

53

February 1981

Out of Reach



I. Morris

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For County Council information, until May 1981, would you please
contact Mr. Geoffrey Woollard, Chalk Farm, Bottisham, Cambs.
Tel: Cambridge 811209

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

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No. 53

February 1981

EDITORIAL

Once again, I find myself looking back on the past month as one of unremarkable activity - January always seems to be a quiet month, partly due to the anti-climax of Christmas. The unusually kind weather, for this time of year, at least means that one is able to get out and about to a greater extent. As a 'foreigner' I have never considered the countryside of East Anglia to be particularly inspiring, but cycling out through the fens one day last week, I was struck by the sheer beauty of the vista. It was one of those still misty days and banks of white cloud-like fog lay over the land like cotton wool. It is always so rewarding to make the effort to get out, but the thought of doing so often makes one feel lethargic!

Little seems to have happened in the village this month, although several ladies are awaiting the births of their babies in the next few months! Sarah Robertson has recently had a spell in hospital and we extend to her best wishes for a speedy recovery. At the meeting to plan the Fair last week, no new faces turned up, which is a pity. But you may still be called upon to assist, by the dozen or so people who are organising events. More about this next month. The next meeting will be at 7.30.p.m. on Thursday, 5th March.

Kay Pote

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I have been asked to publish the following letter:

From: 19 Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham, Cambs CB5 9BE
 Tel:811224

(dated) 18th January 1981

Dear Editor,

I have been adopted by the Cambridgeshire Liberal Association as Prospective County Council Candidate for the Bottisham and Burwell ward, which of course includes Reach. This step had not been planned beforehand, but was a spontaneous reaction to Geoffrey Woollard's resignation which has left this ward without a representative for 5 months.

Some of you may have seen my name beneath occasional contributions to the Cambridge Evening News, but most of my spare time in recent years (I do have a paid part time job and family) has been spent working for Bottisham Village College on community education and as Governor. As Out of Reach readers know, I am at the moment Press Officer for the Cover the Pool Appeal.

Although I am a newcomer to local government, the only way I can properly prepare myself for this job is on the assumption that I shall win. I am already in contact with Reach friends, but I should very much welcome any additional views or sidelights on local issues that any Reach resident could pass on to me by phone or letter. I hope to be meeting many of you before May.

Yours faithfully

(signed) Felicity McMahon

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FROM THE VICAR

The Philosopher A. N. Whitehead once described religion as 'the vision of something which stands beyond, behind, and within the passing flux of immediate things, something which is real, and yet waiting to be realised; something which is a remote possibility, and yet the greatest of present facts; something that gives meaning to all that passes and yet eludes apprehension; something whose possession is the final good, and yet is beyond all reach; something which is the ultimate ideal and the hopeless quest.'

It would be difficult to describe more accurately either the elusiveness or the centrality of vision in our whole human experience. Generation after generation we devote untold time and thought to exploring the purpose of education and always, at the end of the day, there comes to the surface the renewed awareness that its ultimate aim is the development of judgement, the growth of imagination, the capacity to see. This is the really worthwhile and only abiding product of what the title of a recent book called Fifteen Thousand Hours, i.e. at a Secondary Modern School. But the process goes on, beyond schooldays. Just as, when climbing, each shoulder of the hill or mountain, which we hope is the final approach to the summit, reveals a further shoulder beyond, though at the same time a longer and a wider view, each main phase of our lives is marked by a new and wider perspective into the ultimate meaning of things. Scales fall from our eyes, pennies drop; we tumble to conclusions.

And each moment of sight is a shock of joy. We realise why Archimedes jumped out of his bath shouting 'Heureka!' Yet each moment of discovery only proves an invitation to further exploration, otherwise we go backwards, for as a wise man said, 'we are always apt to be content with what we have, and it is always growing thinner'. The novelist Iris Murdoch put it positively and powerfully when she said 'we grow by attention'. Our minds were made for truth; and finding truth is that shock of recognition which we call falling in love. 'Looking is what saves us.' wrote Simone Weil.

So, if Christianity really has to do with the very meaning of existence, it won't surprise us to find a constant and very heavy emphasis on sight as a large part of its essence. 'Christianity' it has been said, 'is primarily an invitation to see'. The visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem is a perfect parable of what it is about: 'feeling after God and (ultimately) finding him', as Paul told the Athenians we were meant to do, where 'feeling after' means groping about like a blind man in the dark, using the crudest clues, such as astrology, and the obscure brilliance of an unknown star, as the Magi did, to bring them by degrees to the place of understanding, God in Christ. As a recent writer put it, 'the ordinary

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Worship in February (continued)

- 15 SEPTUAGESIMA (9th Sunday before Easter)
 9.30.a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
 11.00.a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
 6.30.p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 22 QUINQUAGESIMA (8th Sunday before Easter)
 9.30.a.m. Children's Worship and Eucharist (St. Mary's)
 11.00.a.m. Children's Worship and Eucharist (Reach)
 6.30.p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 24 S. MATTHIAS, Apostle
 10.00.a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

Collection from Carol Service at Church for Church of England
 Children's Society was £8.00

REACH CONSERVATIVE BRANCH

Janet and John Robinson invite you to a Coffee Evening at
 Spring Hall Farm on Friday, February 27th at 8.00.p.m. There will
 also be a Bring and Buy Stall.

NB. Committee Meeting of the above association is at
 Fitzroy Farm on Friday, 13th February at 8.00.p.m.

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FROM THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

As part of our fund raising campaign this term we are holding a GRAND JUMBLE SALE on Saturday, 14th March at 2.30.p.m. Entrance by Lucky Ticket (5p). Children free. There will also be a cake stall and teas will be served. If you have any jumble please could you bring it to School, or if you would like it collected please contact:-
 either Mrs. S. Rust
 Mrs. Hardiment
 Mrs. C. Taylor
 Mrs. Fox
 Mrs. Casey
 Mrs. Dolphin in Reach (Tel: Newmarket 742518)

The EASTER EGG BINGO has been arranged for Friday, 3rd April
100 Club Winners:

Week 1 Mrs. D. Ward £10
 Week 2 Mrs. M. Frost £10

The next Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, 9th March at 8.30.p.m.

THE WAR GAME

Film Show at Burwell Village College on Saturday, 7th February at 8.00.p.m.

Burwell Anti-Nuclear Group

COVER THE POOL APPEAL BULLETIN

Lode were fortunate after a sleeting start in having a lovely day for their sponsored walk for the Cover the Pool Appeal on January 4th. The walk was arranged at fairly short notice, so they lacked some publicity beforehand but about 40 walkers turned up to walk a route between Lode and Quy. Amounts coming in are promising a total of something over £100.

A Christmas event we ran in Bottisham not for money at all but in a spirit of Christmas goodwill was a postman-Father Christmas service on Christmas Eve. We had Father Christmas (accompanied by the Cover the Pool penguin) deliver parcels which had already been given to us by parents, to front doors on Christmas Eve. All those involved enjoyed it immensely - the children's reactions were very rewarding. Unfortunately, we didn't get the publicity we hoped for from the local press although the C.E.N. came and took a picture.

continued...

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Cover the Pool Appeal Bulletin (continued)

A long range plug for the future: we shall be running an auction in May. This is an excellent moneyraiser, and we hope to gather lots and lots of furniture, odd items no longer wanted, donated treasures, or just 'things from the attic'. We've plenty of time, and lots of space to store at BVC, so please start thinking about what you can give us for the auction.

Don't forget (if by any chance this should be published in time) the Scottish Evening at Bottisham Village College on January 31st - 7.30.p.m. - £3.00 tickets from Pauline McCartney, BVC.

ACIS AND GALATEA - Handel

There promises to be an exciting concert performance of Handel's ACIS AND GALATEA at Bottisham Village College on Saturday, 28th February at 8.00.p.m. in aid of the COVER THE POOL APPEAL. The strong team of soloists include Howard Williams (English National Opera), Richard Prewer (well known to Cambridge audiences) and Marion Rowlett. The chamber orchestra will be led by David Bass, and the chorus drawn from local schools and other singers in the area. The performance will be conducted by Martin Gent.
 TICKETS: £4; £2.50; £1.50 (students, OAP, £2.50; £1.50, 75p.)

Acis and Galatea was Handel's first dramatic work in English, and the first version was written in 1718. The many solos and choruses include well-known numbers such as "O Ruddier than the Cherry" for the giant Polyphemus (accompanied by sopranino); "Love sounds the alarm" for Acis, the beautiful "As when the dove" for Galatea, and the dramatic chorus "Wretched lovers" in which "the mountain nods, the forest shakes and the waves run frightened to the shores...."

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ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

There were two saints of the same name, both of whom were martyred in the Third Century on the 14th February. However, it is doubtful whether either of them is the lover's saint, but the customs associated with the day, which were originally pagan, were renamed with the name of a saint who was martyred on the same date.

It is a very old custom to choose sweethearts on St. Valentine's Day, which, according to an old country tradition was the day on which the birds also chose their mates.

"Muse, bid the morn awake,
Sad winter new declines,
Each bird doth choose a mate,
This day St. Valentine's
for that good Bishop's sake
Get up, and let us see
What beauty it shall be
That fortune us assigns."

(Drayton)

One method of choice was by drawing lots. Names were written on pieces of paper or wool in some kind of container and then drawn in turn by all those present until everyone had become someone's Valentine. Another variation was to write the names on pieces of paper, roll them up in balls of wet clay, and put them in a bowl of water. As the clay dissolved, the paper would come to the surface and the first name to do so would be the lucky man.

Another custom was that the first man seen by a woman on the morning of Valentine's Day was automatically her Valentine, whether she liked him or not. Samuel Pepys recorded in his Diary for 1662 that Mrs. Pepys was forced to go about her house with her eyes covered on February 14th because there were painters working on it, and she was afraid of seeing one of them before her real Valentine! In the Seventeenth century it was usual for married people to have and be Valentines, as well as young men and maidens. The presents which the women received were often quite expensive, such as embroidered gloves or silk stockings to valuable jewellery among the well-to-do.

The word Valentine applied to both the chosen sweetheart and the gift, and later when the elaborate present went out of fashion, to the Valentine card which replaced it. The children used to go round early in the morning of February 14th looking for gifts and singing songs such as:-

"Good morrow, Valentine,
please to give me a Valentine,
I'll be yours if you'll be mine
Good morrow, Valentine."

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St. Valentine's Day (continued)

or
 "Good morrow Valentine,
 change your luck and I'll change mine
 We are raggety, you are fine,
 So pray give us a Valentine".

or
 "Good morning, Valentine,
 Curl your locks as I do mine.
 Two before and two behind
 Good morning Valentine."

The singers were usually rewarded with a few coppers, or cakes, sweets or oranges.

There was also a sport among children in which the girls burned a figure which they had stolen from the boys, called the Holly Boy, and the boys did the same with another figure called the Ivy Girl. They then had a sham fight for each other's trophies. Ways of discovering a future lover were used by the girls, including one where on St. Valentine's Eve the girl would pin five bay leaves on her pillow, one at each corner and one in the middle. A hard-boiled egg, from which the yolk had been removed and replaced by salt, was eaten. She was then supposed to dream of her future husband!

The Valentine card was at first hand-made with a verse written on it and drawings of hearts or flowers. Later came the printed card with lace edges, ornaments made of ribbons or feathers, gilded paper and rhyming verses. In the Nineteenth century cards of this kind were sent out by hand or by post in increasing numbers every year, rising to about a million and a half in the 1880's. After this, they began to decline in popularity, and eventually vanished almost completely. In the 1930's they began to get mildly popular again, as they are today, but they will never be as popular as they were 100 years ago. The custom will probably disappear altogether since women now have so much freedom in choosing their male friends that Valentine's Day is no longer needed!

Kay Pote

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THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Pasta Fiesta

1 onion	2oz mushrooms
1 green pepper	1oz plain flour
12oz minced beef	1/2oz margarine
8oz tin tomatoes	stock
6oz pasta (eg. macaroni)	seasoning
	cheese

Saute 1 sliced onion and 1 sliced green papper in margarine. Stir in 12oz minced beef. Cook until brown. Add 1oz plain flour. Cook, stirring 1 minute. Add tin of tomatoes and stock to thicken. Cook the pasta in boiling salted water until tender. Drain. Stir 2oz mushrooms into sauce and pour half in oven-proof dish - layer pasta, cheese, meat sauce and pasta. Top with cheese. Bake at Mark 5, 375 for 30 mins.

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