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Saturday: Emergencies only: 9.00 - 10.00.a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics: 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month 2.00 - 3.30.p.m. at the Surgery

Child Welfare Clinic: 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month
2.00. - 4.00.p.m. at Gardiner Memorial Hall.

VICAR: Rev. Canon J. K. Byrom, Swaffham Prior Vicarage. Tel: 741409

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No. 43

April 1980

EDITORIAL

I wonder how many of you recall that in the November Issue of the magazine the Vicar, in his article, mentioned that the poet, Edwin Muir, was buried in Swaffham Prior cemetery. I must confess that until then I did not know that he had lived in the village. Although it was only for three years, it was nevertheless the place in which a wide-travelled man of letters chose to end his days. I am aware that many of you may not have heard of him, and also that it is probably unfashionable to like poetry these days; but as far as I know, he is the only famous person who has lived in this particular area, so I felt that I shouldn't let the opportunity pass to do some research into his life and work. I hope that nobody will mind that it was not Reach, but Swaffham Prior, that he was connected with but we are such close neighbours! And I hope that maybe it will spark off some interest in one or two literary minds!

I am delighted to be able to inform you that our 'Knit-In' proved a tremendous success. We do not yet have the final total of the money made; this will be published in next month's issue. We think that the figure is approximately £141.00, which is, I am sure you will agree, a staggering amount! It will enable us to pay off our debt and leave some money in the "kitty" too. Fourteen ladies and Albert Johnson turned up, and the Newmarket Journal and the Cambridge Evening News sent along photographers. I would like to say a special "thank you" to Debbie Garner, a reporter from the Newmarket Journal, who raised the enormous sum of over £40.00 from her colleagues. We are most grateful to her for coming along and joining us, and to her generous sponsors. I would also like to mention that 14 people gave donations instead of joining the 'Knit-In! Thank you to them and to everyone who sponsored the event. Lastly, thank you to all who baked cakes or biscuits. The coke stall alone raised over £15.00

I would like to welcome the Jordan family to the village, who recently moved into Hobdyke's End. It is good to see Mrs. Phil Webb out and about again after being unwell for so long. It is also good to see Joyce Harrison again after her recent spell in hospital. She wishes me to pass on thanks to all the people who sent her good wishes, Get Well cards, flowers, fruit and chocolates during her two stays in hospital. I am sorry to say that David Sargeant is still in hospital and we all hope that his health will improve and send our good wishes to his family.

The paper collection will now take place on Sunday, April 13th, not April 6th, as stated last month.

I hope that you will all have a good Easter.

Kay Pote

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FROM THE VICAR

Looking for a breakthrough has become a part of our general outlook: a breakthrough in the steel strike (we may even have reached it by the time you read this); a breakthrough in Afghanistan and the Olympics row; a breakthrough in Iran. Only now that a breakthrough has come in Rhodesia after all these years do we realise how exhausted the past months of listening to news bulletins has rendered us.

Easter Day was also a breakthrough. Look at every reference to the resurrection in the New Testament and you will find this feeling of breakthrough lurking somewhere in the writer's mind. Ecclesiastes' despairing conviction that everything is uesless, and that nothing will ever alter, is contradicted. The veil of death hanging darkly and heavily over all nations is ripped apart. Evil, even when entrenched behind the concentrated power of the state, is defeated.

Between 1708 and 1710, when Minister of the Presbyterian Meeting House at Crook Lane in Chester, Matthew Henry produced an Exposition of the Old and New Testaments, which has lately been reprinted. (The New Testament is published in two cheap stocky paperbacks by Hodder). It must be one of the most readable running commentaries on the bible ever written, not simply because written in faultlessly pure English, but because it literally runs from verse to verse and chapter to chapter, so that once picked up it becomes an effort to put down. And it is packed with the homely wisdom of the Gospel. 'Well', he writes, introducing the last chapter to St. Mark, 'this (last) Sabbath - (the Sabbath during which Jesus' body lay in the tomb) - 'this Sabbath is over, and the first day of the week is the first day of a new world. And so it seemed to every member of the little community Jesus left behind. There seemed to be a vista of limitless breakthrough opening before them, in which every oromise of God from Abraham onwards was offered to them again fulfilled to the hilt. The future was possible again, extending now even beyond the barrier of death, and it was in and into this hope that every convert was baptized, as it was the hope in which two members of the parish were baptized last month. 'Baptism', indeed, it has been said 'is the means by which we are incorporated into the mighty act by which God raised Jesus And the result was a reckless confidence which in only from the dead.' three centuries changed the world. 'Believe the resurrection', Matthew Henry says, remarking on the raising of Jairus' daughter, 'and then be not afraid'. They did believe and were not afraid, and that lack of fear has gone on producing new churches and new martyrs till this very day.

From the Registers: Baptism and Confirmation at Swaffham Bulbeck: 19th March: Rachel Warrington, Dykes End, Fair Green.

K. S. and N. E. PEACOCK

REACH POST OFFICE STORES

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FROM THE VICAR - continued - LENT APPEAL

The Reach Church Committee has decided this year to concentrate its efforts on responding to the appeal for a new scanner needed at Addenbrooke's Hospital. As this is of such vital importance to everyone we hope you will not be offended by the fact that we have circularised every member of the community with an envelope instead of limiting the appeal to members of the church Electoral Roll. If you feel you could help would you be kind enough to give your donation to a member of the Reach Church Committee, Miss Whitehead, Mrs. Fuller, Miss Coates, Mrs. Harrison, Major Jones or Mrs. Folkes at The Post Office.

FROM THE CHURCHES

J.K.B.

Worship in April: St. Mary's and Reach

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Apr. 2nd Wednesday in Holy Week
7.00.a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

3rd MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion (St. Mary's)
8.00. - 9.00.p.m. Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament (St.Mary's)

4th GOOD FRIDAY
10.00.a.m. Matins & Ante-Communion (St. Mary's)
2.00. - 3.00.p.m. Deanery Devotion (Fordham Church)
5.00.p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)

5th <u>EASTER EVE</u> 7.00.p.m. Renewal of Baptismal Promises(St. Mary's)

6th EASTER DAY

8.30.a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)

10.00.a.m. Matins and Eucharist (St. Mary's)

6.30.p.m. Evensong (Reach)

7th MONDAY IN EASTER WEEK
10.00.a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

8th TUESDAY IN EASTER WEEK
8.00.a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

10th Reach A.G.M. 7.30.p.m. in Church (see confirmatory notices on Church door and in Post Office).

13th, 20th and 27th EASTER I, II and III

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

11.00.a.m. Family Communion (Reach)

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

EDWIN MUIR Part I

Edwin Muir was born in 1887 on a farm in Orkney. The family was port of a simple, poor but close-knit community. Their life-style would seem, by our standards, primitive and hard living as they did, literally,, "off the land", and were self-sufficient through necessity. But the family was a happy one, and the young Edwin's earliest years seemed almost idyllic, certainly in comparison with the hardships which befell him later. The family numbered ten with Edwin's three brothers, two sisters, aunt and cousin. He was a sickly child and didn't start school until he was seven, and then only received a sketchy education which stopped at the age of 14. At the age of nine he began to read avidly any literature that he could lay his hands on, and made up his mind then that he would be a writer when he grew up.

When he was 14 the family made a disastrous move to Glasgow, because the farm failed and the discouraged father sold up. Plunged into industrial Glasgow, Edwin took a series of menial jobs, all of which he hated. He was by turn office boy, chauffer's assistant, clerk in a beer bottling factory, a bone factory and a shipbuilding office. Within the first two years in Glasgow he lost four members of his family. His father's death was followed by those of his two elder brothers, one from consumption and the other from a brain tumour. mother died from an internal disorder. Without the support of a home background he continually shifted from one set of bad lodgings to another. He also constantly suffered from ill-health. During these wretched years Edwin Muir sank into a depressed state as his hopes all withered one by onc. He co ld not stave off the feelings of degradation and demoralization which his meaningless jobs brought him. He did, however, find some escape in Socialism, and developed a simple imaginative view of life where all people would be free and equal. His greatest influences were two writers, Heine and Nietzsche. For many years Nietzshe inspired him with a vision of the future, although eventually he came to realise that this was mostly a compensation for the unhappiness of his life at that time.

At the outbreak of World War I Muir volunteered for the Army but was refused on grounds of health. In 1918 he met Willa Anderson and they married the following year - when he was 32. They settled for a while in London and Muir became a freelance journalist, doing critical and reviewing work for newspapers - a step in the right direction at last! He was still, however, beset by inner conflicts and struggles, and underwent psychoanalysis. His strange symbolic dreams and waking trances revealed a good deal of his past, which he had tried to keep buried. For instance, he dreamed that he brought his dead mother to life - he believed in the immortality of the soul, a belief which

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BRIDGEMAN AND SONS

NEWSAGENTS

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EDWIN MUIR - continued

brought comfort. In another dream, he was far above the earth, inside a star. The earth was covered with ice, and as he dived towards it, he realised that his body would be broken to pieces. As the body shattered, the soul left it, and watched as it was devoured by a huge animal. He then appeared, reborn, with a serpant wrapped around him. In another dream he and two other men were killed by an enormous sea-beast; and in another he was speared to death by soldiers. He made use of his dreams by recounting them in his poems.

When Edwin and Willa Muir went abroad to Prague, he eventually realised that his old fears had vanished and at last he was happy. They spent several years moving nomadically around Europe, working as translators. With the past behind him, he felt new hope, and at the age of 35 he began to write his poetry.

East Cambridgeshire District Council

At yesterday's (March 4th) Council Meeting the District Council agreed two resolutions to which I should particularly like to draw attention.

- (1) The District's Rate is to remain unchanged at 6.2p in the £. for the coming year. That we have been able to achieve this, and manage a modicum of growth in certain areas, is due in great measure in the words of the Chairman of the Finance & Policy Committee, "to the restraint, hard-work and co-operation of Members, Chief Officers and staff". Certainly, I think it a tribute to the way we work together at East Cambs. t at we have succeeded in holding the rate for the second year in succession.
- (2) The Council has adopted, after discussions with the Chief Fire Officer, a revised model bye-law regulating straw and stubble burning. Briefly, this lays down that the firebreak which was 9 metres has now been increased to 15 metres and the penalty for offending has been increased from £20 to £200 on conviction.

The N.F.U. has been informed and I understand will publish full details in July and the Council will also publish full details in the local press. Those of us who are annually saddened by the sight of scorched trees and hedges will welcome the strengthening of this byelaw.

Councillor Margaret Cook (Mrs.)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Bus . Shelters

The Council is arranging for wooden seats to be fitted inside

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D. DIGH COHMOTT WENG continued

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - continued

the bus shelters; it is also intended that the collection of litter and cleaning will be improved.

Lighting

The County Council has now changed most of its street lights to the new pattern, and will soon be changing the lights which belong to the Parish Council to the same pattern. We hope that not only will the lighting be better and use less electricity, but also repair and maintenance will be simpler and more efficient.

Post Offices

The Council has discussed the government's proposals for altering the use by the Department of Health and Social Security of the Post Office for distributing various pensions, allowances and benefits. There is risk that people in "outlying" places like Reach would have to travel to collect their money, and that the business of the Post Office in these places would suffer. This further threat to living conditions in rural areas is being debated nationally, and the Parish Council has written to our Member of Parliament to express the hope that nothing need be done that would inconvenience people, or disturb the future of our Village Shop and Post Office. It is possible that there may be more concerted action through the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

We would like to thank everyone who donated to and supported the Family Disco and Easter Egg Bingo held this term and helped make them a success.

The Spring Term ends on Wednesday, 2nd April.

Next term we are holding a Beetle Drive on Friday, 25th April, at 7.15p.m. and everyone is welcome.

We have been informed that the cost of heating the schoolswimming pool in the summer could be as much as £22 a week. Although we still have some money left in the Swimming Pool Fund, raised by a sponsored walk 4 years ago, it will be necessary to hold another sponsored walk to help boost the Fund and this has been arranged for Sunday, 18th May. We hope all parents and friends will generously support the children in their efforts to keep the swimming pool heated.

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

Recent T.V. programmes and growing public concern regarding the international situation have thrown the spotlight on local preparation for a possible future nuclear holocaust. Bearing in mind this and the considerable local interest aroused, I devote my article this month to what the County Council, through its Emergency Planning Officer, is trying to do.

County Councils throughout Britain have a duty to make plans to cope with the effects of a nuclear attack, and in Cambridgeshire, this is the job of Mr. John Harding. Plans are being prepared which will tie the County and its six Districts into the sytem of Regional Government, which will come into operation if gvernment from London is no longer possible. The County and District Councils themselves would be reorganised to provide essential services to the population on a functional basis rather than the Departmental system we know today. Complementary to this planning, which could be described as being 'from the top down', training of volunteers has been started this Winter with each Parish Council being asked to nominate one or two persons to attend a series of 12 classes extended over two Winters.

If this country is heavily attacked, it is thought likely that as much as 75% of the population would remain alive, and that in some areas, small communities will be cut off from communication with the outside world for a long period. In such circumstances, the continued survival of individuals in those communities could depend on everyone working together to make the most of surviving resources. The Community Advisers - Parish Council volunteers - at such a time would improvise and advise as to the best measures the community as a whole should take to enhance its chances of survival in the long term.

The Community Advisers training course covers the maintenance of law and order, the control and use of resources, Health and sanitation, control and availability of food stocks in shops, firms and warehouses, the reliability of local water supplies and the factors governing contamination, the handling of refugees, measures for protection of people and livestock, mass casualty care and dissemination of information. All this is expected to be achieved in the financial year 1980/81 by the County Council spending £14,730 (net), and in this one area at least, I believe we all get full value for money, and I thank officers and volunteers who are putting so much time and work towards our vital interests.

Geoffrey Woollard, County Councillor. ********

FOOTNOTE

It is understood that not everyone received the recent circular from Cambs. County Council. For those who missed it, road gullies $\frac{1}{7}$

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Reach's Only Pub

continued ...

and kerbs are to be re-levelled and to minimise inconvenience, work will be started at 6.00.a.m. this Tuesday and finish by 6.00.plm. the same day.

The Council have advised that car owners leave their vehicles outside overnight, to avoid the possibility of being boxed in the following morning. Those who do not wish to leave cars in the road may use the Green.

J. E. Ster, Dept. Surveyor, East Cambs.
H.D.C.

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY

Concerts for the Summer Term

Friday, May 2nd, at 8.00.p.m. at the Village College:-CELEBRITY RECITAL

Richard Norton (Tenor) and Michael Pollock (Piano)
The second celebrity concert of the Music Society will be given by
Richard Norton. His attractive programme will include songs by a
wide selection of composers, including Faure, Finzi (The cycle 'O
Fair to See'), Parry and Schubert. There will also be songs by early
English composers such as Dowland and Norley and the evening will
finish with a pot-pourri of sings from operettas.

Tickets: available soon from The Village College, phone Cambridge 811372. Price, £2.25 and £1.75 (Members £1.50 and £1.00). Students £1.00 and 75p.

Friday, May 16th at 8.00.plm. at The Village College The Cambridge Youth Orchestra

Their programme will include, hopefully, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue; Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony and a new work by a young, local composer.

Admission: £1.00 (members, 75p, Students 40p)

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THE STAINE HUNDRED

The next meeting of the Staine Hundred will be on Wednesday, the 16th April, when John Humphreys will talk about 'Bird Life in the Bedford Wash and the Fens'. The meeting will be in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College at 7.30.p.m.

THIS MODITH'S RECIPE

EASTER BISCUITS

(Makes about 20)

12 oz. plain flour l teaspoon baking powder l teaspoon mixed spice

6oz. castor sugar 6oz. margarine 4oz. currants

1 teaspoon cinnamon 2 eggs.

Sift flour, baking powder and spices into a bowl. Stir in sugar. Add margarine. Rub in with fingers until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in currants. Beat eggs lightly, add to mixture and stir until mexture begins to bind together. Roll into a ball, turn onto floured surface and knead lightly. Roll out to 4 inch thickness and cut into rounds with a cutter. Place on greased baking tray and bake in oven Mark 5, 190°C, 375°F, for 15 minutes or until lightly coloured.

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Forthcoming Dates
REACH FAIR 1980

Saturday 3rd May

Country and Western Evening

Monday 5th May

Reach Fair opened by the Mayor at 12 noon.

Tuesday 6th May

Bingo

Friday 9th May

Open Darts Tournament

Saturday 10th May

Clay Pigeon Shoot Family Sausage Supper

Sunday 11th May

Dog Show

Monday 26th May

Spring Bank Holiday - Sports Day

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sports Club Meeting - 1st April at 8.00 p.m. in Reach Village Centre

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 9th April at 8.30p.m. Village Centre

Village Centre Management Committee
Annual General Meeting 24th April at 7.30p.m.

Tickets for the Country and Western available from Anita Folkes or any Committee Members. Price £2.50 each.
