

NO 14

Out of Reach



L. Morris

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

District Councillor

Mrs. Margaret Cook, Mill House,
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck.
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Snake Hall Farm, 50 Swaffham Road,
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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

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Springhall Farm. Tel. 741426

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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

"Out of Reach" Committee Members:-

Margaret Cook

Ray Folkes

Harvey Harrison (Business Manager)

Joyce Harrison (Distribution)

Alison Housden

Rodney Housden

Albert Johnson

Jenny Johnson (Editor) The White House

Tel 741854

Jenny Moseley, Delph End Cottage. Tel. 741425

Bob Smith (Compiler)

Geoffrey Woollard

Stencils typed by:-

Patricia Harrison

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

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No. 14

OCTOBER 1977

EDITORIAL

What a busy month September has been! Like the farmers, I have found it a month of non-stop activity. No doubt, to be busy is beneficial to mind and body, but I am sure that we shall all be pleased if October brings us a short respite.

There are several acknowledgements this month. Dick Whitehead has now completed one year's gardening guide - you may like to keep the summary at the back of the magazine. Thanks are given to Harvey Harrison and to Janet Biggs who stood in for me during the previous two months and also to Joyce Blocksage who has kindly agreed to type the October stencils.

Jenny Johnson.

We extend sympathy to the Aves family after the death of Mrs. June Aves last August.

SONNET FOR OCTOBER.

I drew aside the curtains of my room
And by the attic window stopped to see
That pale anigma which we call the moon
Shining above in soft serenity.
I smelled the mist of an October night
And saw the shrouded trees, all stark and still.
No ripple stirred the leaves, while the cold light
Shone through the pane and on the windowsill.
A cloud passed by in silence, slow and grey;
No bat nor owl, no being moved. No bird
Flew from its sleep, but waited for the day,
The moment when the cock should first be heard.
Would that the turmoil of the world would cease
More often, bringing such an hour of peace.

Janet Biggs.

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'KEEP OUR TEACHERS' CAMPAIGN.

'KEEP OUR TEACHERS' was shocked into being by the announcement that we were to lose Mrs. Jones, the reception teacher at Swaffham Prior School, as a result of cuts in educational spending (and of a miscalculation of numbers by the Education Authority). We took action and the school was allowed to keep Mrs. Jones for one more year. But we had been made to think hard about our educational priorities and we decided that to keep one teacher in one school for one year was not enough and that we must go on. The Friends of the School took us under its wing. We wrote a letter to be sent to the Heads of all Schools, Colleges of Further Education etc. in Cambridgeshire, and another to be sent to all local Councillors. These letters were duplicated and sent out on the first day of term; we are getting an encouraging response to them. At a meeting at the School on September 12th, everyone present was given handouts to send to friends in other areas together with a request to write to their M.P.s and to get a petition in their area. A Bring and Buy Stall was held outside the School Hall on September 16th to raise funds and was very successful; we plan to hold another on October 14th at 3.00p.m.

That is a sketch of what we are doing but the important thing is WHY we are doing it.

The majority of children in this country is being educated in the State Schools. The children now attending these Schools will be our future workers, politicians, diplomats, doctors, teachers and trade unionists. They will be the next generation of parents and they will run the country. How do we want them to be educated?

Many criticisms have been levelled at the standard of State Education, but one thing is certain; if the present pupil/teacher ratio is cut the standard will fall. Should we let this happen?

Perhaps, as parents, it is easier for us to imagine the effect on children of overcrowded classrooms and too few teachers, but we are concerned not only as parents but as citizens.

This is an issue which affects everyone and EVERYONE can help.

- Please
1. Write to your M.P.
 2. Send handouts and petition forms to friends in other areas.

(If you require some ready written, contact:- Clarissa Cochran
 Eileen Helawell
 Jenny Johnson.

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FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL.

Note of forthcoming events:-

- 14th October - Film Night.
- 5th November - Bonfire Night.
- 25th November - Beetle Drive.

Chairman's Report: Friends of School A.G.M. 12th September 1977

During the previous year, we have had several new families moving into the villages, and, of course, at this time of the year we have new families entering our school for the first time, so I think that this might be a good opportunity to outline the aims and ideas of the Friends of the School Association so that older members can be reminded of its purpose and newer members can be put into the picture.

We have a Friends of the School, rather than a P.T.A. because this is a Community School; a point of which many of us are justifiably proud. We believe that a school should be part of the community in which it is centred; being used by the community; working for the community and being cared for by the community. It is a two way responsibility; we work and care for you, you, we hope, work and care for us. And because all the community are welcome to become involved with the school, our association draws representatives from all the groups and activities who use the school or show an interest in it. The constitution of the Friends of the School can be obtained on request. During the past year we have organised our usual events of beetle drives, film shows, bingo nights, barbecues and dances. It is always our aim to provide family entertainment as we believe that it is one of the most important needs of any community; the need to keep families together. We have been greatly encouraged during the past year at the interest and at the increased attendance at all our functions; we hope you will continue to support us in the future.

The Friends of the School Committee also gave valuable help, along with other associations, to the school during the organisation of the Christmas and Summer Fairs, held in aid of School Funds. Nowadays, school funds are not used to provide the little luxuries, as used to be the case, but are needed to contribute towards the basic essentials of education, so the school and staff are particularly grateful for the help they receive from the Friends of the School and from parents in raising this money and hope that in this sphere also, you will continue to support us as you have done so willingly before.

The Friends of the School were forced this year to undertake

Contd.....

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NOTED FOR OUR PORK SAUSAGES.

Friends of the School - Chairman's Report Contd.....

extra expenditure in order to make the school hall comply with the safety regulations which came in a few years ago so that we could be legally licensed to hold public events. We had to pay our share of the cost of putting up the fire exit signs, buying chair clips and adjusting the bolts in the doors. We received financial help from the Community Education Department at Shire Hall but even so our share amounted to £80. However, your committee thought this amount was justified.

In the summer term, the Friends of the School held a special effort; the Sponsored walk, to raise money for heating the school swimming pool. This was very well supported by the children, parents and friends. Unfortunately the pump broke in the pool and so we couldn't heat the pool during the six weeks in the second half of term. It was decided in committee to set up a special fund so that all money collected for the pool could be set aside for pool use only, i.e. heating and repairs. The holiday swimming money for last year (1975/6) started this fund. Owing to the poor weather, not much swimming was done this summer holiday, but the electricity and chlorine used in those sessions held was paid for from the fund.

The past year has also seen the 'Coming of Age' of a very important part of our community work and one dear to our hearts. The nursery play-group has become an association in its own right. Increased numbers of pre-school age children and the proposed cut backs in education, urged us to make the playgroup financially independent and in future it will have its own funds administered by its own committee. The playgroup will be organised by the playgroup leader, Mrs. V. Casey, and will be under the supervision of the reception teacher, Mrs. Jones. They have been given the use of the school hall from 1-30 - 2-30 p.m. each afternoon and will spend the last half-hour from 2-30 - 3-0 p.m. each afternoon together in the reception class. The playgroup have a valued representative in the Committee of the Friends of the School, and we appreciate the co-operation and help which we are already receiving from them.

Another new group was formed during the summer term of last year out of what was thought to be a very definite need. This is the 'Parents' Action Group'. We are very happy to have a representative of this group also on our committee and appreciate the time and effort which they are willing to give for the good of the school.

We are always grateful to parents who volunteer to give us a hand at the occasional special functions, or are willing to serve for a time on the committee. If there are any more volunteers, I would be happy to add their names to the list. We still have many gaps in our work;

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FOR PROMPT SERVICE

Friends of the School - Chairman's Report contd.....

such as clubs for older children, meetings for senior citizens, guide, cub or scout, or brownies groups. If anyone is willing and interested in helping with the formation of any of these, I would be very pleased to talk it over with them.

I would like to close by saying, how much I, personally, appreciate the help I have received from the committee members, and volunteer parents during the last year. It was not an easy year and it was an extremely busy one for the Friends of the School, but every member of the committee gave up a tremendous amount of time for the school, and seemed to do it willingly too. I do thank them all most warmly for their support and hope that we may continue to work together in the coming year for the good of our school, and our community, and in doing so of course, for the good of our children.

A.V. Booton.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

Villagers will be sorry to hear that Alison Housden has resigned her post as Clerk. Thanks are extended to her for all the time she devoted to Parish Council work.

The new Clerk is Mrs. Ann Jennings of 75, Toyse Lane, Burwell.
(Tel: 741096)

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS.

TREE FELLING.

Some of you will have seen recent reports in the press concerning the felling pf Preserved Trees on the Swaffham Bulbeck Fen.

This particular case has now been considered by the Development Control Committee, and the matter dealt with. However, East. Combs. District Council wishes it to be known that it takes a very serious view of the felling of trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order, whether by ignorance or in knowledge' - to quote the Control Officer. This warning has been given press publicity and the Council has also informed the N.F.U. of its attitude.

Farmers and landowners (and indeed any individual) who have tree felling in mind are urged to contact the Council's Trees and Woodlands Officer, Mr. McNamara, at his Newmarket office (Tel: 2362) BEFORE taking action. He was appointed by the Council because it cares about the landscape and the appearance and amenity of the countryside in which

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TREE FELLING CONT ...

all live. He in no way wishes to hinder or interfere with the proper farming of the land, but to help and advise in all matters concerning trees and hedges. If his advice is sought before tree felling or hedge-grubbing takes place, unhappy ephisodes like the one that has occurred this summer on Swaffham Bulbeck Fen will be avoided in the future.

Councillor Margaret Cook.

SHIRE HALL TITBITS.

I have been reported in the Press as having prophesied "a traumatic autumn of cuts at Shire Hall". I am very conscious that, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, I can be nobody's friend, but the record must be put straight and the truth set out for all to see. Our County Council, like some other mainly rural Authorities, has been deliberately discriminated against by Central Government - this year by over £10m. and next year by an estimated £3m. Some of this money has rightly been used to reduce total expenditure - more, however, has been diverted to what some of us regard as the already overblown inner-city areas.

Because our County expects next year's cut, in spite of all representations, to be substantial, it is planning deliberately for managed economies so that botched-up, last minute and unintended cuts are not forced upon us. I believe this to be correct policy, and that the ratepayers should not be asked to shoulder the whole burden discarded by the Government. Domestic and commercial ratepayers are already shelling out on a massive scale and I shall be in the unenviable position of Oliver Twist "asking for more", but I will not ask for the whole of what we should have received from Whitehall if justice for Cambridgeshire had prevailed.

We are still trying to make Ministers see sense, but only the other day the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the D.o.E. said at Peterborough that Whitehall now recognised the special problems facing the fastest-growing region in the country but could give little glimmer of hope for ratepayers. In the light of all this and to be fair to all sections of the community, economies are being made in all Services that the cash-starved County provides. I am beginning to suspect that the treatment meted out to the Counties is part of a campaign to make the comparatively new Authorities thoroughly unpopular. If so, it is working, if my postbag is anything to go by. However, I believe that Local Government reorganisation, carried out in 1974, has not yet had sufficient time to be fairly judged, and that it is

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS contd....

premature to think of doing away with County Councils to create even more remote Authorities. I will certainly do my utmost to ensure the continuation of the main County Services to a high standard, using all the resources available, in defiance of Government policy and pressure. I know there is a lot of goodwill in Reach for Shire Hall, and a great understanding of the County Council's financial predicament. I do hope that understanding continues during this autumn as the bad news filters through.

Geoffrey Woollard, County Councillor.

REACH CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST ASSOCIATION. REACH BRANCH.

The Annual General Meeting of the Reach Branch is being held on 21st. October at 8.00p.m. This will be the first A.G.M. since the branch was formed just a year ago.

The aims of the branch are to encourage support in the parish for the Association and these include financial support. It is perhaps not generally understood how much the Association depends on individuals for financial support- quite different for instance from the way in which money for other political organisations is levied.

During its first year Reach Branch has taken part in the 1976 Autumn Fair at Burwell, provided support for our County Councillor, Geoffrey Woollard at the County Council elections last Spring and organised a most enjoyable and successful Cheese and Wine Party during the Jubilee weekend.

The committee hopes that all living in Reach who support the aims of the Branch (and we feel that many do) will come to the October meeting. We need your support very much - for votes at elections and for whatever financial support you feel able to give; if a significant number would contribute as little as £1 a year (less than 10p a month) it would make an enormous difference. We hope too that you will help towards the success of our programme of events during the coming year. Make a note of

- 19th November - Winter Fair, Burwell Village College 2.30 p.m.
- 3rd June 1978 - A Branch 'Get Together' in Reach.

G.W.D. Crookenden.

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From the Vicar:

That piece of rudery about St. Etheldreda's ugliness having to be seen to be believed, which I quoted to you recently from Nikolaus Pevsner's volume on Cambridgeshire Churches, now needs slight modification. Its new notice-board, if that is the right term, and I don't think it is, has given the building a grace and identity it didn't have before, and we are very grateful indeed for the skill and generosity of those who provided it.

October 4th is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, to whom I feel the extreme simplicity of St. Etheldreda's would have appealed in an odd way; so I don't think I can do better than talk about him this month. His influence on the modern world is still enormous, and probably still growing, mainly through the impact of his unique goodness, but also through the Order of Friars which he founded.

The root of the rule he gave them is a simple but ferociously literal following of Jesus, understandable when you remember the unusual way he received his call after his conversion. It happened as he listened to the reading of the Gospel for the day, actually the Feast of St. Matthias, in Feb. 1208, in the little Church two miles south of his home in Assisi. The words of Jesus suddenly resumed their sovereign power and seized him: 'As you go, preach, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils... Get you no gold... in your purse: no wallet for your journey, neither two coats, nor shoes, nor staff, for the labourer is worthy of his hire'.

Throwing away both staff and shoes, he returned to Assisi to gather a band of friends who would undertake his mission of preaching with him, and in 20 years they had covered half the World, arriving in England 2 years before his death, in 1224, and spreading rapidly over the country through the next half century.

But what we mainly need to notice, because of their unheard of novelty at the time, are the three central demands of his Rule. And first, absolute poverty, which for Francis meant not simply the poverty of the individual Friar, but the refusal to allow even the corporate ownership of money, no matter what the hardship involved. Secondly, his refusal to allow his Friars either to solicit or accept any ecclesiastical privilege; of all human learning, except the blessed wisdom of the Gospels.

At first, like some of his earliest followers, we may be tempted to write off such rules as the aspirations of an impossible idealist. But in fact each rule was a shrewd attack on the three great evils eating into the life of the Church of his day: its corporate possession of wealth, including the corporate wealth of religious orders; the appalling drain of time and energy involved in the search

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From the Vicar contd.....

for ecclesiastical privilege, especially through the distant, slow-moving courts of Rome; and lastly the logic-chopping into which so much Christian writing, thinking and preaching had degenerated, losing sight of justice, mercy, love and faith, on which Francis, like Jesus, placed the whole weight of his thrust, and which gave his Friars their marvellous power of winning souls.

So what? Surely this at least; the Franciscan ideal of simplicity in the following of Jesus still lives, so powerfully, indeed, that it caused the Franciscan Order to be re-born in the Church of England in 1931, starting with the care of the unemployed, but now far extended, mainly in the field of evangelism, particularly in the Universities.

So we do well to remember Francis: the man with no money, no power, no standing in the World, no technical scholarship, and no University Degree, who never-the-less continues to energise the World with the vigour and freshness of his sin-dissolving simplicity.

FROM THE CHURCHES.

ST. MARY'S AND REACH. - Worship in October.

- 1 Reach Harvest Supper & Social - 7.00 p.m.
- 2 TRINITY XVII (Harvest Festival, Reach & St. Mary's)
 - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)
 - 9.30 a.m. Matins, Sermon & Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
 - 6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)
- 7 7.30 p.m. Harvest Supper & Social in the School
- 9, 16, 23 & 30: TRINITY XVIII, XIX, XX, & XXI
 - 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
 - 11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
 - 6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 15 Enthronement of David Young, Archdeacon of Huntingdon, as Bishop of Ripon.
- 18 St. LUKE, Ev.
 - 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)
- NOV. 5 Enthronement of the new Bishop in the Cathedral, 3.00 p.m.

From the Registers:

Burial;
 31st August: June Adelaide Aves, Bull Cottage, Great Lane, Reach,
 Aged 48 years.

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The Morphology of Reach: Part 3: Enclosure and after.
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When the antiquary William Cole, visited Reach in the 1740's, East Reach had undergone a severe decline, the reasons for which are not altogether clear. It may be that when Burwell Lode was cut in the late middle ages, it began to take the water trade of that Parish, to which East Reach belonged, away from Reach Lode. Certainly its cutting drew settlement away from the old centre down to Newnham and what is now North Street, and this may be why East Reach was nearly deserted and its chapel of ease reduced to a single arch. Cole noted the Dike still running down to the Hythe; but when he revisited the village a few years later some enterprising landowner had demolished the last 300 yards of the Dike and filled in the ditch to make Fair Green. West Reach continued to be the prosperous host to its yearly fair.

But great changes were in the air. All over England new methods of farming were demanding the abolition of the old system of scattered smallholdings in the two or three great common fields, and its re-placement by enclosed, large, fields. But the tenants had to be compensated for their loss, and no enclosure was possible without a special Act of Parliament supervised by Parliamentary commissioners. The Act for Swaffham Prior was passed in 1801, and it provides the first accurate map of the villages. The shape of the village was very nearly what it is today, with the slight difference that settlement did not extend so far up the street and extended further along the Lode.

But it is the causes and effects of Enclosure that are interesting. The industrialisation of farming in the eighteenth century led inevitably to greater specialisation, and improved transport - turnpike roads and canals - meant that surpluses could be disposed of for a cash profit. The big landholder stood to do well. In this part of the world, the old practice of running sheep for wool declined drastically in face of competition from the much cheaper cotton from the new mills of Lancashire and so farmers ploughed up their old pastures for greater financial return from corn to feed the new towns. And during the Napoleonic Wars, corn prices rose to dizzy heights, and everybody who could get into wheat got in and stayed there. One can see, therefore, why the landlords and larger farmers were eager for Enclosure; and they did very well out of it. But what about the cottager, who had subsisted on perhaps a half acre strip or two in the common fields, and what he could get from the fen? By law he had to be compensated for loss of common rights; but that compensation did not amount to much. Here, the allotments were set up to replace the strips in the old open fields, and the feoffee land was attached to the holding of certain cottages that had enjoyed traditional rights. But the effect was to turn the

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The Morphology of Reach contd...

formerly independent cottager into a landless labourer who worked for the newly rich farmer for a small wage. The gap between rich and poor was sharply widened. One can see this clearly in the village's structure today; it was largely rebuilt between 1800 and 1860, out of the new money, and there is a clear distinction between the substantial mock-Georgian houses of the landowners and larger tenants and the shoddy spec building-like my house- run up as cheaply as possible for the new poor.

The Enclosure act changed the settlement as well as the social pattern. The Commissioners abandoned the old fen edge roads to Burwell and Swaffham in favour of more direct ones of regulation width. They were undoubtedly an improvement. The building of the Swaffham Road, in particular, drew folk away from Delph End and further away from the water. Indeed Reach seems to have gone through a minor population boom at this time: there was clearly a shortage of housing land, for previously unoccupied sites were built over and the Drying Green was encroached on by at least two houses. The old centre seems to have become very densely populated, as one would expect, for only here is spring water easily obtained.

The Railway.

What canals had been to the first industrial revolution railways were to the second. Fast, cheap, efficient means of moving large quantities of goods were profitable both to the railway owners and the producer of the goods. Our railway was built late in the century to link the agricultural areas towards Mildenhall with the main line to London. But the railway virtually killed Reach as a viable economic unit.

All over England the railways had ousted the canals as bulk carriers - except in the Fens, where the subsoil is so unstable that railway building was for a long time thought impossible. Reach was still an important port in the late nineteenth century, and the logical place to put a railway station was as near the canal head as possible. But the Squire of Swaffham, Mr. Allix, used his influence to get the station sited on what had been his land at the bottom of his park; he had his private entrance to it, and planted an avenue of trees leading to it. Very convenient. But it meant that Reach was over two miles by the most direct route from a railhead, and the port began its decline forthwith. Reach's prosperity declined sharply; one interesting clue to this is that there is virtually no new building in the village between 1860 and 1950. The old economic hinterland of the village, which had served its growth since the earliest times, was completely cut off from it. Its economic functions were halved, and it degenerated into a small hamlet remarkably only for its yearly fair.

Charles Mosley.

GARDENING THROUGH THE

<u>MONTH.</u>	<u>GENERAL TASKS.</u>	<u>PLANT OUT</u>
JAN.	DIG OVER soil. Order seeds. Put potatoes to sprout.	
FEB.	Brush Lawns.	Shallots.
MAR.	Prune Roses.	New Mint Shoots. Split up & replant perennials.
APR.	Deadhead Spring Flowers.	Onion sets. Potatoes (45°F)
MAY.	Protect potato shoots from frost.	Brassicas, half hardy annuals. Early chrysanths, dahlias and Gladioli.
JUNE.	Thin out lettuce seedlings, don't transplant from now on.	Tomatoes.
JULY.	Support large herbaceous plants. Peg down strawberries and cut off when rooted.	Leek and Cauliflower
AUG.	Harvest shallots. Bend over onion tops. Cut off old raspberry canes and tie in new growth.	New strawberry plants.
SEPT.	Remove outer foliage from Celeriac. Harvest onions. Ripen green tomatoes inside.	August sown cabbage
OCT.	Earth up celery. Remove blown sprouts at bases. Lift potatoes.	August sown cabbage Wallflower. Pansy.
NOV.	Force shallots. Part Prune Roses.	Garlic.
DEC.	1. Dig over. 2. Collect seed from runner beans and dig in roots as compost.	

YEAR. - SUMMARY.

<u>SOW</u>	<u>TREATMENT.</u>
Onions in greenhouse Shallots if soil O.K.	Salt on savoys and sprouts.
Parsnips, round peas, broad beans.	Lawn sand. Jeye's fluid on roses and ground around.
Radish, Brussels, peas, early carrots, lettuce (but watch temp).	Sulphate of Ammonia on spring cabbage.
Runner beans in pots. Salad crops. Half Hardy annuals. Start outdoor varieties of tomato.	Gamma dust, if necessary for pea weevil.
Continue salad crops, dwarf runner beans. Later peas and sweet corn.	Broad beans against black fly.
Globe beet. Winter greens and beetroot, celery. Wallflower.	Nitro chalk for onions. Start feeding liquid manure to tomatoes.
Dwarf beans, red beet, carrot.	Bordeaux mixture on maincrop potatoes. Continue feeding tomatoes.
Cabbage for Spring cutting. Lettuce and onions to transplant in Spring.	Bordeaux mixture on tomatoes.
Last radish. Valdor lettuce for Spring. New lawns.	
Overwintering lettuce, cauliflower.	Flowers of Sulphur on lifted Dahlia tubers.
Hardy broad beans. Peas under cloches. Sweet peas in boxes.	
Broad beans and peas. Cross and lettuce on the window sill.	Disinfect canes & seed boxes

Dick Whitehead.

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THE STAINE HUNDRED.

The next meeting of the Staine Hundred - the local history society will be on Thursday, 20th October, when Russell Wortley will talk about 'Traditional Music in East Anglia' - with examples! The meeting will be held in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College, at 7.30 p.m.

RECIPE.

BLACKBERRY PANCAKES.

Make batter with:- 6 oz flour
1 large egg
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint milk
1 tbsp. butter.
a little sugar.

Mix $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups blackberries into batter. Cook as usual.

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