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Geoffrey Woollard, Chalk Farm, Bottisham. Tel. Cambridge 811209

District Councillor

Mrs. Margaret Cook, Mill House, Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck. Tel. Cambridge 811335

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Albert Johnson (Chairman), Snake Hall Farm, 50 Swaffham Road, Tel. Newmarket 741437

Ray Folkes, 8 Great Lane.

Harvey Harrison, Tilden House, Burwell Road. Tel. Newmarket 741150

Joyce Harrison, Prospect Farm, 40 Great Lane.

Rodney Housden, Manor Close. Tel. Newmarket 741386

Clerk to the Parish Council

Alison Housden

Village Hall Committee Members:-

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Springhall Farm. Tel. 741426

Bill Estell, 5 Ditchfields.

Ray & Anita Folkes

Harvey Harrison

Joyce Harrison

Rodney Housden

Albert Johnson

Sam & Heather Mitchell, The Wilds, Burwell Rd.

Bob & Emily Smith, Meadow View, Delph End.

Tel. 742130

Phyllis Webb, Blackberry Drove.
Co-opted Member - Nicholas Hellawell,
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Joyce Harrison (Distribution)
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"OUT OF REACH"

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No. 16

DECEMBER 1977

EDITORIAL

When 'Out of Reach' began, we hoped that contributions would come from REACH CHILDREN as well as adults. Obviously we have not given them sufficient encouragement, so this month we are offering small prizes for:

the best written contributions (e.g. essays, poems)
the best cover designs (to be done in black ink on a 'quarto'
sheet of white paper, which may be obtained from The White House
if necessary).

For each category there will be two age groups - under 10 years 10 - 15 years

In behalf of the magazine committee I wish all readers a Merry Christmas and the children a busy one!

Jenny Johnson.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It has been decided that the Drying Green should be brought into line with a similar site in Soham, where the green has been banked up with soil and grassed over on either side of a central path.

Redland Pearl have made previous, unsuccessful attempts to gain permission for the dumping of industrial waste at the Burwell Brickyard Pit. They are now making a further appeal. Councillor Woollard reported that an enquiry into this matter has been provisionally arranged at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell, for four days in March of next year; he also informed the Council that it will be necessary to make a strong representation, as before.

From the Vicar

It has been more than interesting for me as the parish priest to watch the progress and effect of our two magazines, The Swaffham Crier and Out of Reach, through the course of their first year of life; and both communities owe a large debt to the respective Editors and Editorial Committees for the lavish expenditure of time, talent, and, I suspect, personal wealth which has made the two ventures possible.

I remember commenting, in my first contribution to Out of Reach, on the appropriateness, indeed the genuine inspiration, behind the choice of such a name, since the first thing one becomes conscious of when living in a small community is the mysteriousness of its inner life, and of the way in which the heart of that mystery is always just 'out of reach'.

For this reason it is difficult to gauge the precise effect of a magazine on the community which produces it. But certain things are becoming plain. First, the creation of a sense of mutual awareness. Secondly, to a surprising degree, the sense of a common mind emerging. Not that we are all beginning to think alike, but that we are realising afresh how rich a thing the common life is, and how infinitely worth preserving and enriching. Stories of village feuds, carried on for years, can be highly entertaining when sampled at arms length in novels. At close quarters the feuds themselves, in the communities that generate them, are simply destructive, and breed pestilence. The Psalmist's ideal of 'high and low, rich and poor, one with another is much nearer the meaning and goal of human existence.

Yet in fact that ideal is very testing, and only becomes possible through the advent of something even more mysterious than the common mind generated by a village magazine: I mean the possibility of each and all, high and low, whole and broken, feeding on the new incorruptible life that appeared in the world at the first Christmas, and now for ever remains the true life of our life. It is on this basis that our subsequent Christmases, and the years they herald, can be happy.

Christmas Cards

Macdonald and Partners Ltd. have very generously supplied us with a quantity of Christmas cards carrying a photograph of one of the small memorial windows in St. Mary's depicting irrigation work in Egypt during the first World War. The firm has been involved in major engineering work in Egypt since that time, and it was largely for this reason that the photograph in question won first prize in a competition for the best.....

Christmas Cards contd....

Christmas Card design recently organised by Macdonalds. The cards will shortly be available in St. Mary's and at the Vicarage, and the proceeds will be given to our Centenary Appeal.

Confirmation Classes

These will begin on Wednesday January 11th, at 7.30 p.m. in the Vicarage. This first class will be introductory, its purpose being to decide, among other things, the best venue for future classes.

***** J.K.B.

Wo

| orship in December: S | t. Mary's and Reach |
|--|---|
| 4th <u>ADVENT II</u> 8.00 a.m. 9.30 a.m. 6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion (Reach) Matins & Parish Communion (St. Mary's) Evensons (Reach) |
| 6th 7.30 p.m. | Quiet Evening (including 3 talks) for members of our Deanery at Wicken Church, starting with coffee |
| 7th 7.30 p.m. | School of Prayer, at S. Bulbeck Vicarage: Talk by Cambridge Franciscan. |
| 11th & 18th <u>ADVENT</u> 9.30 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m. | III & IV Parish Communion (St. Mary's) Family Communion (Reach) Evensong (Reach) |
| 13th 7.30 p.m. | School Carol Service (St. Mary's) |
| 14th 7.30 p.m. | School of Prayer, at S. Bulbeck Vicarage. |
| 14th, 16th, 17th | Ember Days. Your prayers are asked for those to be ordained on 18th December. |
| 18th 3.30 p.m. | Carol Service (Reach) |
| 21st <u>S. THOMAS</u> , 7.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m. | Apostle Holy Communion (St. Mary's) School of Prayer, at S. Bulbeck Vicarage. |
| 24th <u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u> 7.00 p.m. 11.30 p.m. | Confessions (St. Mary's) Midnight Mass (St. Mary's) |
| 25th CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m. | Holy Communion (Reach) |
| | |

Worship in December contd....

26th First Martyr STEPHEN, 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

27th S. JOHN the EVANGELIST. Hely Communion (St. Mary's)

The HOLY INMOCENTS 28th

> 7:00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

1978

SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS lst Jan.

Holy Communion (Reach) 8.00 a.m.

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

Evensone (Reach). 6.30 p.m.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Although Reach is a very ancient place, dating back to the Iron Age (circa B.C. 1000) the Reach Parish Council, in its present form, is, in terms of history, a modern foundation.

In olden times Reach was spelt Reche, an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "A point of land reaching out into the waters". This is just what it was, with the rampart of the Devils Dyke pushing out into the Fenland swamps at "the point of navigation and trade" where the Lode, a natural water-way, made into a canal by the Romans, long before, led to the main Great Ouse River, the Wash and on to the trade routes of the North Sea. Wheat, stone, wool, hops, salt and hides, these were the items of trade, in exchange for iron, coal, spices, precious metals, cloth, salt, fish and silk, in which the river ports, from Lynn to Cambridge, had dealings. Port and market dues were much prized community sources of wealth.

Kitching's Map of 1786 shows Reche as a market town, in its own right, with no traces of either Burwell or Swaffham Prior, The Lode is shown going almost all the way to Bottisham.

But, many other, and probably more accurate records speak of two hamlets, West Reach in the parish of Swaffham Frior and East Reach in the Parish of Burwell. One authority says that the Ditch was once the boundary between the Bishopric of Ely and that of Bury St. Edmunds. wonders if this is how it came to be known as the Devil's Dyke? However, it is true, ancient records show troubles, and disputes between the folk of Burwell and Swaffham Prior over enclosures and boundaries on the Ditch between the two parts of Reche. No doubt as the struggles for ...

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The Parish Council contd.....

political and church power ebbed and flowed, local commerce and agriculture changed with the times, as did the fortunes of our two hamlets as a result. Swaffham Prior, with its two churches in one churchyard, and its ancient memorials to men of Reach at least shows the wealth and rivalry that was in the area, as does the Cambridge Corporation's continued exercise of its rights at Reach Fair, for well over 750 years.

One can imagine the folk of Reach through the ages divided by the Ditch and placed at disadvantage between the rival parties. A study of local records shows that only three Reach houses had roofs of tile. All the rest were reed thatch. Fires were, as a result, frequent and the whole village was destroyed more than once, the last time in 1859-60. No written record is known to the writer, but one can guess that these hard times forged the spirit of independence, which is still so firmly rooted here. Evidence seems to show that after one of these disasters the people of Reach cast down the dividing rampart, using the chalk and clay to make bricks and "bats" to rebuild and to reunite the two hamlets as one village again, around their new village green.

From 1860 on the forward march continued with the rebuilding of the church, the new chapel and the school. At last in 1954 Reach regained what it had lost along the centuries since the first "sellout" by King John in AD 1200, their parish council. This was largly due to unobtrusive work by worthies such as Rev. Francis Hicks and "Toby" Sergeant, as well as the "cut and thrust" of public outcry. Once more Reach as a single village was able to debate officially all its affairs, although present legislation and its administrators only allows it to manage but a fraction of them!

H.B.C. Jones.

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

By the time Out of Reach is published, the Governments' treatment of Cambridgeshire in the Rate Support Grant settlement may be public in detail, but all I can say at the time of writing is that I hope, for the sake of Reach, and the ratepayers and consumers of services in the locality, justice will have prevailed. If we have succeeded in making Whitehall see sense, it will be to our credit - if not, then the recognised problems of rural areas as opposed to the great inner-cities will have been deliberately ignored.

By the time this piece is published, and in spite of whatever Central Government may have said, I have high hopes that the County Council will have adopted a new policy on Finance - a policy which I have described publicly as "the smack of firm Government" - illustrating the desire of the administration at Shire Hall to provide the best possible for Cambridgeshire as cheaply as is reasonable within the constraints imposed by outside pressures - Government, inflation, interest rates, etc. - but not necessarily going along with the more violent shifts of emphasis and resources made by Central Government.

Shire Hall is planning carefully for the next three years on the basis of what is best for Cambridgeshire, those who receive the services and those who pay for them - by and large all the same people in any case:

> Geoffrey Woollard, County Councillor.

VILLAGE CENTRE NOTES

After missing three editions of the magazine, I thought it was time to bring the Centre notes up to date.

Great strides have been made with the renovation of the Hall itself. The new floor has been completed and Ray Folkes has given the walls their final coat of paint. Tables to match the chairs have been ordered and should be delivered to us before our Senior Citizens dinner in December. The acquisition of these tables presented the committee with a storage problem and after a long discussion it was decided to renovate the coal lodge to make it suitable to store Hall furniture - this work is now completed.

Our next task is to raise enough money to buy curtains and crockery for the kitchen and thus complete the first stage of the improvements.

Already a number of committee members are looking towards providing....

Village Centre Notes contd....

a meeting room at the rear of the building which would enable Parish Council, church meetings, etc. to be held at the same time as the main Hall is in use.

Don't forget that every Monday there is the Table Tennis Club and every Tuesday Bingo. Other functions will be advertised in the Village Shop, this magazine and on our notice board.

Future Events include: -

Dec. 2nd Tramps Night with Pete Brown Sound.

Dec. 7th Over 60's Dinner

Dec. 10th School Age Disco with Fancy Dress Competition

Dec.15th Annual Hospital Whist Drive

Dec.30th New Year's Eve Farty

May I remind users of the Centre that conditions laid out in our Hire Contract must be adhered to, particularly when holding musical events there. As chairman and also the nominee on our Music and Dance Licence, I shall refuse to allow Groups and Discos that exceed these conditions; I believe that to let The Hall under our terms is both fair to the hirer and to people living in the vicinity.

John Robinson.

THE STAINE HUNDRED

The next meeting of the Staine Hundred - the local history society will be on Wednesday, 7th December, when Michael Murphy will talk about 'Cambridge newspapers and opinion, 1780 - 1850'. The meeting will be held in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College, at 7.30 p.m.

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!

THE JUMBLE SALE

As they sort through high and low, Passing things they sometimes know, They find a blouse with zip all tore, A pair of stays that Grandma wore, A pair of drawers with knees all frayed, A home sewn skirt that Auntie made. The bra you are holding in your hand, Must have been sent from a distant land. There's a pair of knickers, nearly new, And printed with 'I'll be seeing you', A pair a combs. for our Dad to wear -But these are worn - I'll not tell you where. These boots and shoes are quite the thing; I like the pair laced up with string. The tights and stockings have seen better days; They should have been left with grandma's stays. A hand knitted jumper I have found, With sleeves so long they reach the ground. There are hats and bonnets by the score And a pushchair standing by the door. Now let us look a bit further on, There's a potty with its handle gone. A jam jar full of nails and things. And a broken bell that does not ring. There are books and puzzles galore But half the bits are on the floor. Grandad's old chopper grins up at us From beside a red coronation bus. There is a table with homemade cakes Braced from the floor in case it breaks. Time to reckon up all our gain -And to quote from a famous name - 'Didn't we do well?' Bill Estall.

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

The Film Night held on 14th October was very successful and enjoyed by everyone who came.

Bonfire Night held on Saturday 5th November, and the Tramps Ball/Disco, held afterwards, also seem to have been successes.

The School held their Christmas Fair on 26th November, at 2.30 p.m. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

It has been decided to change the date of the Beetle Drive from the 25th November to the 2nd December, as it was realised that the earlier date was too near the Christmas Fair; please alter this date in your diary.

Please also note that the Schools' Nativity Play is on 13th December, NOT 18th as stated in last month's issue of the magazine.

· END OF TERM: 20th December.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

British Legion Poppy Day Appeal

The amount donated to this years appeal through our collectors Joyce Harrison and Anita Folkes, totalled £23.35. This was gratefully received by the area branch together with £5.40 from the church 11.00 a.m. Remembrance Service.

JOHN READ

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TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Following the Inaugural Meeting of the club, the committee has been formed -

> Secretary - Colin Fletcher Treasurer - Les Bridgeman Other members - Toni Marciniale, Peter Bridgeman, Paul Robinson.

Since last month we have played two matches; one in the cup, which we lost 5-4 to Cottenham I, and one drawn (5-5) after a very exciting game, with Beck Row (Suffolk)

24 Hour Marathon

Congratulations -

to Us for finishing the 24 hours, non-stop.

to Us for raising enough money for a new table tennis table.

to Paul Fuller for being there at the beginning and the end

to Peter Bridgeman for not starting or finishing but merely being there for the rest of the 23 hours and 55 minutes:

to Nicola Harding for consuming more food and drink than any other person (next year Nicola is doing a 24 hour eating and drinking marathon!)

to Andrew Huggins for being the worst card player.

to James Robinson for being the best player (or so he told me, anyway)

to Jonathan Morris for beating Dad.

to ALL the kids who got up, found sponsors and generally worked hard to prove their worth.

to the Village Hall Committee for making it all possible

to Betty Bridgeman, Joyce Harrison and Anita Folkes for laying on so much food and drink

to Paul Robinson and Andrew Huggins for being SO late when it was my turn for some sleep (cheers again lads)

to Roger Harding for bringing twelve drunken friends (and wife) along at 1.00 a.m. on Sunday morning

to Jackie Badcock for turning up on time at 4.00 a.m.

to Toni Marciniale for winning the award as the best dressed player

to the Friends of the Earth for giving up some space in the magazine this month.

Lastly, to Everyone who supported us, by sponsoring or piving a donation, Many Thanks. Colin Fletcher.

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Burwell and District Agricultural Discussion Group

The 29th Annual Ploughing Match was held on 5th November at Fordham House, Fordham, by kind permission of H.A. Palmer Esq. This event allows ploughmen from the surrounding areas to show off their abilities.

There were a variety of classes, the one of most public interest being the horse ploughing class in which 3 beautifully turned out teams competed.

The supreme champion was K. Holland from Kennett.

Local champion was G. Mason from Burwell. Other local prizewinners included D. Harrington and Dennis Badcock, placed 2nd and 3rd respectively in the one-way plough class.

The prizes were presented by the Society's President, Geoffrey Woollard during a Dinner at Burwell Village College in the evening.

Further information about the society and its functions can be obtained from either; Mr. D.A. Peachey, Chairman, Newmarket 741206 or Mr. C. Mason, Secretary, Newmarket 741560.

REACH BRANCH CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A very successful stall was organised by the branch at the East Cambridgeshire Autumn Fair at Burwell Village College on 19th November. An abundant supply of bottles, vegetables, game pates and game helped raise over £68.

Ham and Banana Rolls For 4.

6 thin slices of ham

6 bananas

loz, marg.

ं 💆 pt. milk

l oz. plain flour

Salt and pepper

3 oz. strong cheese, grated

Pinch of mustard

Wrap a slice of ham around each peeled banana and place in dish. Melt marg. in pan, remove from heat, blend in flour, then milk. Return pan to heat and, stirring all the time, bring sauce to the boil. When thickened remove from heat, season and add two thirds of cheese. Pour sauce over ham rolls. Scatter rest of cheese on top and brown under grill. (Or in oven for 20 mins. at 375°F.) Serve with green salad, or as an appetising first course.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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> FLEASE CONTACT: MRS. B.A. JENNINGS, CLERK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL (TEL: NEWMARKET 741096)

WANTED: Three machetes for sale or hire, as security against council eviction! Contact Colin, Toni or Pete, Highfield Farm.
