

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From the Vicar contd....

others even worse. So we have to watch out, and ask ourselves how much our own understanding and living of the gospel is being distorted by the strain and pressure of maintaining a visible church. And as for the shopkeeper and the new resident: well, there are sayings of Jesus that go as deep as ever they did: 'whoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory:' scorching words. Christ comes into everything, and every village. No one escapes.

We have received a letter of thanks from the Royal National Institute for the Blind for the sum of £9-05 contributed at the Carol Service in St. Mary's just before Christmas.

Lent

I have been asked if I will preach about the Christian virtues on Sundays in Lent.

Would you also please note that we shall repeat the experiment we tried last year, of a devotional hour for the whole Deanery, on Good Friday. This year it will be held from 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. in Soham Parish Church. This, of course, will be in addition to the usual services here in St. Mary's.

No doubt, our Baptist brethren will be holding their usual mid-week Lenten Bible Studies, and I know we shall be welcome to join in these as time allows.

J.K.B.

FROM THE CHURCHES

ST. MARY'S & REACH - Worship in March

4th LENT I

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

11th & 18th: LENT II & III

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

Continued on next page.....

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BRIDGEMAN ANL. SONS

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NEWSAGENTS

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4 Chapel Lane,
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Newmarket 741129

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Worship in March contd.....

25th: LENT IV: ANNUNCIATION of the B.V. MARY.
Mothering Sunday

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

Friday 2nd March: Women's World Day of Prayer.
Evening service in Zion Chapel.
(Time to be announced later)

Saturday 10th Diocesan Synod, Ely, 9.30 a.m.

Friday 16th: P.C.C. Meeting, Vicarage. 8.00 p.m.

Wednesday 21st: Confirmation, Soham Church, 7.30 p.m.

Tues. and Weds. 27-28th: Help the Aged, Clothing to be
deposited under St. Mary's tower

THE STAINE HUNDRED

March 6th 1979

On Tuesday, March 6th, there will be a meeting at
Queens Court, Bottisham at 7.30 p.m.

This is a working meeting to sort out, index and copy some of the
papers and documents in the Bottisham Parish Chest, which must be
deposited in the County Record Office in the near future. The Society
would like to have an index of the many different kinds of records (at
present tied up in bundles) and to make copies of those of particular
interest. Anyone who is interested in looking at the papers and record
books is welcome to come along.

March 21st 1979

On Wednesday March 21st there will be a meeting at the Village College
as usual. MR. DENIS PYE, co-author of the book "THE FENLAND" will give
a talk at 7.30 p.m. on Oral History in the Fens.

OUT OF REACH - Further copies are available from the Post Office
price 5p each. Send a copy to your friends - let other
people read the news OUT OF REACH.

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

Shock - horror - crisis - the worst since records began, etc., etc.!

Yes, it's been quite a winter and, at the time of writing, not finished by a long chalk. However, I still have some faith in the old country, and the stoicism and resilience shown by so many in the face of adversity in the last few weeks has encouraged me to believe that we can still keep our heads whilst all around are losing theirs.

The frost, thaw, frost alternation has wrought havoc with our highways and byways, not to mention the pavements and footpaths in our villages, and I am sure that residents of Reach are as concerned as I am that this unusual damage will prove irreparable. I hope readers will not become too depressed, though, at scaremongering reports that Cambridgeshire will take 3,000 years to recover from today's troubles. We have had a setback it's true, but the County Council is likely to give highest priority to road maintenance within the County Surveyor's sphere and, as an indication of good intent, has already poured nearly £200,000 more into the coming year's Budget for this item. Let's see what effect this has before we do an Oliver Twist act asking for more from those who can ill afford it. In two years the cost of highway maintenance will have gone up from £3½m. to nearly £5m. This ought to hold the line for the time being, particularly when there are so many other legitimate demands on Local Government funds.

Readers of Out of Reach may have noted that the refuse pit is now closed and that operations have moved to the new Landfill Site at Swaffham Bulbeck. The Council has erected a sign indicating that no further dumping is permitted, and I do hope, therefore, that everyone will comply with this request, as we don't want any more mess on the drove-way. Hopefully, the closure means a quieter period for Reach. I think you have had your share of the are's refuse!

Geoffrey Woollard, County Councillor.

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MAJORITY VIEWS IN REACH
The results of the questionnaire, 1979.

The questionnaire was sent to those living in Reach who were on the electoral roll in January 1979. From the 161 copies distributed, 58 replied, or 36%. Seventeen were returned blank. Total returned 75, or nearly 47%. This may appear a small number; however, National Opinion Polls - which have proved to be reasonably accurate as a guide - are often based on a random sample of about one thousand people out of the country's total population. It is thus, perhaps, useful to analyse the answers given and to draw some conclusions from them.

The questions asked were in two categories - general and particular. Answers to the general questions showed overwhelming support for the view that our elected representatives are there to act on local matters in accordance with majority views and to find out what those views may be, if they are uncertain. There was a majority of 3 to 1 saying that Reach is a thriving enough community as it is and an overwhelming number in favour of preserving existing open spaces for the community.

As regards particular questions, there was, as to be expected, divergence of views, although on many everyone answering expressed the same opinion. A majority of 5 to 1 felt that the road surfaces into and out of the village need improving and a substantial number would like to see long vehicles (apart from those requiring access) barred from the village. There was a clear majority (4 to 1) against putting a new road across the Green from Burwell to Swaffham Road and a much larger number against closing the road in the middle of the green and in favour of mirrors being placed at the 'Bull Cottage' cross-roads.

There was no real consensus of opinion about signs in and around the village, nor to the suggestion of 'camouflaging' the sewage plant fences.

A very large majority wanted the Council to cut the grass and nettles far more often; there was a suggestion that the Parish Rate be levied for this and people in the village asked to undertake the work.

Most of those who gave an opinion (3 to 1) thought the library adequate although a large number did not answer. Most would like to see rubbish collected more often and entries to the 'Best Kept Village' competition to be by invitation rather than assumed. 2 to 1 would like to see more trees planted round the village, particularly along approach roads; lime trees were suggested for the south side of Burwell Road. 2 to 1 were also in favour of seats on the Green for senior citizens, although one form said it would be too cold in winter and everyone would be too busy in summer to use them!

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Questionnaire 1979 contd....

There was a majority for restricting parking on the Green and in favour of restricting existing dwelling houses to residential use. The suggestion that an occasional Sunday Market be held met with the approval of half those who answered, and similarly the need for some suitable village sign.

Practicable or not, there was a majority in favour of North Sea Gas coming to Reach. Opinions about moving the village signs to the boundaries and having a public water tap were equally divided.

Other matters raised were also of great interest. A lot of people are concerned about the bad state of the footpaths in the village and the speed of traffic approaching from Swaffham Prior. One suggestion was for 'ramps' with warning signs - another for a 15 m.p.h. speed limit. Other points included preventing cars from parking on the footpaths, clearing the footpath on the Devil's Dyke, a village flower show, and installing public lavatories. One form suggested having a rubbish skip provided occasionally for general use, preferably one at each end of the village.

The Association is very grateful to everyone for their interest in the questionnaire, and the time and trouble spent answering it. We hope the results will be of interest to all and to our County and District Councillors whose job it is to represent our views.

The questionnaires returned have now been destroyed, but blank copies are available if anyone wishes to see one again.

For a Summary of the results, please turn to next page.

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SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No ans.</u>
Q. 1	Representation of majority views	33	-	20
2	Investigation of above by councillors	34	-	20
3	No village changes or enlargement	20	7	18
4	Preservation of open spaces	30	4	19
5	Road improvement	25	5	24
6	Long Vehicle restrictions	24	9	21
7	New Burwell-Swaffham Road link	7	28	19
8	Closure of road bisecting Green	12	23	19
9	Mirrors at Bull Cottage corner	27	8	19
10a	Too many village signs	8	14	32
b	Unnecessary signs	14	11	20
11	Camouflage of sewage plant fences	17	12	24
12	More frequent grass cutting	29	7	17
13	Library adequate	19	6	29
14	Refuse collection improved	17	13	23
15	Invitation/automatic entry to B.M.V.C.	22	11	20
16a	More trees	20	9	28
b	Where	13	7	20
17	Seats on Green	21	9	23
18	Parking prohibition on Green	21	13	20
19	Business premises restrictions	20	12	22
20	Sunday markets	16	21	17
21	Reach Village Sign	17	14	22
22	North Sea Gas	22	13	19
23	Village signs on Parish limits	12	15	26
24	Public water tap	20	15	19

'Unanswered' column (No ans.) includes in each case 17 who returned the form blank, or without any answers to specific questions.

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X   Ness Road Garage, Burwell.         Tel: Newmarket 741228   X
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BOTTISHAM YOUNG FARMERS

On Friday 2nd February the Annual Cheese and Wine Party was held to thank the guest speakers of the previous year, and the advisory committee members for all their support. During the course of the evening the Club Chairman, Mr. Shaun Fetzer, presented a cheque for £75 to Mr. Street from the Ida Darwin Therapy Pool Appeal. It is hoped that the pool will be completed by the end of July.

The following week Mr. John Marriage came to give a talk about his work as a Barrister; he explained the difference between barristers and solicitors and described some of the legal procedures in court and a typical week's work.

(An obvious comment perhaps, but I can't help wondering whether Mr. Marriage could specialise in anything other than marriage and divorce cases. J.J.)

RECIPE

PEAR SALAD

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 large, firm dessert pears | dressing: |
| lemon juice | 2oz. Roquefort cheese |
| lettuce leaves | 1/4pt. thick lemon mayonnaise |
| walnuts or pecan nuts | 2tbsp. double, lightly whipped cream |
| | salt |

Chill pears. Peel, halve and slice thinly lengthwise.
 Sprinkle with lemon juice and arrange on lettuce leaves.
 Beat crumbled cheese into mayonnaise, fold in cream and season to taste.
 Spoon dressing over pears.
 Garnish with nuts. Serves 4 - 6.

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REACH SPORTS CLUB

A meeting was held on 8th February, attended by some twelve villagers and encouragingly some of the younger members of the community came along.

This meeting was basically to reform and draw up a constitution for the R.S.C. A motion was unanimously passed changing the name from Reach Sports and Social Club to Reach Sports Club. This is because the Club is going to be concerned with encouraging, promoting and assisting all sporting activities within the Parish of Reach. The social side of the old club has been "taken over" by the "Reach Village Centre Committee".

The constitution was given a great deal of thought but basically it will promote sporting clubs within the parish and will undertake to hold a village Sports Day on the Spring Bank Holiday of each year - this year it is 28th May.

An annual membership fee of 25p. is payable to the Treasurer - Mrs. Joyce Harrison; any person interested in sport can join the Club and will be very welcome.

Concerning this year's Sports Day - Les Bridgeman has undertaken the running of the Reach Marathons with a view to improving the course and encouraging competition - see advert below for further details. H.H.

REACH SPORTS CLUB WILL HOLD

REACH ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

MONDAY 28th MAY

KEEP THE DAY FREE FOR A

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THIS YEAR'S EVENTS TO INCLUDE -

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VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENT IN EVENING

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