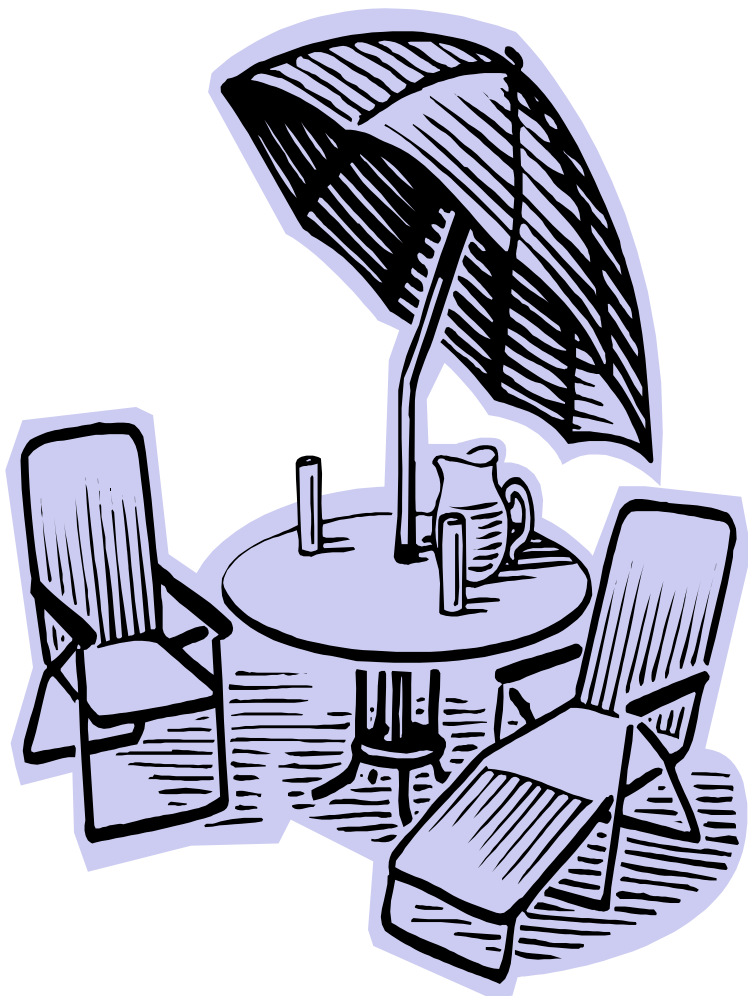


Out of Reach



Reach Community Magazine August / September 2003

Information

Parish Council Chairman	John Robinson 741445
Parish Clerk	Penny Lang, 743302
Village Hall Committee	Tony Jordan, 743408
Village Hall Bookings	Joyce Harrison, 742405
County Councillor	James Fitch, 01223 811425
District Councillor	Charlotte Cane, 742509
Neighbourhood Watch	Dave Summers, 742884
Vicar	Rev Stephen Earl 741262

The purpose of Out of Reach is to serve the whole village by circulating information and interesting articles free to every household in Reach. Issues are published bimonthly with cover dates of Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sep and Oct/Nov. Items for inclusion should reach the editor two weeks before the 1st day of the first month on the cover. Inclusion date for October / November is the 15th Sept

Editor	Dave Summers 32 Great Lane, 742884 E-Mail Dave@reach.drakken.com
Advertising	Freda Lloyd, 742368
Distribution	Joyce Harrison, 742405

Doctors (The Burwell Surgery, Newmarket Road, Burwell, CB5 0AE)

Appointments/Emergencies	741234
Enquires/Repeat Prescriptions	743602

Practice Staff	Dr Anne Shneerson, Dr Andrew Wills, Dr A Manning
Surgery Hours	Mon 9.00 - 11.30 am, 4.00 - 6.30 pm Tues. 9.00 - 11.30 am, 4.00 - 6.30 pm Wed 9.00 - 11.30 am, 2.30 - 5.00 pm Thu 9.00 - 11.30 am, 3.00 - 5.30 pm Fri 9.00 - 11.30 am, 4.00- 6.30 pm Sat 9.00 - 10.00 am (emergencies only)
Community Nurses	742382 11 - 11.30 am, 1.00 - 1.30 & 4 - 4.30 pm
Ante Natal	Tues. 9.30 - 11.30, Run by Midwife
Child Health Surveillance	2nd & 4th Tuesdays. 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Emergencies

Eastern Electric	01223 440221
Anglian Water	01603 225000
Police	999
Non Emergencies	01223 358966

Editorial



First things first let me welcome Simon and Frank to the village who have taken over at the Dyke's End, I hope you will wish them every success in their new business venture. Their advert is not in this issue as time has been against us all. The quizzes on the last Sunday of the month will continue, as will the darts teams that play out of the Dyke's End. (Anyone interested in darts contact the ladies or gents captains.). If you require any information about the menu or opening hours of the pub please contact Simon on 743816.

Reach Community Broadband has joined forces with Swaffham Prior and has now become Reach & Swaffham Prior Community Network. This is a wonderful achievement as it now means we will be able to stand on our own feet. Our thanks go to Drakken Ltd (Ian & Isabel Hill) who have made this whole project possible. If anyone else is interested in high speed 24/7 internet please contact me on 742884 and we will see what we can do.

Many of you will know of a youngster in the village who has been working hard over the last few weeks on exams. Some results I know are in for those at College, and others will be just waiting, well congratulations to you all, and if you haven't got your results yet good luck, you will get what you want I am sure.

Don't forget to keep your sheds locked and lawn mowers out of site as some folks are driving around looking for an easy pickup, and we are still getting a lot of bogus callers trying to sell everyone everything at extremely high prices do not buy from the doorstep, either services or goods. Get three quotes if necessary. Don't forget that someone may be at your backdoor whilst you are trying to get rid of the one at the front door, distraction burglaries, this time of year they are very active. If in doubt keep them out, and phone the police.

Don't forget when you go away to cancel the milk and papers, inform a neighbour you are away, and if possible get them to cut your grass! (makes the house looked lived in.)

Well that's me done have a good holiday and I will return with the October issue in September.

Dave



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Reach & Swaffham Prior Community Broadband

Installation Costs from £200.00

Monthly Charge from £20

Name.....

Address

.....

.....

Tel No.....

Preferred E-mail address@reach-village.co.uk

Preferred E-mail address@Swaffham-Prior.co.uk

Note: Further E-mail addresses are available on request at £2.50 per month

Please fill in this form if you require Broadband and return it to Dave Summers @ 32 Great Lane.

Or

Robert Hollingsworth at Yule House 41 Lower End Swaffham Prior

For further details contact Dave on 01638 742884.

Dates For Your Diary



August

Sun July 27	Quiz Night	The Dyke's End	7.30 pm
Tue Aug 5	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.45 pm
Wed Aug 6	Parish Council Meeting	Reach Village Hall	7.30 pm
Tue Aug 12	Re-cycling Lorry in Reach		
Tue Aug 19	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.45 pm
Wed Aug 20	Village Hall Meeting	Reach Village Hall	8.00 pm
Tue Aug 27	Re-cycling Lorry in Reach		
Mon Aug 25	Bank Holiday		
Sun Aug 31	Quiz Night	The Dyke's End	7.30 pm

September

Tue Sept 2	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.45 pm
Wed Sept 3	Back to School		
Wed Sept 3	Parish Council Meeting	Reach Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat Sept 7	Village Rounders	Playing Field	2.00 pm
Tue Sept 9	Re-cycling Lorry in Reach		
Wed Sept 10	Village Fair Meeting	Reach Village Hall	8.00 pm
Fri Sept 12	Mothers & Toddlers	Reach Village Hall	9.30 am
Tue Sept 16	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.45 pm
Wed Sept 17	Village Hall Meeting	Reach Village Hall	8.00 pm
Thu Sept 18	Jazz Work Out	Reach Village Hall	7.30 pm
Fri Sept 19	Mothers & Toddlers	Reach Village Hall	9.30 am
Tue Sept 23	Re-cycling Lorry in Reach		
Thu Sept 25	Jazz Work Out	Reach Village Hall	7.30 pm
Fri Sept 26	Mothers & Toddlers	Reach Village Hall	9.30 am
Sat Sept 27	Macmillian Coffee Morning	Reach Village Hall	10.30 am
Sun Sept 28	Quiz Night	The Dyke's End	7.30 pm
Tue Sept 30	Mobile Library	Village Green	12.45 pm
Wed Oct 1	Parish Council Meeting	Reach Village Hall	7.30 pm

Notices



REACH CHURCH HARVEST SUPPER

will be held on Friday, 3rd October at 7pm in the Village Centre. Tickets are £6 adults; £3 school child and £17 for a family. We won't have a licence so please bring your own wine and beer. Soft drinks, glasses and coffee will be provided. This has always been a well attended relaxed occasion with the opportunity to enjoy good home cooked food, excellent company and some entertainment -so book early!

Tickets from Joyce Harrison, 742405, Jan Robinson,743563

SPORTS CLUB

Rounders – September 2003

5th Annual Family Rounders : Sunday September
7th at 2:30

If you wish to organise a team to take part please remember you will need at least one person under 12 in your team.

If you simply want to turn up we will arrange teams on the day.

AP Jordan

OUT TO DINNER MATH E MATICS

This is pretty neat how it works out.

It takes less than a minute

Work this out as you read.

Don't cheat and read the answer until you've worked through it!

1. First of all, pick the number of times a week that you would like to have dinner out. (try for more than once but less than 10)
2. Multiply this number by 2 (Just to be bold)
3. Add 5. (for Sunday)
4. Multiply it by 50 - I'll wait while you get the calculator.....
5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1753....
If you haven't add 1752.....
6. Now subtract the four-digit year that you were born.

You should have a three-digit number.

The first digit of this was your original number

(I.e., how many times you want to have eat out each week.)

The next two numbers are... See Page 30

IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?

Oliver Coles

From time to time I receive what I can only describe as a gem of a joke.

My friend Cliff Luckhurst is a missionary in Croatia, and he sent me this one. I just had to share it with you - sorry if you have already heard it.

"A tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93.

When he died, he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and a fifteen foot hole in the wall of the crematorium."

Bob Short

MINIBUS DRIVERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are a charity, based at Bottisham Village College, and we are seeking part-time drivers for our minibus. We have vacancies for our afternoon runs from Bottisham to destinations in and around Cambridge.

We will pay £6.00 an hour, and it is anticipated that there will be two hours work each afternoon. You should have a clean driving licence, and training will be provided.

If you would like more information, please feel free to call Deb Freeman or Karen Bevan on 01223 811662.

Turning The Red Lights Green, Registered Charity No. 1079547

ELY'S SUMMER OF MUSIC

Join us in the Town Centre and Jubilee Gardens for Music and Entertainment throughout the Summer

Saturday 2nd August – CLASSICAL: Ely Sinfonia
Town Centre – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

**Saturday 9th August – DANCING: Littleport Lancettes
& Ely's Octagon Studios**
Town Centre – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 16th August – POP: A4TEEN
Jubilee Gardens – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Saturday 23rd August – JAZZ: Jazz Ambience
Town Centre – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 30th August – POP: Saxappeal
Jubilee Gardens – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Supported by City of Ely Perspective Marketing Working Group and ADeC.

For further details contact: Tracey Harding, East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377

My Story

I would write a poem, if the words would only rhyme, or perhaps write a book, if I had got the time. I would write about the people I knew, but now passed away, the Farmers and farm workers and other folk I saw each day. I could write about our village, and the changes I have seen, and about the great fairs, we held on the green. I could write about the good times, and the fun that we had, and about the hard times, when I was just a lad. There was Mr Bill Aves the farmer who farmed Fullers Farm, and little Billy Bowyer, who would do no one any harm. And I could write about the tug of war, across our muddy river, and about Mr Williams, who lived in White Roses, and was the village vicar. Mr Punch King and Wilf, were the landlords of the White Horse Pub, had a large stuffed Pike, on the wall in the snug. There was Mrs Tattum, who kept the Black Swan, another of our famous Inns. And Mr Spencer who ran the village shop, sold everything from paraffin to pins. There was Cliff Coe, Ron Smith, Harry Lane, and Mr Folkes that lived down the fen, Mr and Mrs C Webb and our own Mr Len Warren, best known as King Len. There was Mr Jennings, from Spring Hall, and Mr Housden from the Manor, and King Len did his very best to raise the village banner. I would write about the time, when the war left us all alone, when the young men left the village, to fight a war, far away from home. Mr Harrington, who farmed Hurdell Hall, and Mr Wally Wells on the green, Mr Stan Webb, and Mr Seth Badcock, without a shotgun was rarely seen. Mrs Reginall, ran our post office, she was a tiny little thing, and her husband delivered the letters, winter, summer, autumn, spring. There was the time, one stormy morn, a bolt of lightning struck our church, and a great big hole was torn. Mr Bob Aves, Mr Johnston, Mr Whitehead, were farmers too, and used very strong horses, as tractors were very few. Then there was the time of the man hunt, a dreadful degrading scene, when Mr Philby, was chased all round the village, and his furniture thrown out on the green, but he was caught hiding in the laundry van, so of to Fulbourn he had to go, he did no harm, acted a bit strange, but he kept the village just so. I could write about the time after harvest, and the corn stacks stood side by side, each one was built carefully, then thatched with much pride. Mrs Bendle was the teacher at school, and tried to give everyone a good start, to face the world after their school days, so they could play their part. Then there were the Sunday school outings to Hunstanton by the sea, the train was caught at Swaffham Proir, what a treat this used to be. I could write about the bonfires we had on the green, and Mr Goerge Hills, who worked for the council, and kept the roads clean. Then there was the time we used to chase Rabbits, when they cut the corn, and tell of the pleasure of fishing, early on a summer morn. Mr and Mrs Harling, lived in a cottage on the lower Hythe green, and there was Mr Rule, who was our local umpire for our village team. There was the time when Steam Engines came to thrash the corn, and the shepherds penned there sheep, until the lambs were born. Mr Johnston the farmer he grew all types of corn in fact he grew everything, he kept his cattle in his yards to fatten, then sold them in the spring. I could tell of the time, when a drove of rats crossed the Swaffham Prior road, and the good times we had, skating on our frozen lode. The butcher Mr Hurrell came from Burwell, to sell his sausages in the bar, and we also had our own gamekeeper, a Mr Ernie Parr. Now this is some of the folk I used to know, there were some I never met, so if I have left some of your relatives out don't be upset. As I feel I must stop now, and I will take a long and careful look, and perhaps in the future, I will sit down and write a book

The Morphology Of Reach

The Dyke

This series of articles is supposed to be about the way Reach has adapted over the centuries as a machine for living in, and I don't want to get sidetracked into discussing the origins of the Dike. But there has been so many wild theories propounded about its date and purpose its very name is possibly one of the oldest theories? That some short digression is essential.

Any theory must satisfy two sets of criteria, first, it must agree with the available archaeological evidence, and secondly it must fit into an overall view of economic and political circumstances at a given date, Briefly the facts are as follows.

1 Date The Dike is a double structure, one huge Dike on top of a much smaller, older one for a significant part of its length, The main structure is certainly post 4 The century, for late Roman material has been found under it, Dating by pollen analysis is being done at the moment, it is certainly pre Th century, for it to be used as a boundary in charters of that period,

2 Purpose, The dike runs from what was impenetrable forest at Wood Ditton, by straight sections from sighting point to sighting point, until the final section is aligned on the Roman Reach Lode, in whose waters it originally ended. It is protected on the South West by a ditch, and this although militarily indefensible for any length of time, it provides a serious obstacle for mass movement of men and animals from the heart of England to East Anglia along the old Ickield Way, which runs ultimately from the Wash to Salisbury Plain, Whoever built it didn't like the people to their South West at all, only one opening, on Newmarket Heath is old.

3 Economic factors, It has been calculated that with primitive tools, shovels picks and buckets it took several million man days to build, Thus its construction argues the existence of a powerful state, able to deploy a lot of men for a long time to a economically unproductive activity, The reason for this must have been pressing indeed.

At what time between AD 400 and AD 800 can we find political circumstances to fit? I think that Ambrosius Aurelianus, the great Roman British general who is the origin of the King Arthur legend, maybe the key. At the very end of the Th century he led a successful resistance movement against the confederacy of invading Saxons and Angles, winning battles all over the country.

His last and finest battle, Mount Badon, we cannot locate exactly, but the evidence from Anglo Saxon burials and from place names bears out the claim made by the monk Gilas in early TH century that after Mount Badon the Saxons were so humbled that they accepted peace on Ambrosius terms and kept it for a couple of generations. But Ambrosius was not strong enough to sweep the Saxons out entirely, he could only contain them in the remote and inaccessible parts of England, the Yorkshire coast, East Anglia, and Kent it is more than possible that the Dike was a sort of iron curtain, erected by the Saxons to prevent any surprise attack by the Romano British whom they had good reason to fear. When later the kingdom of East Anglia, from whose royal house, St Etheldreda came, settled its monarchs in Exning, it showed good sense, the royal household was strategically placed behind the cleverest frontier possible, facing the debatable land towards an aggressive Mercia, What was built for one purpose served another, similar, one later.

Mr Charles Mosely wrote this in September 1977

To be continued

Bus Timetable



Effective the 9th June 2002

Monday to Saturday (except Bank Holidays) Bus 111 & Bus 122

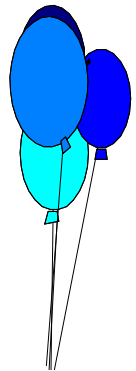
Bus 111 Cambridge to Reach:	07.10, 09.10, 11.10, 13.10, 15.10, 16.40, 17.40, 18.10, 19.10, 21.10, 23.10
Bus 122 Cambridge to Reach	20.10, 22.10
Bus 111 Reach to Newmarket:	07.43, 09.43, 11.43, 13.43, 15.43, 18.16, 18.43, 19.40, 21.40, 23.40
Bus 122 Reach to Soham	20.40, 22.40
Bus 111 Reach to Isleham:	17.16
Bus 111 Newmarket to Reach:	06.31, 09.55, 11.55, 13.55, 15.55, 17.55, 19.10, 21.10,
Bus 111 Isleham to Reach:	07.23
Bus 122 Soham to Reach	19.08, 21.08
Bus 111 Reach to Cambridge:	06.55, 07.49(*), 10.30, 12.30, 14.30, 16.30, 18.30,
* Continues to Long Rd 6th Fm	19.33, 20.33, 21.33, 22.33

Sundays and Bank Holidays Only Bus 122

Bus 122 Cambridge to Reach:	10.10, 14.10, 18.10
Bus 122 Reach to Ely:	10.40, 14.40, 18.40
Bus 122 Ely to Reach:	11.40, 16.10
Bus 122 Soham to Reach	08.50
Bus 122 Reach to Cambridge:	09.15, 12.30, 17.00

Birthdays

August		September	
4	Lara Dennis	1	Madeline Pearson
25	Joel Dennis	20	Toby Hasleham
		21	Alexander Coles



And A Very Happy Birthday to anyone else who has been missed off young and old alike.

Parish Council Meeting



Notes on Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2003

Present

Chairman Cllr Robinson, V/Chairman Cllr Aves, Cllrs Summers, Harrison, Pearson, Moseley and Hill; also C/Cllr Fitch and D/Cllr Cane.

Matters arising

Councillors discussed the possibility of getting matching street lights on the side of Fair Green opposite the village hall to match the existing replaced lights. Cllr Cane said she would try to put it forward under the ECDC enhancement scheme.

Cllr Summers spoke about vandalism, which had taken place recently on Fair Green, when cars were walked over and windows broken. The police were very interested in catching the perpetrators.

Correspondence

Highways

East Highways Division had written informing the PC that the footpath at Ditchfield would be resurfaced.

Cambridge airport

A planning application for a passenger terminal and car park at Cambridge Airport had been withdrawn.

Police Community Support Officers

The project for deploying PCSOs in the community has been put on hold as the Cambridgeshire Constabulary has not been awarded the full amount of funding that they applied for from the Home Office.

Reach matters

Vandalism

The post holding the bus timetable at the bus stop on Fair Green had been snapped off.

Playing field complaint

A complaint had been received regarding noisy football players in the evening on the Reach playing field.

Players had in turn complained about the thorny hedging puncturing their footballs. Cllr Pearson suggested it should be replaced by a non-thorny hedge.

Notes on Reach Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2003

Present

Chairman Cllr Robinson, Vice Chairman Cllr Aves, Cllrs Summers, Harrison, Pearson, Moseley and Hill; also C/Cllr Fitch and D/Cllr Cane

Reports

County Council (This covered the period up to the end of March 2003)

General

- Ian Stewart from Bradford is to be the County's new Chief Executive. He leads 10,400 staff, 87% of whom are in contact with the general public.
- The CCC had been awarded Beacon status for its coordinated approach to ICT learning, along with ECDC. Cambs contact centres would be opening next year. All council taxpayers would be having explanatory leaflets from CCC, ECDC, and the Police.
- In comprehensive performance assessments, judged by the Audit Commission, the CCC had been awarded a 'good'.
- Council tax for County had risen by 9.2%, withdrawing from reserves to allowing most services to continue.

Social Services

Cllr Fitch reported that there had been an improvement there was a continuous overspend in social services. More foster parents were coming onboard but this meant an increase in fees.

Education

School in the county were falling short financially, said Cllr Fitch. Bottisham Village College was doing well, key stage 3 was well above the county and national average. In spite of being a Beacon School the school had lost its public library section. This had, however, been started up again, being run by villagers from Bottisham and the surrounding area. The local mobile service was still functioning.

Environment/transport

- Oakington or Longstanton will be the new town in the county, Six Mile Bottom was out of the running.
- Marshall's airport was deferring building a new passenger terminal.
- There was much opposition to the Burwell to Horningsea power line.
- Fly tipping – it was costing a lot more to dispose of rubbish.
- Mr Woods, Manager from Stagecoach, had said he would try hard to keep buses to the timetable and prevent vandalism.
- The traffic lights at the Quy roundabout had been very successful.
- The highways department had dealt with the snow very well during the winter.
- The route for the Fordham by-pass had now been decided (councillors shown a map of the planned route).

Police

PC Ian Butcher was to be our new community policeman.

Fire

Arson was proving a major problem in the county with 2800 arson fires during 2002/03 and 1350 vehicle fires. Cllr Fitch said over 90% of first time offenders did not re-offend if their families are visited by the authorities to explain the effect their offence causes.

District Council (written report from Cllr Cane)

Thank you for re-electing me as your District Councillor. There was a 41.5% turnout in the ward, which was higher than the average across the District of 31.5% but lower than the turnout for your Parish Council which was over 48%. The result of the election across the District was 18 Liberal Democrat Councillors, 15 Conservative Councillors and 6 Independent Councillors. So no one party has control. The Independents have said they will vote on each issue on its merits, which will make it difficult to maintain a clear strategic direction for the Council. But I hope we will be able to keep delivering good services to local residents.

Recycling

- Joint working on new recycling activities has continued
- DEFRA funding enabled East Cambs to start green waste collection in March 2003, now rolling out throughout the District
- Tonnages from Black Box collections were up by 23% over last year (Feb. 2003 figures)
- Waste Challenge scheme for businesses to promote environmental good practice was launched in March

Cycleways

- The Ely to Witchford cycleway has been completed
- The route from Swaffham Bulbeck to Lode has been completed

Community Buses

- First year evaluation of the Newmarket Scheme is underway
- Funding has been secured for Ely and Soham schemes

Community Safety

- The Home Office allocated £83,734.00 to the East Cambs Community
- Safety Partnership (CSP) for 2003/04, to be spent on work around drugs issues and creating safer communities.
- After a successful bid for funding, CCTV cameras in Soham and Ely are installed and up and running

Farmers' Market

- Ely Farmers Market achieved certification by the National
- Association of Farmers Markets - one of the first under a new scheme which recognises true farmers' markets where local farmers, growers, bakers and brewers sell their produce direct to the public.

Energy Conservation

- An energy conservation officer has been appointed
- Working in partnership with Fenland on energy efficiency projects
- Working in partnership with energy companies to provide discounted insulation measures to owner occupiers throughout the district
- Campaign in place to grant-aid low income households with grant
- Involvement in scheme to enable low income families to exchange defective fridges and freezers for new at subsidised prices
- Low energy light bulbs are now available to all residents over the age of 60, and to those in receipt of certain benefits.
- Developing a referral network to combat fuel poverty and provide affordable warmth to fuel-poor households
- A programme of presentations to over 60s groups, WI and other interested parties is underway.

Dogs

- Villages joining the scheme to combat dog fouling are Witchford, Wicken, Littleport, Mepal and Wentworth.
- Work continues on persuading more parishes to join the dog bins scheme
- In November, 100th dog was registered with the Council on the Dog Registration Scheme

ICT Learning Centres

- Beacon status awarded for provision of 24 ICT centres throughout the District, giving access to internet facilities in under provided-for communities
- Over 2000 learners have acquired ICT skills
- Funding for a further two years has been secured enabling expansion of the scheme

Youth

- Annual report presented to Council on 4th February
- Strategy plan for 2003/04 approved
- The Think Country Child Conference held at The Maltings in May 2002 focused on how we can address such issues as how to improve the safety and security of our young people, how can we learn the views of the young people of our community and what projects or opportunities we can introduce to ensure our children grow up safe, secure, well-balanced individuals
- The Chairman's Awards for Young People rewarded youngsters for a wide range of tasks including helping a disabled neighbour, regular cleaning of their neighbourhood area, fund-raising events for the benefit of local children, and gardening for elderly people

Village/Community appraisals

- Wicken and Haddenham have formalised their Action Plans after consultation
- Cheveley and Ashley are now ready to move to a Parish Plan in 2003
- A final report on the 3 year programme is being prepared by ACRE
- An adapted plan is running in the new housing west of Ely and questionnaires have been distributed and analysed.

Jubilee Gardens

- The vandalised trees have been replanted in modified locations
- The Bandstand has been completed
- The water feature will be in place on May 12 2003
- Childrens play area plans finalised and expected to be in place by middle of May

Sportsdec

- There has been a measurable improvement in performance in all
- The Year 2 programme is now underway

Work in the Community

- E space South has exceeded its target occupancy levels through the year.
- Occupancy levels the e-space north at Littleport have risen steadily
- Work on a third e-space is at the feasibility stage, funded by £40,000 from the Greater Cambridge Partnership
- E-space north is the first of the Council's Business premises to enjoy the benefits of a full broadband Internet connection. Funded by East of England Development Agency, the new service will be of tremendous benefit to the tenant firms and will help to attract new business to the building.

Structure Plan

- The Examination in Public of the Structure Plan was completed in December 2002
- Longstanton/Oakington were identified as preferred site for new settlement in Structure Plan
- The Annual Monitoring Report was received by the Strategic Development Committee in June

Heritage Regeneration Schemes

- We secured £30,000 for 2003/4 with similar sums for the following two years - a total of around £90,000 - (which the Council will have to match-fund at £30,000 each year) from English Heritage to be used to renovate derelict buildings in the conservation area - using upper floors over shops and renovating shop fronts - in Soham

Arts

- City of Ely Community College enhancements completed
- Design work for Littleport Leisure centre completed, and the scheme has gone out to tender
- Around £100,000 for a three-year programme, including commissioning up to four digital artists to produce web-based art which will only be accessible on the internet, has been secured from the Regional Arts Lottery Programme (RALP) to provide a parallel programme of student workshops, a student internet facility, plus remodelling the gallery to enable daylight exclusion for digital art, projections and video installations.

Health

- The Healthy Living Initiative was launched at the Maltings in October 2002
- The first two newsletters have been distributed
- The website for the initiative has gone live 11 projects are up and running in this financial year
- Year 2 plan for the Healthy Living Project has been completed
- The legal documentation involving ECDC, Littleport Parish Council, and the General Practice Investment Corporation, required for the new eagerly awaited Doctors Surgery to go ahead in Littleport, was finalised
- A Mandarin and Cantonese Food Hygiene Course was held in the Council Chamber for 17 delegates employed within local restaurants and takeaway premises
- Over 7,000 users of the Healthy Living Projects in its first year.

Housing

- The Government Office for the Eastern Region informed us that the Council's Housing Strategy 2002 has been assessed as 'Above Average'.

Care and Repair

- Care and Repair East Cambridgeshire scooped a top prize of £1,000 in their section from Cambridge Evening News Community Challenge Awards to expand the service

Access Officer

- There have been difficulties in recruiting an Access Officer to take forward the work of the Access Group, which seeks to promote the interests of disabled people, but it is likely that the post will be filled shortly

Council for Voluntary Services

- Plans for a new CVS to be taken forward by a Steering Group with support from the Council. The new organisation will help to strengthen and support the local voluntary sector and build its capacity, enabling voluntary organisations to play a full partner role in the design and delivery of services.

Implementation of Best Value

- The District Audit Management Letter gave unqualified report on Best Value Performance Plan for 2002
- The Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the Council is scheduled for March 2004.

Opening up Council Business

- June's Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held in Stetchworth
- We began a campaign in libraries to encourage the public to vote, using the different methods available, and to take part in Council and committee meetings.

District Newsletter

- March 2003 edition of Connexions issued

Information Technology

- Website phase 3 has been launched
- The Council's web-site has been awarded 'content +•' status in the latest 'Better Connected' survey of all local authority web-sites. This is the 2nd highest award within the survey and only 10 authorities out of the total 508 surveyed were awarded the higher ranking of 'fully transactional'.
- Local Land Charges are the next phase for implementation under the CAPS/ GIS Project
- The Council was awarded a further £200,000 for 2003/04 to progress e-government targets
- A Public Access 'Kiosk' is now in situ and working within the main reception area at the Grange
- The ECDC bid to introduce a wireless broadband service across virtually the whole of East Cambridgeshire passed the first hurdle after EEDA endorsed the Council's first stage application and invited us to submit a detailed second stage bid.

Members' Allowances

- A new independent panel was convened in the Autumn and is expected to report in Summer 2003

Political Management

- A further review of the Constitution began in September 2002
- Changes to the Overview and Scrutiny arrangements - particularly the appointment of a permanent Chairman - were agreed in December

Council Administration and Management

- Spray taps and light sensors installed in toilets in The Grange, to cut waste and expense
- The Planning Department has been streamlined into an applications processing team and a customer services team to facilitate the integration of Planning with Building Control
- The Department for Work and Pensions' performance league tables for local authorities for the speed and accuracy of processing claims for Housing Benefit for the first half of this year showed that East Cambs.' is in the top quartile for 5 of the 6 indicators covered by the survey.
- East Cambs received an exemplary Audit report on the Council's Performance Management and Service Delivery arrangements.
- A Race Equality Scheme was adopted by full Council in May 2002
- Service improvements and savings proposed by Committees enabled us
- to meet our promise to keep Council Tax increase at 5% in 2003/04.

Swaffham Prior School (Written report by Isabel Hill, Minor Authorities Governor)
Summer Term 2003

During February the school was inspected by Ofsted, the inspectors were very positive about the school which is excellent news. Their report highlighted that the school is an effective school with some very good features, the overall quality of teaching is high and the school offers an interesting curriculum with a good range and quality of learning opportunities.

The building work on the new entrance, staff room and office, funded by the LEA is now complete; it offers more space and added entry security.

The school financial year runs from April to March. As with many other schools in the country, the school will only receive a modest increase in its base budget this financial year, existing costs have increased, and some grants have been decreased, this means that the school has less money than last financial year.

Various ways are being looked at to reduce expenditure on general items, but from the next academic year recorder tuition will have to be sourced from other areas of teaching possibly with parental help. To assist the financial situation the Head Teacher Joanna Lakey is now teaching in Class one on Fridays. This financial year will be tight, but with careful monitoring, and hopefully a small increase in pupil numbers, the school should be back on track by April 04.

The school continues raise funds from outside events, the Barrel of Booze at Reach fair successfully raised over £800.

The children at school are now creating their own termly newsletter, which includes the children's own items on news and events for the term. The children also now have their own school council with representatives picked from each class.

The School Summer fair is on Saturday 5th July all are welcome.

There followed a discussion about the school budget, which was £12k short of what was expected. Budgets could now be crossed over so that money set aside for play areas could be spent on books etc. Small schools had been badly hit by government budgets. Cllr Pearson spoke about the school's building improvements, the new head, and the hope for the future.

Village Hall Committee

2003 had been a very successful fair, said Cllr Harrison, with a profit of approximately £8,500. The VHC committee were applying for grants to build the village hall extension.

Swaffham Prior PCC

Cllr Robinson reported that letters from the Clerk to the PCC regarding the constitution of the charity still went unanswered. Clerk to write to Stephen Earl and the Diocesan Board at Ely.

Police Liaison Committee

Cllr Summers reported there had been a few incidents in the village over the past year, including some criminal damage recently when a few cars on Fair Green had almost been destroyed by vandals.

The Police held meetings throughout the year, said Cllr Summers, at which the public were thrown statistics. He could not see the benefit of such meetings – the public wanted action.

Asked what influence the county council had on the police force Cllr Fitch replied, ‘very little’.

Chairman

Cllr Robinson said the Reach War Memorial restoration was a credit to the village and those who donated to the scheme.

The Hythe was now being used by the Great Ouse Boating Association, who had made a donation in exchange for the grass being cut.

Broadband had reached the village – thanks to the efforts of Ian Hill and Dave Summers.

The Chairman thanked those who helped with Reach Fair and the grasscutting; also Cllrs Fitch and Cane; all the parish councillors, and the clerk.

Reach Matters

Historical monument

Clerk reported that she had alerted John Selby, conservation officer at ECDC, about the poor state of the St Etheldreda’s arch. He was to inspect.

Broadband in Reach

Cllr Hill said his company Drakken (an internet provider) wanted to make Reach Broadband a self-contained entity. Funds were needed to help install a higher aerial. Councillors discussed funding from the village amenity fund (Cllrs Hill and Summers abstained from this discussion). It was agreed to look at the amenity fund bank balance and if viable to permit the funding.

Dykes End pub

Cllr Pearson told councillors that the pub would be changing hands on the 16th June.

Public forum

Helen Platt asked if the broadband mast would affect the environment. Cllr Hill said it was less powerful than a mobile phone.

She also wanted to know who maintained the Reach wood, as there was a lot of ragwort. She was given the name of the contact at the Woodland Trust.

Notes on Reach Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2003

Present

Chairman Cllr Robinson, V/Chairman Cllr Aves, Cllrs Summers, Harrison, Pearson, Moseley and Hill; also C/Cllr Fitch.

Affordable rural housing project

Susan Candlish, the Rural Housing Enabler from Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) came to talk to the PC about 'affordable housing'. She told councillors that she worked with parishes to establish their housing needs. The rate of new housing build by the District Council was not up to the this need, so a project had been set up to speed up the development of affordable housing in rural villages. Susan said the greatest need was for rented accommodation required by single people and young couples.

The Rural Housing Enabler said she could assist in identifying potential sites in the village and spoke about 'exception sites', i.e. pieces of land outside the development envelope which can be given planning permission for affordable housing where there is a proven need. A maximum of 10 houses was built on sites, usually six to eight. There was, however, a limit to how much a housing association could pay for sites.

In answer to councillors' questions Susan said that there was a provision that such houses went to local people first. However, potential residents had to be on the housing register at Hereward Housing. (Comments were made about the difficulty in rising up the housing register 'ladder'). There was strict control over the appearance of the houses.

Cllr Robinson thanked Mrs Candlish for coming to the meeting and said councillors would give due consideration to possible sites within the village.

Reports

County Council

General

Bottisham community library had closed but was due to open shortly as a voluntary-run library staffed by 20 volunteers. The hours would be the same as before, with a mobile library supplementing the service, running every 2 weeks. Cllr Fitch said any books covering modern literature, reference books less than 5-years-old and specialist material would be gratefully received by the library.

Fire service

Things had settled down after the firemen's pay dispute. Retained (part-time) firemen were now on an equal standing with their full-time colleagues. The service's Corporate Performance Plan had been published.

Police service

Cllr Fitch spoke about community support officers and how they could be funded. There may be eight for the District, probably based in Burwell.

Parking offences had been de-criminalised. Traffic wardens would now be paid for by local government, rather than the police force.

Highways

Fordham by-pass had been given the go-ahead by government. Work would begin next April.

Cllr Fitch outlined plans for a Rapid Transit service, which could run from Huntingdon to Hinchbrook Hospital and then to Addenbrooke's Hospital. The cost would be in the region of £75m. The A14 would need improving to accommodate the service, he said.

Traffic calming had been taking place in Swaffham Prior.

Traffic going into Cambridge every day was up by 2%. The Park and Ride service was becoming very popular and had now been used by one million people.

Questions for Cllr Fitch

- Cllr Hill asked if motorcyclists would be allowed to use bus lanes in Cambridge. Cllr Fitch said he had heard it was a possibility.
- Councillors commented on the proposed community police officers, saying Reach residents should not have to pay more on their council tax if they do not need the service as much as other villages.

Village Hall Committee

It was reported that the committee discussed the proposed developments for broadband in Reach.

Police Liaison committee

Councillors discussed vehicles driving fast through the village.

Matters arising

Clerk reported that John Selby, the conservation officer at ECDC, had visited St Etheldreda's arch and said its deterioration was caused by successive wet summers and prolonged frost. He didn't think it was unsafe but it needed watching 'in case of sudden deterioration'.

Correspondence

- The principal housing officer from ECDC had written about the Homelessness Act 2002, which was out for final consultation until 11th July.
- Waterhall cottage, 48 Great Lane, was to be known as Water Hall from now on.
- Eastern Highways were reconstructing the kerbed footways in Ditchfields in early July. The work was anticipated to take 3–4 weeks.
- The Cambridgeshire Drug Action Team wrote drawing the PC's attention to their work implementing the National Drug Strategy. This could be accessed on the CCC website.
- Ethical framework regulations were coming into force in July, in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2004. Councillors discussed its effect on the play area and its condition generally, e.g. bark.

Reach matters

- A resident had complained that plants were overgrowing the footpath at the top of Fair Green, forcing pedestrians to walk on the grass. Clerk to advise house owners.
- Registration plates had been stolen from a car outside a house in Swaffham Road.
- Planning permission for roof alterations at Rose Cottage, Blackberry Drive and a Cllr Hill reported that cables sticking out of a hole on the verge in Burwell Road still hadn't been covered over by BT. Highways Dept. had been made aware.

Public forum

- The PC was asked about bonfire regulations as some were burning day and night. Clerk to make inquiries.
- The PC was asked about the responsibility of local footpaths, as some were virtually impassable. Resident was advised that the Rights of Way team at CCC were in charge but paths are not cut very often and sometimes small ones are ignored. They had been informed about certain paths after complaints.
- Cllr Robinson asked Helen Platt if she had contacted the Woodland Trust about the ragwort in Reach Wood. Helen said she had asked the Horse Society to do so on her behalf.



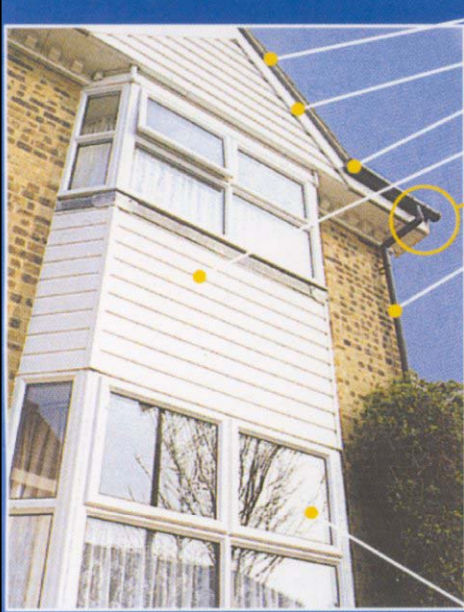
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Starts Again 18th September

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Reach Sports Club



Sports Day – June 2003

Once again we had glorious weather and the afternoon of entertaining sports was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who came. This year there were several bulges in the age groups of the children taking part so that for some events there were more adults (both men and women) taking part in the races than in some of the younger groups. As I enjoy being able to run around and take part in events rather than sit by and watch I think this is most encouraging for the future. If some of those running would also like to help with the organisation of the day then all the better.

The events began with the usual Reach attention to promptness almost twenty minutes after the advertised start and finished rather earlier than usual despite the heat. The most popular event was the apple bobbing race where the competitors had the chance to put their head into a bucket of cool water – most refreshing – and some managed to get their tee-shirts wet too.

The ‘marathons’ were shorter than usual due to the sun and were brought forward to before the tea / barbecue /ice-creams to avoid difficulties caused by running after food. The sight of Ross Clark chasing round in shirt, braces and sensible shoes was one which will live with those of us who saw it for a long time and to come second by such a short distance was very impressive. Juliet Vickery donated a cup this year for the first girl to finish in the junior marathon and I offer her my thanks for that.

I cannot mention everyone who won a race, but Sue Jordan proved once again that she still has twinkling toes by winning the ladies sprint and Ed Jordan the men’s sprint.

After the running was over we had a tea consisting of barbecued burgers and sausages cooked by the expert from the Fair barbecue, Andrew Neeve, helped by Biddy.

The slow bicycle race was ‘won’ by David Blocksage who was later disqualified when it was pointed out he was over 16 and so the event was awarded to Emma Haird

I hope to see even more people at next year’s event which will be the last Sunday in June.

The prize winners :

Under 16 Marathon :	Jamie Pearson
Under 16 Marathon : (Girls)	Maddy Pearson (Juliet Vickery Cup)
Ladies Marathon	Debbie Blocksage (Albert Johnson Cup)
Open Marathon	Ed Jordan
John Robinson Cup	Jamie Pearson (overall best performance)

Tony Jordan

Your County Councillor

James Fitch

01223 811425



COUNTY COUNCIL LETTER

Mid June / July 2003

JUNE 2003

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE

As a member of the Fire Authority I was alarmed to be told at our last meeting how bad the plague of arson has become in the UK as a whole and Cambs in particular.

To set the scene, arson is the single largest cause of major fires in England and has doubled between 1990 and 2000.

Deliberate vehicle fires have trebled in the same period. Arson attacks on schools have doubled in cost over the last 4 years to nearly £100m. The average school will suffer an arson attack every 8 years. Nine out of ten school fire setters are male and he nearly always attends or used to attend the school he attacks.

In Cambs. our fire crews were called to 2,847 arson attacks in 2002/3 which resulted in 31 injuries. About 1350 of these fires were vehicle burning about a quarter were derelict. Many of these will have been fairly local and happen in the fen areas.

Along with the Police, Youth Offending Service and local representatives, the Fire Service is now fighting to reduce the number of attacks by, for instance, home visits to known offenders. Fire prevention officers also visit schools to warn pupils about the risks of playing with fire. The results have been good and re-offending is being much reduced.

We need to help by keeping our eyes open and reporting any suspicious sightings especially children interested in playing with matches.

There are five schools in my Bottisham/Burwell County constituency, so there is a real risk. We should be vigilant and not rely on our two local fire stations at Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell to deal with outbreaks. Because of our open policy at the Bottisham Village College there is a potential to do harm. I hasten to add that the disastrous fire at the Swimming Pool was, as far as we can tell, not a result of arson.

Plans for BOTTISHAM LIBRARY are moving ahead and there may be reference to this elsewhere in this magazine. The existing community part of the library will close midday 21st June. The new arrangement, sticking to the same hours as now, will start shortly after. We hope to open before the summer holidays - watch the notice boards.

The mobile library which is still run by the county, will call fortnightly on Saturday mornings from 28th June and Friday evenings from 4th July. In both cases the mobile will park at the Village College. Of course, it will be important to use the library, so please come and browse and borrow to show your support.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT matters in brief include the following information: Marshalls are reported as postponing plans for a new passenger terminal at Cambridge Airport.

Resurfacing of some local fen roads in Swaffham Prior should start soon.

The Speed Watch pilot scheme got off to a good start, again in Swaffham Prior. I have heard nothing but praise for the interactive signs that tell you what is your speed as you pass them. I believe the intention is to check the situation in other villages and towns in the county if the experiment is a success.

About £11,000 is to be spent on improving the "ice bend" between Swaffham Bulbeck and Longmeadow, starting in the next few months.

The unsatisfactory junction Bell Road, Bottisham, and A1303 is in the hands of the design team. I hope we shall soon see some action.

Three quarters of a million pounds have been allocated to preliminary work on the Fordham By-Pass which will skirt Burwell parish.

Reconditioning of sidewalks in Ditchfields, Reach and spark Corner in Swaffham Bulbeck have come up in this year's programme but no dates are yet available.

Surface dressing is scheduled for various places in Burwell and Bottisham.

Additional work will be undertaken to cycleways to ensure that grass, trees and hedges do not obstruct cyclists. As yet no location is mentioned, but I will raise the matter this month at the joint Transport meeting.

JULY 2003

ALL CHANGE AT CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2005

Having just been through the change of District boundaries before the recent District elections, the County is now to be treated in a similar fashion.

Because of the massive increase in the County's population (4000 per year over 10 years), the Boundary Commission will probably agree to an increase of 9 members in the size of the County Council giving a total of 68. These members will each represent a slightly reduced number of electors than at present. For instance, my current Burwell / Bottisham Division includes over 8300 electors compared with 6600 when I was first elected in 1985.

What is now proposed in this area is to separate Burwell and Swaffhams (and Reach) District Ward, with 6100 electors from Bottisham and Lode 2200 electors.

New Division has been suggested called Woodditton which would include the new District wards of Cheveley, Dullingham with Bottisham, containing 7500 electors.

The new Burwell Division makes good sense and I support it. I am not so sure about Woodditton which covers all the villages inside E.Cambs south of Newmarket, and is about 1500 electors larger in population. However, none of our parish councils have commented on these proposals yet. Meanwhile, I have verbally briefed them. Should they wish to, they will have a final chance to send in their views when the Boundary Commission responds in the late Autumn. Since the Commission will not allow Bottisham Ward to expand towards Quy because it would cross in to South Cambs District, there does not appear to be much room for manoeuvre.

AIR QUALITY

The County Council is now leading a review of air quality throughout the County, checking on levels of polluting gases such as sulphur, carbon and nitrogen dioxides. Camb ridge City centre is the only area with undesirably high nitrogen dioxide caused by road transport, and that only in the bus station and nearby narrow streets area. Various ways of combatting these gases should mean that we will meet the requirements of the Environment Act of 2000 within the next few years.

Within East Cambridgeshire the limits are being met and will be improved again when the Fordham Bypass is built (starting next Spring).

WEED CONTROL

Although there have been several paths and cycleways obstructed by the abnormally fast growth of weeds and bushes along the verges, the cutting contractor ought to have this under control by the time you read this. Apologies from Eastern Highways Division for any inconvenience. The Division says the growth comes all at once but the grass cutters can only do a few villages per day.

James Fitch

**Macmillian Coffee Morning
Saturday 27th September 2003
10.30 am
Reach Village Centre**

Your District Councillor

Charlotte Cane

Tel. 01638 742509



e-mail ccane@cix.co.uk

District Council Notes (July / August 2003)

At our Annual Council in May we elected John Abbott as our Chairman. He represents the Fordham ward. The Vice-Chairman is Jeremy Friend-Smith, who represents an Ely ward.

The Conservatives and Independents voted to “halt all revenue and capital expenditure of agreed service improvements, unless contractually committed, forthwith.” They argued that this would allow new members to review these service improvements and decide whether or not to proceed with them. But one of the consequences is that we cannot put our matching funds into agreements which were to bring £450,000 of grants into the District, and so could lose these grants. I hope that if this spend is approved soon we will not lose much of this funding. But I am very concerned that as a Council we have lost credibility with funding bodies by showing that we are willing to overturn the Council’s decisions from one meeting to the next.

In 2002/03 we collected 263 abandoned vehicles from around the District (5 every week). This cost us £7,000 and we are keen to reduce the numbers and to ensure that new laws introducing charges for owners to get rid of old cars do not increase the numbers. If you see anyone dumping a car (or other rubbish) you should never approach the person, but if possible take the registration number and report it to the Council on 01353 616335. An officer will always investigate. If you want to report an abandoned car, please ring 01353 616283 and we will remove it as soon as possible.

The children’s play area and the Bandstand in Ely’s Jubilee Gardens were officially opened in May, by Cllr John Abbott. The sun shone, the Reggae band Octavius gave a lively performance and people of all ages enjoyed themselves; from toddlers in the play area, through teenagers kicking a ball about, to pensioners relaxing in the sun. At 4.00pm 1,000 balloons were released, making a spectacular sight. Profits from the sale of the balloons went to the Friends of Jubilee Gardens who are raising funds for further improvements, such as more benches. There will often be live music at the weekends, which makes Jubilee Gardens a relaxing and enjoyable place to spend a weekend afternoon.

There are a variety of concerts coming up in Ely during August. These are free and if the weather is nice many people bring a picnic and while away the afternoon:

- Saturday 2nd 11.30-1.30 Ely Sinfonia in the Town Centre,
- Saturday 9th 11.30-1.30 Littleport Lancettes/Octagon Studios in the Town Centre
- Saturday 16th 2.00-4.00pm A4teen, in Jubilee Gardens,
- Saturday 23rd Jazz Ambience in the Town Centre; and
- Saturday 30th 2.00-4.00pm Saxappeal in Jubilee Gardens.

The Council has launched a new Customer Care Code, defining the level of customer care which you can expect. The Best Value Review of customer service found that there was a high level of satisfaction amongst customers, many of whom commented on the Council's friendly and helpful staff. The reviewers recommended that we formalise our high standards in a published code.

We have published the Council's fourth Best Value Performance Plan, which is available in public libraries, on the website and by request from Simon Fraser, Corporate Strategy Officer (01353 616351). This describes how we performed in the past year, and what we are planning to do this year, highlighting areas of good and bad performance and showing how improvements will be made. The Council's performance against Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) is included. The document also contains a wealth of background information about East Cambridgeshire.

The Local Government Association has chosen an East Cambs project for inclusion as a good practice example in the area of poverty and social inclusion in their UK National Action Plan. The "Breaking Through the Barriers" project which draws 'women returners' back into learning through involvement in the Understanding Communities programme has been successfully run in Littleport and High Barns, Ely.

The final UK On-Line Inspection visit to East Cambs On-Line has praised the project, saying that 'The project has developed well, responding to changes in local needs and resources. An effective Management Team, backed by sound partnership support, ensures that the best use is made of the facilities in a variety of rural centres'.

I hope that we will have a Green Waste collection in Reach by the end of September. You will get a leaflet through your door to let you know when it will start and how it works. In the meantime you can use your black box to recycle newspapers, magazines, Junk Mail, white telephone directories, yellow telephone directories and cardboard (please flatten boxes etc). You can also put out washed cans, green glass, brown glass and clear glass in separate bags. We cannot yet collect plastics, textiles or green waste.

Charlotte Cane (Liberal Democrat Councillor for the Swaffhams and Reach)

YOUR AGE! (Oh YES, it IS!!!!)
THIS IS THE ONLY YEAR (2003) IT WILL EVER WORK, SO
SPREAD IT AROUND WHILE IT LASTS.

From The Vicar



Rev Stephen Earl

The Vicarage Tel 741262

Why is it that our media and advertisements seem to be obsessed by sex, for cars, clothes, food and now reports on Iraq, as well as in human relationships ? Yet in church circles it was usually a taboo word until, of course, there's talk of a new Bishop of Reading. And then we hear from all those who purport to know the mind of God that everything in life, in the world and Faith is black and white with never a shade of misty grey in between.

I write these "notes from the church" but personally as the Hon. Assistant Priest to Stephen Earl at St Mary's. My sexual credentials stretch from having nine grandchildren to having, in my last parish, shared page 3 of the Sun with one of those creatures of voluptuous proportions !.We are each pro-created by "sex" in the first instance, with an intermixing of love, the Spirit of God,the medical profession and sometimes a few drinks. But real love and compassion are so often eased out of our thinking when differing attitudes to the s-word are under discussion.

Anita and I have just returned from the Isle of Man where I worked as a priest for ten years and was chaplain of the 300-bed psychiatric hospital. There I met and ministered to a patient whom I'll call Billy, though that wasn't his name. Billy is a deeply committed Christian and had an absorbing past. He came to our small church group exploring our faith, and I had long talks with him. He is deeply traumatised.....and why?.....because he was a woman trapped in a man's body. The medical profession only half believed him, so they gave him only half a sex-change operation....and thus he exists to this day, a man/woman who loves God and loves his neighbour, but they don't love him. But his love is in a mist, a blur, through rejection and prejudice by all around him.

I caught up with him again last month, to find him ever more caring and compassionate towards a fellow patient, who is doubly incontinent, frequently held in a straight-jacket and equally rejected

We returned from holiday at the height of the rumpus over the appointment of a homosexual bishop. Quotations from the Old Testament in the Bible are scattered through "letters to the editor", but these all reflect the way things were done by a Bedouin tribe three thousand years ago. And the New Testament ones reflect the attitudes of a splinter group 1000 years later.We have moved on from there and have women priests and marry divorces in church. But many Bishops and church members haven't moved on. They have seen fit to seek to lynch Jeffrey John. Love is in a mist and those who should know better are still, sadly, ready "to cast the first stone".

In all our dealings with other people, whether in our own home, village, nation or between countries, few things are more important than love and compassionate understanding. An international team of 28 doctors with 100 supporting staff, have just been giving their expertise, care and time in an (regretably unsuccessful) attempt to separate the 29 year old twins from Iran, Ladan and Laleh Bijani.

But I read that the atmosphere in the operating theatre, with its soothing classical music, was "calm and measured", and that "nothing was going on at a hurried pace.....there's lots of discussion".

How I wish for that atmosphere to be the norm where our representatives are at work, in Brussels, Westminster and Washington.....an atmosphere of listening love..caring love.....and, please God, between Bishops and the different factions within our church. The Bible tells us that Abraham begat Isaac and he begat Esau who begat Eliphaz and so on. When and why did some of their successors change the begets into bigots so that love flew away into the mist ?

David Bush.

Dear Friends,

From September, there will be a small but significant change to the style of services at St Etheldreda & the Holy Trinity, Reach. On the fourth Sunday of the month, the 11.00am service will no longer be "Parish Communion" but "Church Family Worship". This will be a shorter non-Eucharistic service which we hope will attract more villagers and appeal to a greater cross-section of ages - particularly those less familiar with the traditions of the church. For practical reasons the present pattern will continue over the summer, and the first of these new services will be the *Harvest Festival Celebration on Sunday 28th September*. You are invited to bring with you gifts of non-perishable produce which will be donated to the Cambridge Foodbank supporting several charities in the area including Emmaus and Jimmy's.

You may be interested to know that a new Bishop of Huntingdon has recently been appointed, Revd Canon Dr John Inge who is currently Vice Dean of Ely Cathedral. He will be consecrated at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 9th October, and there will no doubt be a local celebration in Ely around the same time - though details are not known at present. Dr Inge, 48, is married with a young daughter, and has served in this diocese since 1996; he is known and respected by many and there will be, I am sure, profound delight that we have such a gifted and enthusiastic successor to Bishop John.

With every blessing,

Revd Stephen Earl.

Church Services August



Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity Reach
Sunday 3rd Trinity 7	8.00 am Holy Communion (said) 9.30 am, Family Service	No Services
Sunday 10th Trinity 8	9.30 am Parish Communion	8.00 am Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 17th Trinity 9	8.00 am Holy Communion (said) 9.30 am Parish Communion	No Services
Sunday 24th Trinity 10	8.00 am Holy Communion (said) 9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am Parish Communion 2.30 pm Baptisms
Sunday 31st		9.30 am United Parish Communion

Children's Birthdays

Name	DOB	Name	DOB

Church Services September



Date	St Mary's Burwell	St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity Reach
Sunday 7th Trinity 12	8.00 am Holy Communion (said) 9.30 am, Family Service 2.30 pm Songs of Praise on Castle Mount	6.30 pm Deanery Songs of Praise at Swaffham Bulbeck
Sunday 14th Trinity 13	9.30 am Parish Communion 6.30 pm Service of Healing	8.00 am Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 21st Trinity 14	Pastrol Festival 9.30 am Parish Communion With the Bishop of Ely	2.30 pm Baptisms
Sunday 28th Trinity 15	8.00 am Holy Communion (said) 9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am Harvest Church Family Worship

Sundays

6.30 pm Informal Evening Services (Quarterly) and other specials at Reach normally

6.30 pm Services of Healing (Quarterly) at Burwell

At Burwell whenever there is a 9.30 am Holy Communion service during term time.

Junior Church (3's - 11's) meets in the Guildhall at 9.25 am

Pathfinders (12's - 17's) meets in the Vicarage at 9.25 am

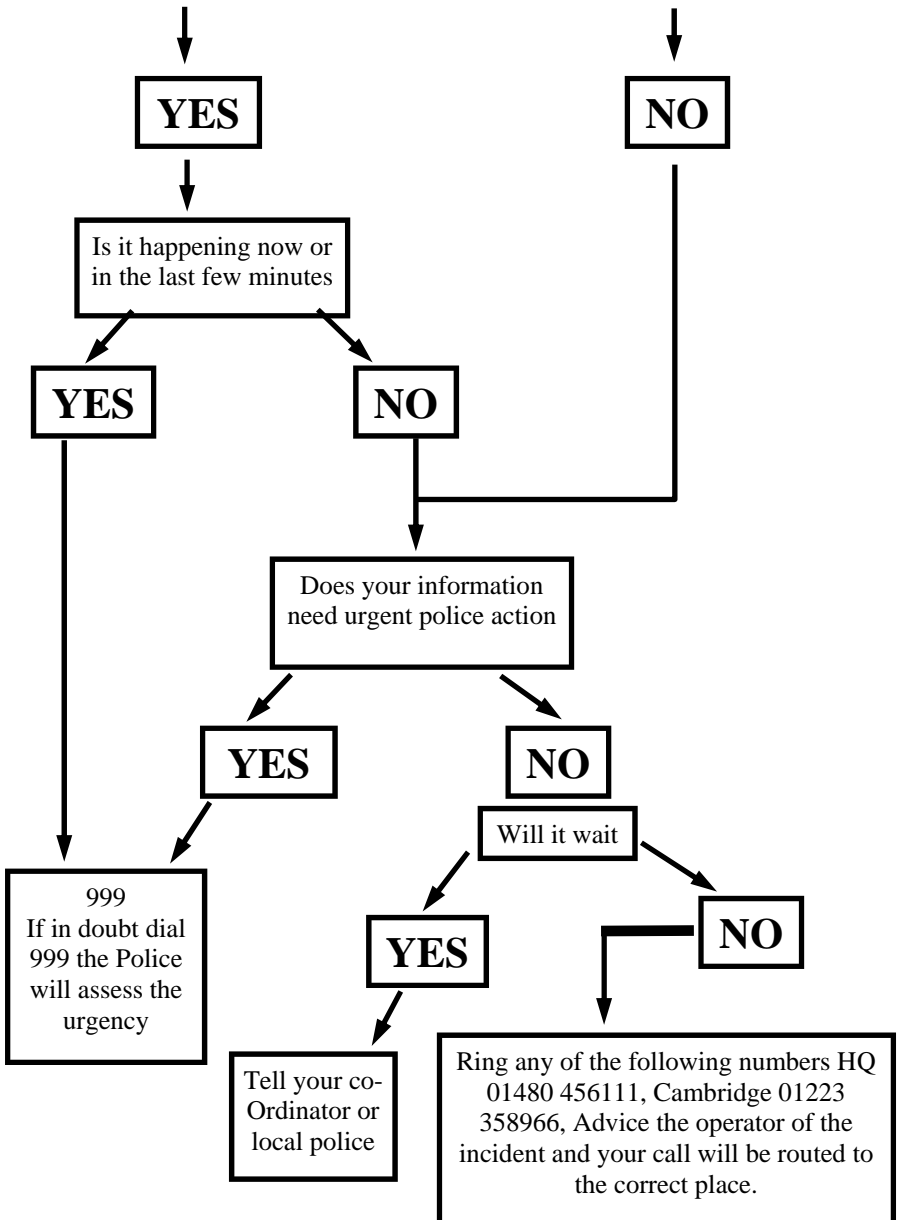
Weekdays

10.00 am Holy Communion At Burwell St. Mary's on 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays

10.30 am Holy Communion At Burwell (Ness Court) on 3rd Wednesdays

10.00 am Toddlers' Service At Burwell on 1st Thursdays (excl January & August)

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