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Thursday) 4.30. - 6.30.p.m. Friday 2.00. - 5.00.p.m.

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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

<u>Issue No. 45</u> <u>June 1980</u>

EDITORIAL

I hope that you all came along and enjoyed Reach Fair, thankfully we were blessed with fine weather this year. I would like to extend thanks to Harvey and his committee members who organised the event, and to Mrs. Booton's girls and boys. Unfortunately the Morris dancers did not turn up this year, but both Burwell Brass Band and the folk group Tapestrie Fayre came along to play for us free of charge. I would especially like to thank Tapestrie Fayre, friends of mine from Mildenhall, who came at very short notice and gave a most enjoyable lively performance. They would have liked to have played longer, but had to rush off to another engagement. I hope to press them into coming again next year! Thanks also to Tony Jordan, who supplied the power by letting the group "plug in" their equipment. Lastly thanks to fellow singers from the Mayflower Folk Club who sang in the Beer Tent, and to Ranold who was persuaded to give us some reels on his bagpipes. I hope that everyone else feels that it is important to keep such a worthwhile tradition as Reach Fair thriving. Indeed any of our national traditions should be preserved if at all possible, as they provide such a rich part of our heritage.

You will find two articles on the Fair in this month's issue. One is written by a complete outsider, a friend of mine from Cambridge, Joy Rutherford, who visited the Fair for the first time, and the other is by one of our newest residents, Tony Jordan. I am most grateful to Joy and Tony for their contributions and hope you will find them of interest.

I know that everyone will be very sorry to hear that Mrs. Peacock is leaving the village this month. The village shop in Reach is the hub of our village life, and Mrs. Peacock with her friendly word for all who go in there, has won the affections of all. She will be sorely missed by us all, and we wish her well in her move to Bury St. Edmunds to be near her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Wally Saunders of Ditchfield are also moving this month to live in Burwell.

At the time of writing I am hoping that the warm spell will extend to our Village Sports Day and encourage everyone out-of-doors again to have another chance to enjoy our community spirit.

Kay Pote

REACH FAIR - A STRANGER'S VIEW

I came to Reach Fair this year as a stranger. Anything I say about it will be coloured by that strangeness. An inhabitant of Reach, familiar with the traditions and preparations for the fair, might be more critical. I came with a sense of expectancy and challenge, as one always should when invited to give a performance in a strange place for the first time. This year Mrs. Pote had invited musicians of many varieties to play English folk music on the opening day; and this in the end consisted of two concerts. One was by the band Tapestrie Fayre ringing out in the open air the other in the more raucous atmosphere of the beer tent by members of the Cambridge Mayflower Folk Club and a most powerful Scots bagpiper.

It is not hard to feel the force of centuries behind Reach, as the Fair is formally opened and the Town Crier announces that all attending the Fair must keep the Queen's peace - a relic of the brawling and thieving of old times. It is above all, perhaps, a day for children. I remember a decorous and well-rehearsed maypole dance by children from the school. Also, I can still see, vividly, the Mayor throwing bright constellations of pennies into the air and the children scrambling for them. And for any child at a fair, roundabouts and coconut stalls have a magic we are in danger of losing as we grow older. Anything we can do to hold on to that sense of magic, we must do.

Reach has suffered this year, I should imagine, from lack of publicity - at the time there was a newspaper strike. In a small country village there must always be the problem of bad public transport. In future years, couldn't there be a special Fair Bus from Cambridge or Newmarket, as there is in my home town of York for similar fairs? I am only too aware of the difficulty because I had to appeal for transport from Cambridge for musicians. Had it not been for the hospitality and kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Pote, who provided lunch and tea for them, and in my case a bed for the previous night, there might have been no performance.

I feel strongly that Reach is a fair that will stay alive and has great possibilities in future years. Many local societies and craftsmen could well bring further excitement to it. One thing

Continued ...

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Reach Fair - A Stranger's View (continued)

I would have welcomed, for example, is some form of English popular theatre, such as is still played at fairs. There is Victorian Melodrama, with virtuous heroines and fiendish villains; or a mummers' play of Saint George and the Dragon; or one of the medieval street plays, usually based on Bible stories and often extremely funny. I say this, as a former street player, because I have seen fairground audiences respond to all these with laughter and delight. in a troubled and hardpressed world, is what we all need.

Joy Rutherford

On 9th June I hand over the Post Office and shop to Mr. and Mrs. Tierney and family. On that day the Post Office section will be closed from 9.00 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for the help and support you have given to Ken and me over the ten happy years we have been here, and thank you also for your sympathy and great understanding when we lost Ken.

I hope you will give Mr. and Mrs. Tierney the same support and friendship in the future that you have given us.

Norma Peacock

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REACH FAIR - A NEWCOMER'S IMPRESSION

The fame of Reach Fair has spread far and wide (even to the outer parts of South East London!) and so it was with a mixture of curiosity and a little trepidation that we prepared to face our first fair from our grandstand position on the village green.

The arrival of the first caravan before 7.00 a.m. on the Friday morning was quickly followed by several more so that the view from our window took on the appearance of a long term car park! Curiously shaped tents sprouted up at the foot of the garden and a grand marquee put paid to even the most ardent of footballers. Monday dawned and the green visibly brightened before our eyes; flags, fair stalls and coloured bunting appeared. Our peaceful village had become a veritable hive of activity, almost bursting at its seams by the time that the mayor and his red-robed entourage arrived.

We enjoyed the formal opening of the fair as the age-old entreaties to keep the peace and trade honestly were read aloud in a marvellously solemn and resonant voice; a marked contrast to the cries of delight as the children scrambled for the pennies from heaven. We had heard a rumour that the pennies were at one time literally 'hot from the mint'. Does anyone know if there is any truth in the rumour?

The highlights of the fair for us and for many people were the musical events. It was lovely to watch the traditional maypole dancing with the Hobby-Horse keeping a watchful eye. We know that the dances and the Hobby-Horse have significant symbolic meanings but are afraid that they have been lost through the years. We wonder whether in future years it would be possible to invite local groups such as Morris dancers, clog dancers or English Folk dancers to perform on the green. We think it would be enjoyed by all. The folk singers were extremely entertaining, singing both loud and clear, and the brass band evoked just the right atmosphere for a village fair.

So, a good time was had by all, ourselves included, but as new-comers to the village we are going to be brave and stick our necks out Continued...

BRIDGEMAN AND SONS NEWSAGENTS 4 Chapel Lane, Reach. Newmarket 741129

Reach Fair - A Newcomer's Impression (continued)

to say that we were mildly disappointed that some of the traditions of the original fair have died out. How about some of the local craftsmen (potters, weavers, etc.) displaying their art and wares or a few sideshows amongst the fair stalls or a village cake stall or ... but lets not get too carried away.

Sue and Tony Jordan

OLYMPIC SWIMMER AT BOTTISHAM

The swimming pool at the Village College is, in the summer months, one of the facilities benefiting the entire community of the surrounding area. It was always intended to roof it, and it has now been decided that there is enough enthusiasm around to raise the £50,000 necessary in the coming twelve months, before inflation puts it out of the question.

The first event of the fundraising year is a 100 kilometre relay swim sponsored by local businesses on June 7th. Brian Brinkley, Olympic medal holder, will swim the first leg of the relay, launched at 10.00 a.m. at the College by Dickie Jeeps, Chairman of the Sports Council and former England rugby captain. Spectators are welcome.

Apart from big events like this which will all be publicized in Out of Reach, money will be raised by public subscriptions from as little as you like once a week to as much as you like once a month. There will be someone calling to invite you to subscribe, but if you are missed, please contact the Village College. We need it all. Completing this project will benefit not only the Village College students, but all of us in the surrounding villages who will not again have to travel as far as Cambridge or Newmarket for a winter swim once the pool has a cover. Come and see the swim on June 7th.

> Felicity McMahon, 19 Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham. Tel: 811224

FROM THE VICAR

A sermon preached at Evensong at Reach on Rogation Sunday. 11th May, 1980.

What is it that you, as farmers and countrymen, stick at? When you begin to get to know people, sooner or later you will always hear them lower their voice, and say with peculiar emphasis, 'The one thing I can't stick is so and so'. Well, what is it that you, as countrymen, can't stand, and why?

If you glance at the early books of the Old Testament, you will soon see the kind of things they couldn't stand: things like removing landmarks (which sounds old-fashioned and unlikely, but which I discovered quite late in life, I'm afraid, still goes on in all sorts of subtle ways, and some not so subtle); things like exploiting, in the sense of overworking, the land, i.e., not allowing it to lie fallow every seventh year; things like not helping a man whose cart had broken down, or whose beast had slipped; or refusing to help a neighbour who was down and out.

And what about you? What are the things that make you really angry? Is it removing trees or hedges without permission or consultation when unnecessary? Is it failing to drain land properly so that you, the neighbour concerned, get what you might literally call the backwash? Is it bad rotation, so that the goodness is taken out of the land, or the land soured? Is it what we hear so much of now, and rightly so, using either dangerous fertilizers, or still more dangerous insecticides? Or is it allowing dangerous machinery to be used on the land, so that accidents become inevitable?

Now you know much more about all this than I do. But what I want to ask you is the meaning of these various prohibitions you personally would never think of transgressing. For the Jew, transgressing his laws meant, or implied, first of all damaging what he always called 'the good land', the Promised Land, he had been given by the power and kindness of God. Secondly, it meant exploiting their Jewish neighbours, in the way that they had been exploited in Egypt. And thirdly, it meant in the last resort denying the God who had made them.

Continued ...

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From The Vicar (continued)

So you see there was for the Jew a very close connection, as close as the connection between day and night, between wickedness or what they called 'folly' of one sort or another, and either bad harvests, blight, or else, worst of all, invasion by hostile neighbours.

But what is the meaning behind the prohibitions you yourselves would never think of transgressing? You call this sort of transgression 'going beyond the pale'. What does that mean? A pale, as you know, is an upright in a length of fencing, a limit, part of a boundary. So it comes to mean a restriction, a defence, a safeguard. So we get a blend of two meanings: not simply a physical but a moral barrier, beyond that moral boundary, that moral limit.

In other words, the word 'pale' is a sort of substitute, a kind of sign language, for what we sometimes call the moral order, what is acceptable, allowable, or at worst, bearable. And my first main point is that what we vaguely refer to as 'the moral order' like this is really a term for God himself at the root and the back of the order of things.

So you see how our common talk can veil deep unspoken realities, commitments, oral obligation, even the sense of God himself.

And my second point, which I ask you to turn over in your minds as the various harvests begin to come in sight, is that by keeping within the pale, as we call it, within the moral laws and decencies of farming, you actually meet the living God himself, whether its in your conscience pure and simple, in the eyes of your neighbour, or in the strange things that happen to your land; - not forgetting that the God who meets you darkly and mysteriously there, in your daily dealings, also meets you here, if you will only receive him, in the bread of life on his altar, made from the grain you grow.

J.K.B.

We very gratefully acknowledge the gift of £20 from the Parish Council towards the cost of repairing the church floor.

Jumble Sale

We shall be having a sale in aid of our general funds in the Village Centre at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 6th June.

J.K.B.

FROM THE CHURCHES

Worship in June: St. Mary's and Reach

Christian Festival in Cambridge

TRINITY SUNDAY 1

> 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)

Matins and Eucharist (St. Mary's) 9.30 a.m.

Deanery Choir Festival (Fordham) 6.30 p.m.

8 TRINITY I

> 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach) N.B. Change of time

11.00 a.m. - Quiet Day for students of Ridley Hall,

Cambridge, who will be worshipping with us 4.00 p.m.

at the later time of

10.00 a.m.

15, 22, 29 TRINITY II, III, IV

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

11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)

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

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

On Saturday, 21st June at 2.30 p.m. the School is holding its annual Summer Fair.

There will be all the usual stalls, sideshows, competitions, pony rides and teas will be served.

We hope everyone will come and join us to make this an enjoyable and successful event.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 10th July at 7.30 p.m.

CHURCH CLEANING LAST FRIDAY IN MONTH AT 7.00 p.m. ANY HELP APPRECIATED.

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

In last month's Out of Reach I touched on economies being made by the County Council, mentioning that certain priorities were still being pursued whilst further cuts were and are being made in administrative expenses.

The County is operating for the year 1980/81 on what has been called a 'risk budget', one of the principle risks being over-large pay settlements. It is now thought quite likely, that unless further pruning occurs, the Council will over-shoot its planned spending by more than £3 m. and it has been made clear to relevant Trades Unions and national negotiators, that any further wage settlements in 1980/ 81, involving increases of more than 11%, will breach the County Council's cash limits and result in reductions in employment.

Many good people in my area, working for Education, Social Services, the Police, Highways and other Departments of the County Council, are doing remarkable good and extraordinarily devoted work. The Council, as a major employer however, has, in my view, both a duty to do, and an example to provide, in the County. It cannot abdicate this responsibility, and it must, on behalf of those who pay the bills, play its part in the destruction of inflation, both in the County and elsewhere. It is only by cutting our coats according to the cloth available that we collectively have a hope of surviving the present problems that beset us. I hope therefore, that reasonable salary increases will be negotiated during the course of the next few weeks and months, and that it will not be necessary to reduce staff employment in those areas to which the council attaches greatest importance - Education, the care of the Elderly and Handicapped and the maintenance of Law and Order. Other services, or areas within services, may have to go by the board, but we must all recognise with our backs against the wall, it is only right that top priorities and needs should remain at the top, and others, if necessary, abandoned.

On a purely local note, but on a subject that has aroused national and international interest, I did enjoy enormously the interviews on Radio and T.V. with our young Russian friend who attends Bottisham Village College. I thought that Misha and his teachers told the country and the world that Britain, for a variety of reasons, is a good and kind place in which to live.

Geoffrey Woollard, County Councillor.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Fair Green

The Council is very grateful to Mr. Dudley for volunteering to cut the grass and getting the Green into such good shape for the Fair.

Burial Ground

A fresh attempt is being made to solve the perennial problem of keeping the burial ground tidy. It has now been cleared by voluntary effort, a mower and other equipment are being bought, and we are hoping to find someone to take on the job: see the advertisement.

Planning Application

The plans for the first house on the land in the Burwell Road recently sold by the District Council have arrived.

Vandalism

Everyone will have noticed and regretted the wave of damage to public property, including the Parish Council's bus shelters; this will be made good as soon as possible. The Police have been put in the picture and are doing what they can.

ADVERTISEMENT

Is someone willing to take on the upkeep of the Burial Ground? The salary is negotiable, and any further equipment necessary will be bought. Please see Albert Johnson, soon if possible - before the weeds shoot up again!

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Saturday - 7.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon.

The Stature Hinders

THE STAINE HUNDRED

The next meeting of the Staine Hundred will be on Wednesday, 11th June; it is proposed that this should take the form of a visit to Wilbraham and Wilbraham Common. More details about this are available from the chairman, James Fitch.

The annual outing of the Society this year will be on Sunday, 6th July, and will be a trip to the British Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne near Northampton. A coach will leave Bottisham Village College at 12.30 p.m., returning by 7.00 p.m. The cost of the trip will be £1.50 for members and £2.00 for non-members. Anyone who would like to go on the trip, and who has not already expressed interest, should get in touch with the secretary, Dan McMahon, 19 Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham (phone: 811224) or the chairman, James Fitch, 15 Tunbridge Close, Bottisham (phone: 811425).

SALE OF JUMBLE

at the

Village Centre on 6th June at 7.00 p.m.

For the Church Fabric Fund

Gifts of any kind may be left at the Church or with Committee Members or at Village Centre on Thursday evening

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Meatloaf

1 lb. mince

4 rashers bacon, chopped

1 large onion, chopped

Clove garlic, crushed

1 tablespoon mixed herbs

1 tablespoon tomato puree

1 tablespoon Worcester sauce

seasoning

4 tablespoons white breadcrumbs

1 egg

Chop onion and mix with minced beef. Add mixed herbs, tomato puree, Worcester sauce and seasoning. Beat egg, add to mixture with breadcm mbs. Mix ingredients together well. Press into a well greased 2 lb. loaf tin. Cook for 1 to 1½ hours at oven Mark 4 or 350°F. Cool. Cover and store in refrigerator for up to two days. Serve with salad.

CROSSWORD NO.4

Solutions to Crossword in next month's issue.

REACH SPORTS

I think an enjoyable day was had by all. After some remarkable and ingenious fancy dress costumes everybody that could joined in some exciting racing, with the obstacle race being probably the childrens favourite.

Esther Morris regained the "J.R. memorial" Sports Cup by one point from last years holder Kevin Badcock. James Robinson put up a remarkable show of running by winning both the Senior and Junior Marathons - having won the Junior four years on the run he will receive a replica of the cup to keepage makes him ineligible for next year's junior event.

Thanks are extended to all those who helped on the day and in making preparations - especially the ladies of the Village Centre Committee for a free childrens tea, and to all those who gave food; also to Mrs. Hyde, Judith and Steve Neeves, Alison Housden, Nick and Margaret Evans, Mrs. Emily Smith and anyone else who helped the committee organise the event.

H.R.H.

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