NO 13



Clarison Cochan

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Tel. Cambridge 811335

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"OUT OF REACH"

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No.13

SEPTEMBER 1977

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Here we are at the beginning of the second year of our community magazine. Once again we ask you to send any items of interest to the editor, for inclusion in future issues, to ensure continued success, and we thank our regular contributors.

One thing which really annoys many of us, is the amount of <u>litter</u> in the village. Bottles and cans appear in gardens; front ways are often strewn with ice-pop wrappers and sweet papers - even 'Rizla' packets! Please, adults as well as children, TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME! Apart from being unsightly, rubbish can be a health hazard, so let's make an effort to put it where it belongs.

Janet Biggs.

Liquid honey is a cure-all according to Cecil Tonsley. In "Honey for Health" (Published by Tanden Books), he points out that it is an antiseptic, non irritating, and non toxic, besides being nutritious. Honey can be applied to grazes and bruises; mixed with a little glycerine and lemon juice it makes a useful cough syrup; used in cooking one-third less honey is needed than is specified for sugar.

J.B.

SHIRE HALL TITBITS

Although there are few meetings of most Councils in the month of August, I wouldn't like Reach to think that Shire Hall goes to sleep for four weeks, and although the Councillors appear to be mute (did some body say "about time too!"), all our officials carry on with the routine crises whilst fitting in some of their own holidays. Therefore, if you have a problem related to the County Council, please don't hesitate to contact Shire Hall, or better still, have a word with me and I may be able to ease your path.

For those unaware or uninitiated in the systems of Local Government and who have a particular worry, I think it might be worthwhile to publish a reminder of what the County Council deals with. Shire Hall is responsible for Education, Social Services, most Highways, the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, Consumer Protection, the Library Service and Smallholdings. I would be happy to attempt to help with problems connected with these County Services. and the second of the second of the

Geoffrey Woollard, Burney Brown County Councillor.

From the Vicar:

May I begin by offering our very grateful thanks to every member of the two communities who contributed to our Gift Day in July. The result to date is £242.50, approximately two and a half times last year's total, and all the more astonishing when it is remembered that this large sum came from only one sixth of the 300 envelopes distributed. From the Artist work of the little of the day

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On the Gift Day itself a parishioner expressed the view that 'we', that is, we Anglicans, 'don't earn our money', meaning, I understood, by this, that we don't earn it by way of fetes, bazaars, bring and buy sales, wine and cheese parties, and the rest.

I take the point. On the other hand, fun though they can be in moderation - and we are particularly grateful to Mr. Richard Norris for his offer of half the proceeds of a Wine and Cheese Party in his new home on November 11th - having spent many years running a very large parish where life seemed to be a never ending succession of such things, I began to have serious doubts about the wisdom of their frequent repetition. The physical energy devoted, and the mental and spiritual energy diverted, to them, was enormous, and the sense of exhaustion they began to breed was extremely disturbing, since most of the burden fell regularly on the faithful few. Contd.....

We are not OUT OF REACH - For prompt attention contact

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From the Vicar contd....

1000

This is the sole reason for the emphasis I have tried to place on our primary need to give sacrificially each week, and annually by covenanted subscription, so that reliance on these efforts as our main lifeline is avoided. After all, Jesus did say give, not bargain.

But this is only half the matter. Is it in fact true that we don't earn our keep within the larger community? I sincerely hope not, and honestly don't think so, though it is distasteful to seem to be blowing our own trumpet.

Jesus saw the function of his church in the world as that of leavening, and to leaven, so we are told, is to permeate with a transforming influence. It is a big thing to claim to be doing such a thing. But in fact there is no need to claim. One actually sees and senses it happening in all sorts of unexpected places. And it is done by one Christian spirit bringing another spirit to birth, or strengthening one already born. And it is done by all the manifold arts of intimate neighbourliness, 'one loving spirit', as Augustine said, 'setting another loving spirit on fire'. But it is mainly a matter of one person revealing the meaning of Christian existence to another in the exchanges of friendship and friendly talk; and it is, after all, for lack of a sense of meaning and purpose in existence that the human spirit ultimately wilts and dies.

But the point is that this kind of thing, Jesus said, is work; and it is hard work, which has to go on to the end of time, till every human spirit has awakened to the secret of what it is to find the ultimate meaning of living in God as known in the friendship of Christ. It is also our work as Christians in the community, and as such, if we do it, our only claim to its goodwill.

REACH HARVEST SUPPER

We invite the five Servers and the members of the Choir at the Christmas Carol Service to be our guests at the Supper on October 1st.

REACH YOUTH CHURCH

Young folk are welcomed at Reach Church at 11.00 a.m. on the first Sunday each month. We shall soon be thinking about items for the Carol Service, so come along - to sing, play and read with us.

From the Registers:

BAPTISMS

August 21st: Richard Allan, son of Joseph and Yvonne Mary Porter, 11, Ditchfield.

August 28th: Darren Paul and Hayley Jane, son and daughter of

Mervyn Leonard and Gillian Ann Woolnough, 4, Ditchileto Worship in September: Mervyn Leonard and Gillian Ann Woolnough, 4, Ditchfield.

- 3 Sponsored cycle pilgrimage to Walsingham in aid of St. Mary's Funds.
- 4 TRINITY XIII

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)

9.30 a.m. Matins, Sermon & Eucharist (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Youth Church (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensons (Reach)

- 11.00 a.m. fouth church (neach)
 6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)

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

 - 16 Jumble Sale, Reach, 6.30 p.m., in aid of Church Funds
 18 TRINITY XV
 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Reach)

21 S. MATTHEW 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

- 23 8.00 p.m. P.C.C. Meeting, Vicarage.

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

11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)

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

S. MI CHAEL & ALL ANGELS

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

- October 1 Reach Harvest Supper & Social = 7.00 p.m.
 - 2 TRINITY XVII (Harvest Festival, Reach & St. Mary's)

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)

9.30 a.m. Matins, Sermon, & Eucharist (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Youth Church, Reach
6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)

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FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

We hope you all had a good holiday, and we welcome you to a new School year. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that everyone in the village is invited to join the Friends of the School, either on our Committee or by supporting our activities? There is no subscription and the only qualification necessary is an interest in the school and its place in the community.

We are making an early start this term with an important open meeting on Monday, September 12th at 7.30 p.m. The Annual General Meeting will be dealt with first and any new committee members appointed. After a break for coffee, there will be a discussion by the Parents! Action Group, of their planned activities concerning teacher ratios in the county. It should be an interesting evening for everyone connected with education, so we look forward to your support.

Other events provisionally booked are:

14th October Film Night 5th November Bonfire Night 25th November Beetle Drive

SWIMMING POOL FUND

Thanks to the splendid efforts of the children and supporting adults, a grand total of £162 was raised as a result of the sponsore & walk. £60 of this will be spent as planned on heating £30 being kept towards next year's oil, as only 3 weeks' heating was achieved this year owing to the broken pump). Some of the rest of the money has been spent on holiday swimming, as this year we had to buy the chlorine, and the rest will go towards repairing the wooden surrounds and re-capping with plastic. We are very grateful for the generosity which has enabled us to attempt this necessary maintenance work.

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SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Last sowing of radish can be made outdoors. Sow outdoor Valdor lettuce for Spring cutting. Transplant August sown cabbage. A good time to plant a strawberry bed. Remove outer ring of foliage from celeriac (Turnip rooted celery), to encourage roots to swell. Remove green trusses of tomatoes and ripen indoors. Harvest main crop of onions, dry well and store in an airy building.

Best month for sowing new lawns, or renovating existing areas.

Dick Whitehead.

THE STAINE HUNDRED

The Staine Hundred is an amateur local history society which covers all the villages of the medieval Staine hundred - Bottisham, Lode, Quy, the Wilbrahams, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and much of Reach

The Society was formed at a meeting in February this year and has held regular monthly meetings since. It has organised talks, discussions and visits and hopes to encourage interest generally in the history and development of all aspects of these villages. Membership is open to anyone interested. The society will have a stall at the enrolment evening at Bottisham Village College on 13th September; anyone wanting to know more about it before then or at any time can get in touch with the chairman, James Fitch, 15 Tunbridge Close, Bottisham (Phone: Cambridge 811425) or the secretary, Anne Darvall, 16 Found Way, Swaffham Bulbeck (Phone Cambridge 811762).

The first meeting this term will be on Tuesday, 20th September, at Bottisham Village College. There will be a brief Annual General Meeting at 7.30 p.m., followed at 8.00 p.m. by a talk by Rowland Parker, author of 'Cottage on the green' and 'The common stream'. His subject will be 'The story behind the story of "The common stream".'

OUT OF REACH - Further copies available from the Post Office - 5p each. Send them to your friends - Let other people read the news Out of Reach!-

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NOTED FOR OUR PORK SAUSAGES

The Morphology of Reach: Part 2: The Dike

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 have 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-4th century, for late Roman material has been found under it. Dating by pollen analysis is being done at the moment. It is certainly pre-9th century, for it is used as a boundary in charters of that period.
- 2). Purpose: The Dike runs from whatwas 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 thus, 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 Icknield Way, which runs ultimately from the Was' 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 - the Dike 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 an economically unproductive activity. The reasons 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 Romano-British general who is the origin of the King Arthur legend, may be the key. At the very end of the 5th century he led a successful resistance movement against the confederacy of the 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

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The Morphology of Reach contd...

from place names bears out the claim made by the monk Gildas in the early 6th 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 at Exning, it showed good sense; the royal household was strategically placed behind the clearest frontier possible, facing the debatable land towards an aggressive Mercia. What was built for one purpose served another, similar, one later.

It can fairly safely be assumed that the economic buoyancy of the region that had led to the Roman cutting of the canal had collapsed by the 5th century under the stress of disease (plague? influenza?) - certainly something on the scale of the Black Death), inflation, recession, and invasion. The economic unit of the villa estate had been broken, and the commerce had died. Thus the Dike may have broken no village, ruined no lives, for Reach then was probably quite deserted. The remains I have seen from this village (as distinct from Burwell and Swaffham) show little evidence of early Anglo Saxon occupation. But when we begin to find written and archaeological records again, something odd has happened: Swaffham and Burwell, as parishes, are using the Dike as a boundary, and in the Middle Ages there are two distinct hamlets of Reach, East Reach and West Reach, split by the Dike and owning no common fields of their own. Clearly these are outliers of the main nucleated settlements, established as the Roman one probably was, to use the water transport. (This split of parishes in the village lasted into living memory). Settlement at this time did not extend far back from the water, and was concentrated along the fen edge. The road from Burwell to Swaffham skirted the fen edge all the way; it can be traced today in the drove behind Manor Farm, crossing the Hythe to the Drying Green (the original Village Green), and then along Little Lane to Great Lane and Barston Drove. All along that track are old settlement sites and old docks, many of them early medieval. (The name of Barston Drove itself is recorded in the thirteenth century). Indeed a ground plan of the whole of mediaeval East Reach is recoverable; for before the meadows behind the church were ploughed, at certain times of the year one could see the outlines of the old village in the grass. The hedge ran along the 700 year old line of the backs of the tofts. If anybody is interested, I can show them East Reach's horse and duck pond today. Those fields are possibly one of the most interesting unexcavated mediaeval sites in the county. Clearly the growing importance of Reach clunch and the

need to export surpluses of wool and corn was once again making Reach an important port.

At its maximum mediaeval development, then the village lay mostly along the fen edge. East Reach extended back as far as the chapel of ease of St. Mary, Burwell, whose chancel arch is all that remains of the fifteenth century structure dedicated to St. Richard. West Reach spread up the side of the Dike a little, along the present line of the street, but was concentrated along the Lode. Its chief industry was the cutting of clunch. A vast amount of Church Hill has been simply carted away. Docks extended at least as far as Water Hall. There was a chapel dedicated to St. Etheldreda in the fourteenth century, but where it stood is debatable; the key lies in "White Roses", but the indications are confusing. "White Roses" was Church property for a long time, and one would expect any chapel to be as near as possible to the focus of the village, the Drying Green. But the records are, as far as I know, silent. However, the late Colin Washtell found in the garden a broken mediaeval cross-shaft and several voussoirs of Barnack ragstone that could have come from an arched building such as a chapel. The erection of a substantial timber framed house in the late 015 might be accounted for if a curate had to be housed.

King John's Charter

Reach's importance as an outlet and inlet port was clearly considerable by 1200 - so considerable, that regulation of the commerce was both desirable in the interests of public order and profitable for the regulators. King John, that excellent but unfortunate monarch, confirmed to the Mayor and burgesses of Cambridge (I wonder how much they bribed him?) the right to hold an annual market and court of Pie Powder at Reach at Rogationtide. Like Stourbridge Fair, this was sound policy: the court of pie powder was a court of summary jurisdiction, which enabled a speedy settlement of trade disputes and of petty offences; fines imposed swelled the Mayoral budget. Moreover, the right of market allowed the Mayor legally to gather for his town's use the market dues from the traders. Reach Fair waxed great and in time became one of the premier horse fairs of England; it also dealt in cloth and wool, like Stourbridge Fair, and buyers and dealers came from all over England and the Low Countries. John's charter regularised an existing position and helped the fair to grow, so that to Reach's other important functions was added the warehousing of material and the catering for a considerable seasonal influx of people and animals. It would be quite difficult not to get rich on these things.... some people in Reach in the Middle Ages and later, grew rich enough to have imposing memorials in the parish church, like the Rants, and to have brasses there, styling themselves in the Norman way, "de Rech". Where Walter de Rech lived with his wife Dame Alice we.....

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The mediaeval machine ran well for centuries. Reach Fair was an annual event of great importance and value to the hinterland of the village; at other times the two hamlets discharged their duties to their mother villages in exporting and importing the sinews of trade. A quiet prosperity was built up, and probably there were a few specialised trades connected with the boats. The hamlets never grew very large, and nobody seems to have gone in for glamorous buildings; the age-old geographical and economic determinants both supported the Reaches in comfort and effectively prevented significant changes in form and function. Those changes burst on Reach in the Eighteenth century, when men began the industrialisation of agriculture that is still continuing.

Charles Moseley.

Business Manager

We are now entering our 2nd year and thanks to generous donations and continued support from our many advertisers, we should remain solvent for another twelve copies.

It may not be known that among those who work to produce this magazine every month, one man probably deserves more credit than he actually receives. For it would be impossible to produce Out of Reach without the skill and expertise and duplicator of Keith Pratt from Swaffham Bulbeck. For this, his assistance and his helpfulness Out of Reach extends its most grateful thanks.

DOG LOVERS PLEASE NOTE - REACH DOG SHOW

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER AT 1.00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE There will be a new class at this show for dogs resident in Reach only so do bring your dog along. It would be very much appreciated by the organisers if somebody would kindly donate a cup for this class. Any offers to Mrs. Mitchell, Tel: Newmarket 741448.

REACH CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

The next committee meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Friday 9th September, at Delph End Cottage.

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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

The result of the Junior Fishing Match, held on August 13th and organised by Messrs. Ray Folkes, Bill Estall, Bob Smith and Mr. Stearn from Fulbourn, was as follows:-

1st Girls Leslie Bridgeman $7\frac{1}{2}$ cz.
1st Boys Tony Kemp $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

*********** ·(THEIR DAY) REACH JUNIOR FISHING MATCH

All the formations of Large As they walk to their chosen place A smile of hope in each young face. They chatter excited as they go We must be ready when the whistle blow. What number have you drawn today Never mind I'm only six pegs away. Have you brought the crisps the bait The drink, the biscuits, Mum made us take. Please Mr. Smith I'm in a terrible mess My hook is caught up in my dress. Oh Mr. Folkes please come and look This pinky wont stay on my hook. At last the whistle is blown to start This fishing match for the young at heart. Scon a call from a far off spot Come and see the fish I've got. And holding it gently by the tail Droppeds it quickly in a plastic pail. The fish are coming in now fast I don't know if my bait will last. I will change to a worm then, see Cor, I don't half want a pee. It must be all the pop I brought I wonder how many fish have been caught. Oh there goes the whistle once again We must finish now, must play the game. Here they come to weigh the fish Hope I am top this is my wish. Now all the fishing done for you and me It's back home to see who the winner will be. To hold the cup for a year with pride And to have my name printed on the side. We must finish now it been great fun Our heart felt thanks to everyone. ₩. Estall.

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RECIFES

BRAMBLE JELLY

4lbs. Elackberries 34 pt. Water

Sugar 4 tablespoons lemon juice

Wash fruit; put in n with lemon juice and water. Simmer gently for about one hour, until soft. Strain pulp (save for recipe below),

Measure extract. Return to pan with 11b. sugar to each pint. Bring to boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Boil rapidly until setting point is reached. Skim, pot and cover.

BRAMBLE CHEESE

Pulp left in jelly bag should be rubbed through a wire sieve. To each 11b., add $\frac{3}{4}$ 1b. sugar, and leave for some hours to melt. Add juice and grated rind of a lemon. Boil, stirring all the time. Pot and seal. (A good preserve for the breakfast table).

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