

Out of Reach

17

JAN 1978



I. Morris

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Alison Housden

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"O U T O F R E A C H"

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No.17

JANUARY 1978

EDITORIAL

Perhaps as New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year our Good Wishes for 1978 should have been included in the December issue. I have the feeling, no doubt a hangover from days in Scotland, that the time for New Year wishes is as near to Midnight on the 31st as possible. I hope that everyone had a very happy Christmas time and a merry New Year's Eve with many good resolutions made.

Our village trees were a very acceptable Christmas present. With luck, 1978 will be a year of splendid growth.

I would like to remind the under 15's of the competition advertised last month, for written and drawn submissions to the magazine.

Happy New Year.

Jenny Johnson.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Tree planting time is here again. The Council applied for and has now received 50 trees to be planted in the Parish plus replacements for those of last year's trees that have not survived. Three families have asked for some trees and the others will be planted in selected sites during January.

A notice informing the public that 'Dumping on Village Drove ways is forbidden' - is to be erected at the top of Straight drove.

We have been advised by East Cambridgeshire District Council that no further development within the parish boundaries will be allowed unless in the interest of agriculture.

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that there has been some encroachments on to the public highways, drove ways and rights of way within the Parish. The Councillors have decided to look at the total area, and will be conducting a tour of Parish boundaries and drove ways to ascertain who the offending parties are.

Kingdom of Reach
City of Anglesea and Devolution

A Lecture by Len Warren
Followed by Question Time
Village Hall January 11th at 7.30 p.m.
Admission 10p.

FROM THE CHURCHES

ST. MARY'S & REACH - Worship in January

1st SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS

(The Naming of Jesus)

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

3rd The Circumcision or Naming of Jesus, transferred from the 1st.

- 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

6th The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD

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

8th EPIPHANY I (Plough 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)

11th Confirmation Classes begin in Vicarage, 7.30 p.m.

15th EPIPHANY II

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

20th P.C.C. Meeting, 8.00 p.m., Vicarage.

22nd SEPTUAGESIMA

- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (with the Baptists) St. Mary's
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service - at Zion Chapel

25th CONVERSION of S. PAUL

- 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

29th SEXAGESIMA

- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
- 11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
- No Evensong.

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We warmly welcome the Baptist community to worship at St. Mary's on the 22nd at 9.30 a.m., and to make their Communion at our altar. We ourselves are kindly invited to worship at Zion Chapel at 6.30 p.m., as an exercise in mutual understanding. At both services there will be sermons explaining the principles governing Anglican and Baptist worship.

With the permission of the Headmistress the Fordham Deanery Synod will be meeting in the school at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 31st January.

From the Registers:

Burials:

24th Nov. Rosa Alice Johnson, Johnswood, Burningham Rd. Stanton, aged 100.

FROM THE VICAR

Perhaps it isn't without significance that the alternative title for the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ on 1st January is the Naming of Jesus. Mottoes are strangely powerful, and a year lived under the power of the name of Jesus the Saviour is no mean thing in a human life. Those who have found themselves puzzled as well as interested by the TV series on the world's religions, The Long Search, may feel themselves driven by the sheer urgency of the matter to look again at the person, the nature, and the claims of Jesus upon our allegiance. The astonishing fact is, - and it is only slowly borne in upon the mind through years of testing experience, - that everything the human spirit needs for its sanity and salvation is provided in abundance by the life, work, and teaching of Jesus, by the community to which he bequeathed his presence through history, and the literature that community has given to the world. Certainly the next two centuries are going to see a confrontation of and comparison between the great religions hitherto unparalleled in the history of the world, and it will be our business as Christians to be as clear as we can about the reasons for the hope that is in us, and to give a convincing account of our faith. George Herbert's lovely poem, written about 1625, goes very near the heart of it:

JESU

JESU is in my heart, his sacred name
 Is deeply carved there: but th' other week
 A great affliction broke the little frame,
 Ev'n all to pieces: which I went to seek:
 And first I found the corner, where was J,
 After, where E S, and next where U was graved.
 When I had got these parcels, instantly
 I sat me down to spell them and perceived
 That to my broken heart he was I ease you
 And to my whole is JESU.

(From the Vicar contd.....

Loose Stones

We have received the following enquiry, and I should be most grateful for any information which would enable me to reply to it:

'I wonder if I could presume upon your kindness to help trace some meteorites which fell near Swaffham Prior at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday May 16 1646 (!). My reason for writing to you is that my original source consists of papers written by Jonathan Jephcote, minister of St. Mary's Church from 1633 to 1661, as published in the East Anglian, Vol. 6, 1895/6 p.362. He describes the fall of the meteorites.

This account is important as only 22 meteorites are officially accepted as having fallen on the British Isles in historic times....The British Museum---has encouraged me to enquire at St. Mary's Church to discover whether any of the fallen stones are preserved, and indeed whether any additional data are available there!

May I wish you all good in the coming year.

J.K.B.

Village Centre News

January Diary Dates

Table Tennis Weekly from January 2nd 1978

Bingo Weekly from January 3rd 1978

Lecture by Len Warren, January 11th at 7.30 p.m.

Our own local historian, none other than M.L. Warren, will give a lecture in the Village Centre on the 11th January 1978, to explain his claims and thoughts both of Reach as a Kingdom and its position in the devolution stakes. The lecture will be entitled:

Kingdom of Reach
City of Anglesea & Devolution

It will last approximately One Hour and will be followed by question time.

I hope that this event will be well attended as over a period of years Len Warren has made various claims about our history, varying from Selling the (Kingdom) to the Russians, to Independence for Reach.

There will be a small charge at the door to cover heating and lighting expenses.

I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

John O. Robinson.

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

At the last A.G.M. of the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils, a motion was put forward, but not passed, critical of the poor quality of trees supplied for the Parish planting scheme and suggesting that the County Council makes individual cash grants to Parishes enabling them to choose and purchase their own trees.

I was most interested in this debate, as one who values trees as part of our rich countryside, but am still uneasy about what happens in our County. The County Council is spending some £19,500 on trees as part of the Leisure and Amenities Committee's budget, and some £4,000 of this is paid by the Countryside Commission. The Parish planting scheme costs about £7,000 and other projects make up the rest. In my opinion, a radical rethink is needed. Either we spend a great deal more and deal centrally with the Dutch Elm disease crisis and embark upon massive organised re-planting, or we restrict our expenditure - and I have an instinctive affection for the latter (!) - and confine the County's role to a general oversight and advance centre. Opinions vary enormously, but I would be grateful for any thoughts from Reach.

Farmers in the County have been rightly blamed for a certain amount of despoliation of the countryside in the past, but with the new mechanical hedgerow maintenance methods and a general realisation that trees are of commercial and aesthetic value, I believe the collective mind of agriculture has changed enormously and that thousands of trees are being planted and nurtured by those who love the countryside. If this change of attitude can be maintained and encouraged, we can all emulate the great planters of the eighteenth century and the need for "Authority" becomes less. Do you agree?

A very happy New Year to all my friends in Reach.

Geoffrey Woollard,
County Councillor.

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FOR PROMPT SERVICE

THE FARMING LIFE IN REACH HALF A CENTURY AGO.

In the article on 'Reach in the Early 1900's', we rather skated over a most important aspect of life here - the farming. This was, after all, the means of livelihood for the majority of Reach inhabitants. Mr. Albert Johnson has been giving me details about the older style of farming and for the next two months we shall be publishing articles based on his memory.

PART I. The overall Picture.

I suppose that to most of us the notable difference between farming then and now is the degree of mechanisation. Although this is fundamental it overshadows a great many other changes.

Before the widespread use of tractors, farms, here as elsewhere, tended to be smaller; an average farm in Reach during the first half of this century would have been twenty to thirty acres. The units within the farms were also smaller, e.g. the size of a field today may be three or four times that of a 1920's field. We may regret the loss of our hedgerows but their upkeep was a tedious winter task for the farmer.

Farms used to be less specialised; they were, to varying degrees, mixed arable and livestock. A small farmer might be expected to keep for example, five sows, three cows with young stock, fifty or so chickens and to grow wheat, barley, oats, beans, mangels and mustard. Some of his land would be down to grass for grazing and for hay.

There was a greater emphasis on crop rotation to keep the land fertile as present day compound, artificial fertilizers were not available. Farmyard manure, of course, was readily available and grazing animals would have made some contribution. Larger farmers in the area kept flocks of sheep and a shepherd and they moved around all the land when it was not in cultivation.

Weed killers are another innovation. Previously weeding was done either by hand or by horse drawn hoes, usually in the early part of the year when crops were in the first stages of growth.

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The Farming Life in Reach Half a Century Ago. contd.....

Some of the land in this area has been reclaimed by drainage; much of Burwell Fen, for example, was so reclaimed in the early years of World War II. The wet patches had been the home of populations of wildfowl, which, no doubt, offered an addition to the country table. Before about 1940 the field drains were usually what is referred to as Bush Drains. These were made by stamping lengths of bush into a trench and covering them with straw before filling in. They would last for several years.

Areas where turf was cut for fuel have also now been cultivated - another reflection of the changed use of land.

Farmers were quite dependent on their horses, but these in turn, made further demands on the farmers' time and produce. On the larger farms one of the workers would have the special position of: 'Horsekeeper' - a job involving longer hours and somewhat greater remuneration. As well as working with the horses, the horsekeeper would be up at four or five in the morning to feed and prepare the horses for work by the time the other farm hands arrived. At the end of the day he was responsible for feeding, cleaning and stabling the animals before he returned home. The last working horse that Mr. Johnson remembers belonged to F. Bowyer Esq. of Highfields Farm.

There were blacksmiths at Burwell and Swaffham Prior and they shod not only the horses but also the cartwheels. Hot turfs were stacked around the iron tyre so that the metal expanded sufficiently to be slipped over the wooden centrepiece which was mounted on a stone or concrete circle; water was then poured over to make the metal contract and fit tightly around the wood.

Transportation in the area has changed radically. In the 1920 - 30s there were no hard roads in the Fen. The Reach road to Swaffham Prior was constructed of hard stones but wasn't tarred until the end of the period. The drove from Springhall Farm to Swaffham Prior was in use. Farmers, like everyone else, depended on their feet or their horses; even bicycles were no help in the winter mud. Most of the villagers were employed locally, but they still might have to walk three miles or more to and from work.

Crops were taken by cart to Swaffham Prior and Burwell to be put on the trains or down to the Lode for transport by barge.

.....contd...

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BOTTISHAM YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

This month's meetings began on 11th November when Miss Kay Bonnett talked about Guide Dogs for the blind. She brought her own dog "Star" with her and explained how the dogs are trained and talked about the Guide Dog Association which started in the 1930's. The following week, 18th November, Mr. Collacott from the Milk Marketing Board gave a talk.

On 25th November, the members spent the evening preparing for the very successful Christmas Bazaar and Jumble Sale which took place on 10th December, and on 2nd December, Mr. Brown talked about Photography. He brought several cameras with him and briefly described each one and then showed a number of slides. The last meeting was on 9th December when Mr. Warne talked about Bee-Keeping.

Cake	<u>ORANGE FOAM CAKE</u>	Orange topping
4oz. sifted flour	1 egg	
4 level tbsp. cornflour	5 oz. sugar	
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt	grated rind & juice of 1 orange	
1 level tsp. baking powder	" " " $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon made	
6 egg whites	up to a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ pint with water	
$\frac{1}{2}$ level tsp. cream of tartar	1 oz. flour	
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt. double cream	
6 egg yolks		
finely grated rind of 2 oranges		
4 tbsp. orange juice		
2 tbsp. lemon juice		

Sift flour, cornflour, baking powder and salt into bowl
 Beat egg whites and cream of tartar until foamy; gradually beat in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar.
 Continue beating until mixture is glossy and stiff peaks form
 Beat egg yolks & remaining sugar in a large bowl until thick and light coloured. Combine grated orange rind, orange juice and lemon juice in a cup and add alternately with sifted flour to beaten egg yolks.
 Fold egg whites gently into batter until completely blended.
 Pour mixture into a deep 9" ungreased cake tin, cutting through batter with a spatula to prevent air pockets.
 Bake 55-65 mins. at 325° F (Mk.2) or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Invert pan on a wire rack and cool completely then remove from pan, loosening cake from sides with thin knife. Cover top and sides of cake with topping and decorate with crystallised orange slices. Makes 8-12 portions.

Orange topping - Beat egg, sugar and orange rind tog. until foamy. Add sifted flour and orange and lemon juice and cook in top of double boiler, stirring all the time, until smooth and thick. Fold in whipped cream.