

Nº 12

Out of Reach

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Cloris Cohen

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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

Parish Councillors

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:-

John Robinson (Chairman)
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,

4 Swaffham Rd. Tel. 742081

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Harvey Harrison (Business Manager)

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

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No.12

AUGUST 1977

EDITORIAL

We are nearly one year old; as Issue No.12 flops down on to your doormat, I can remember the much pondering and trepidation that went into the birth of our Community Magazine, for we were dubious about the amount of content that would be forthcoming out of Reach to be read in Out of Reach - hence the name!

You will see that your regular editor is away on holiday this month (and next); though being put in the editor's hot seat this month allows me to congratulate and thank our editor Jenny Johnson, for compiling and editing so professionally the first years' copies. I am sure that Out of Reach has arrived and is appreciated and read by all the Parish - though many copies do travel further afield - even to Canada.

Long may we succeed.

Harvey Harrison.

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Parish Council News

The Council has been offered another 50 trees to be planted on suitable approved sites throughout the Parish - most of the trees planted last year have survived the drought and we are being given 8 extra this year to replace those that were not so lucky. If anybody has a suggestion for sites for planting the new quota of trees, please contact a member of the Council.

With the increasing cut back in local spending something else has had to suffer - now it is grass cutting. A suggestion that this could be done by local farmers and paid for by the Parish Council was considered, though this would mean a rise in the village rate - comments please.

Mr. Piggott's application for a two storey detached dwelling in Great Lane has been approved.

Reach Village Centre

Work will start on replacing the floor in the Hall on 1st August. The contractors will take about ten days to complete, so unfortunately it will interrupt the Bingo session on the second Tuesday in August (9th). The old floor will be on sale as firewood and can be purchased from Bill Pedley.

Contd. on next page

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Reach Village Centre contd....

Reach Fair falls on May Day next year and I believe that this day is now a public holiday. This could give the village the opportunity needed to enlarge on Fair weekend.

At our meeting on the 20th July 1977, Bill Estall raised a point about making the Centre a charity. This would allow the hall committee to claim various benefits, including tax relief from V.A.T. etc. Nick Hellowell was asked to contact our solicitor to put the wheels in motion.

***** John O. Robinson.

From the Vicar:

However ghastly the weather, as a nation we seem to associate August with holidays. So, even if you've already had them, or they've been a complete failure, and you've had to come home to get over them, I feel it might be worth trying to say something about this curious custom of holiday-making, on which as a nation we spend untold millions annually.

Humans need rest: they also need change. The need for rest is rooted in the very nature of human muscle and cells, which maintain themselves in life through a cycle of action and repose. But the need for change is rooted in something more mysterious and complex.

We soon become tense if a record is damaged and begins to revolve through the same groove, and play the same few bars over and over again. But equally we begin to feel our nerves jangling if subjected to a riot of meaningless noise. Breakdown can be caused either by too little or too much variety, by monotony or what is now called 'future-shock', sheer unpredictableness. Most human beings in fact seem to need variety within a fixed pattern or framework: the hours of the day, the days of the week, the seasons of the year; the movements of a symphony; the acts of a play; the chapters of a book.

But there is one particular kind of variety which is deeper than all these, the need for which is even more urgent, namely, oscillation between conscious attention and sub-conscious day-dreaming, thinking and musing, calculation and brooding. And here again breakdown occurs if the rhythm is seriously interrupted.

Contd. on next page ..

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From the Vicar contd....

The mind seems to be constituted that it recuperates after effort not only through sleep but through periods of browsing and brooding, especially that kind of browsing we indulge in when performing familiar mechanical tasks such as gardening or washing-up. It is as if the subconscious feeds raw material to the conscious mind. As Tolkien said, 'stories arise from the leaf-mould of the mind: out of all.... that has long been forgotten, descending into the deeps'. It is supremely in these periods of browsing on holiday, when the conscious mind relaxes from its strains and obligations, that the windows of the mind are opened, like the windows of heaven in the story of Noah, and the rains of blessing are free to pour in, or rather, for so it feels, the dews of heaven are free to well up from the uncreated depths, to refresh in the deepest sense of that much trivialised word.

The actual process of refreshment, however, is more mysterious. It is really a fusion at a new depth, between our conscious and subconscious mind, enriching the otherwise thin speculation of the conscious, and sharpening up the otherwise vague rumination of the subconscious. The result you see supremely in Jesus, who never lost this art of resting profoundly even in periods of intense strain: thought coming up to consciousness at any moment of day or night, and expressing itself in remarks of such weight and concentration that we ponder them still. He never seemed to speak simply off the top of his mind.

Of course one has to remember that Jesus is never recorded to have indulged in a holiday, except as a boy. His holidays were his daily experience of prayer. This was the unbolting and healing of his mind, and it can be ours.

From the Registers:

Baptism:

17th July: Emma Elizabeth, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Gadd, 23 Burnsfield St., Chatteris.

Confirmation:

23rd July: Justin Moseley, at the Cathedral, by the Bishop of Huntingdon.

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THE MORPHOLOGY OF REACH

A village is not a static thing, unchanging in form and purpose over the centuries; it is rather a machine, constantly being adapted, linking men and their needs in a dynamic relationship to the land in which they find themselves. Modern techniques in archaeology and in statistical analysis have greatly increased our understanding of the factors influencing the siting, growth and development of human settlements, and Reach is a particularly interesting example of what can be deduced by anyone with eyes to look at the land, a little bit of knowledge, and sense to interpret it.

Four major things, imposed from outside the village itself, have radically altered its history and its future - the construction of the Lode, the Dyke, the roadway and now the drift to find work in the towns. The village has adapted to fit each one; but there was settlement here before even a lode was built. Men dependent on food production from the land and on hunting tend, in relatively sparsely populated regions, to space their settlements out as near as possible equally - if you don't believe in this tendency, watch the behaviour of people sunbathing on a crowded beach! In this part of England, in very early times, there was only a narrow strip between the great forest on the other side of Newmarket Heath and the old forest, slowly turned into fen as the land sank, whose remains are still found in the black soil. Plot the neolithic or iron age finds on the map - remembering that by no means all sites are known - and you get a regularly spaced settlement along the fen edge - roughly along the 30' contour - with out-liers on the drier chalk and on islands in the fen. But there is no suggestion of a nucleated settlement we could call a village, and the density of settlement seems to have been pretty well uniform right round the fens from Fen Ditton to Soham. The critical determinants in this sort of settlement are availability of water and self sufficiency in grain and game - trade and specialisation of occupation are, so far as we know, slight, and hence communities of interdependent individuals have not fully developed. In the immediately pre-Roman period, of course, political hegemonies covered nearly all southern Britain - here we may be on the outskirts of the great kingdom centred at Wheathampstead and farms, with considerable trade, did develop; but the bottom tier organisation remained to a large degree, the self sufficient extended family. Certainly there

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The Morphology of Reach contd...
is no evidence so far from this district of a village.

Roman occupation, consolidated here after A.D.61 - the smashing of Iceni power - depended on good communications - roads and waterways. The interest of Rome in this island was frankly, by the end of the first century, commercial. Britain was a granary for the northern Empire, a source of useful slaves and a source of horses (Tacitus mentions gold and pearls as well, but the quantities of those were probably small). East Anglia was important as a grain growing region, and much grain was sent north across the Fens to the garrisons at York and Chester. Good communications were essential and the cheapest way of moving high-weight, low-value goods is by water. The rivers of the Fens, silted up because of the low gradient (and getting worse) spread into a maze of meander, pools and bogs. Some even reversed their flow from time to time. The Roman could not depend on so haphazard a system; so he made new, straight rivers, as straight as his roads, thus increasing the gradient slightly and making water transport practicable. (A side benefit was the draining of small areas of the Fens). Reach Lode is a fine example of this, though the present lode is a few metres to the east of the Roman line. (The two banks of the Roman lode can be seen when the sun is low in Mr. Johnson's meadow). The Lode was built to serve the scattered communities from what is now Swaffham Prior to Burwell - Romano-British sites abound along the fen edge and I have a theory that a lot of the old field boundaries date back to that time. The most important Roman site was, of course, Reach villa - a big affair, farming a lot of land and employing a lot of people. The canal head inevitably attracted first temporary and then permanent settlement, and so the nucleus of a village was formed. The Hythe was made - an artificial promontory built of chalk rubble on osier matting; and those who live round the Hythe and the Drying Green should expect, occasionally, to find the odd Roman tile among the Victorian and Mediaeval rubbish in their gardens. Charles Moseley.

DOG LOVERS PLEASE NOTE - REACH DOG SHOW

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

I seem to have fingers in a number of very interesting pies these days at Shire Hall, and you will gather from the Press that some of them, due to our financial crisis, are not very pleasant - I hope, nonetheless, there is still a little sympathy for your County Councillors in Reach.

The County Rate Requirement for 1978/79 is already being discussed, and I believe it almost inevitable that a further substantial increase is on the cards, largely due to the continuing discrimination by Central Government against certain areas, notably the County of Cambridgeshire. Present information is that we shall be losing a further \$3m. of what is known as "the Needs grant", and this, together with the continuing population growth of the County, will result in a larger amount being requested from the Ratepayer. In addition to this, substantial cuts in Services are also inevitable, and many Parish Councils have written directly to the Department of the Environment with illustrations of the effects these cuts are having on their locality. Suffice to say when we get to a situation where a brand new Home for the Elderly at Bottisham is in danger of having its opening deferred indefinitely, it is a real crisis.

You may also have noticed in the Press that we have had some interesting debates on the future of the County Council Smallholdings. Opinion is obviously divided, but a couple of points need making very clear. Firstly, that the old idea of the holdings being a rung on the agricultural ladder is agreed by most to be no longer applicable, due to changes in legislation, etc., and that the holdings in any case are disappearing at an alarming rate through reorganisation and amalgamation, and secondly, that if any changes are made, for example, a reduction in the County's total Estate, existing tenants are 100% secure and cannot be compelled to purchase their land or to give it up.

Another interesting development with which I have had some connection, and that is the hoped-for co-operation and closer involvement by the County with Parish Councils in order perhaps to avoid duplication of duties - grass-cutting in the villages is one example that springs immediately to my mind

If anybody has views on these subjects or any other County matters, please get in touch with me and express them. I welcome expressions of opinion at any time.

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Geoffrey Woollard,
County Councillor.

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FOR PROMPT SERVICE

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Letter to the Editor
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Madam,

As a 'foreigner' and 'weekender', I would like to say, in my best English, how much we have appreciated the neighbourly village, as Mr. Webb described in 1900.

B. Longman and family,
Green View, Fair Green.

We are most grateful to Mrs. Longman for her donation towards magazine funds. Mrs. Longman tells me that she very much enjoys reading 'Out of Reach'; we appreciate that too!

A note from the Business Manager

I hope that regular readers of this magazine realise that it only appears on their doormats through the generosity of several local traders who buy advertising and by those who give donations to help us on our way.

As Business Manager for the magazine, I must thank the advertisers for their first year's support and hope that it will continue for many years. Any persons wishing to buy advertising can contact me at anytime - see inside front cover.

All contributions and donations are gratefully received.

Harvey Harrison.

Reach Village Centre was the venue for an open meeting called by the people who play Table Tennis on Monday nights to consider reforming Reach Sports and Social Club, or to form a separate Table Tennis Club. A varied discussion ensued though the meeting came to no firm conclusions. Mr. E. Cole, the Chairman of the old Reach Sports and Social Club said he would call a meeting of the committee to decide the date of an Annual General Meeting. No decision was made to form a Tennis Club and it was decided to discuss the matter at the Table Tennis evening.

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THE DAWN

How cool the air so silent damp
 The light is dim on this river bank
 The time is young on this new day
 The mist hangs low over our water way.
 But soon a russle can be heard
 Then in the distance, a call of an early bird.
 A streak of light can now be seen
 Shining softly behind this misty screen,
 In the distance a dog begins to bark
 High above us the song of our lofty lark.
 A moorhen with its lusty cry
 Warns off a water vole as it swims by.
 A warbler chatters in the reeds so tall
 The pigeon greets us with its distinctive call.
 An owl wings by to some distant barn
 And a cock crows loudly on a close by farm.
 Soon the air is filled with sound
 As dawn is breaking all around.
 The sun now in the east begins to rise,
 To lighten up our darkened sky.
 As God's own creatures in chorus sing
 Completes the pleasure this moment brings.

W. Estall.

RECIPE

NASTURTIUM SALAD

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 heads lettuce | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 3 hard boiled eggs | pepper |
| 3 doz. nasturtium leaves | 3 tsp. peanut oil |
| 8 nasturtium blossoms | 1 tsp. vinegar |

Wash and tear lettuce into small pieces.
 Mix with naturtium leaves and add salt, pepper, oil and
 vinegar mixed together. Toss thoroughly with quartered
 eggs. Garnish with flowers. Serves 4.

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BOTTISHAM YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

On 17th June, Bottisham Young Farmers met to go punting on the Cam which, in spite of the cool weather, was enjoyed by all who went. The following week, Mrs. Valentine gave an illustrated talk on Japan where she spent a couple of months. She showed many interesting slides, including several of the volcano Fujiyama and some of Tokyo.

On 1st July, the members met at the Village College, Bottisham, to go on a Car Treasure Hunt which went through the villages of Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Upware, Wicken, Fordham, Barwell, Reach, and eventually finishing at Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, where David and Carol Turner kindly provided refreshments for everyone. The last meeting to report on was an informal Games Evening with Club members versus the Advisory Committee.

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JUNIOR FISHING MATCH

UP TO AGE OF 14 yrs.

AUGUST 13th

All Entries in by AUGUST 7th. Names to be given into Mr. Smith, Mr. Estall, Mr. Folkes. Meet at Mr. Smith's at 8.45 a.m.

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