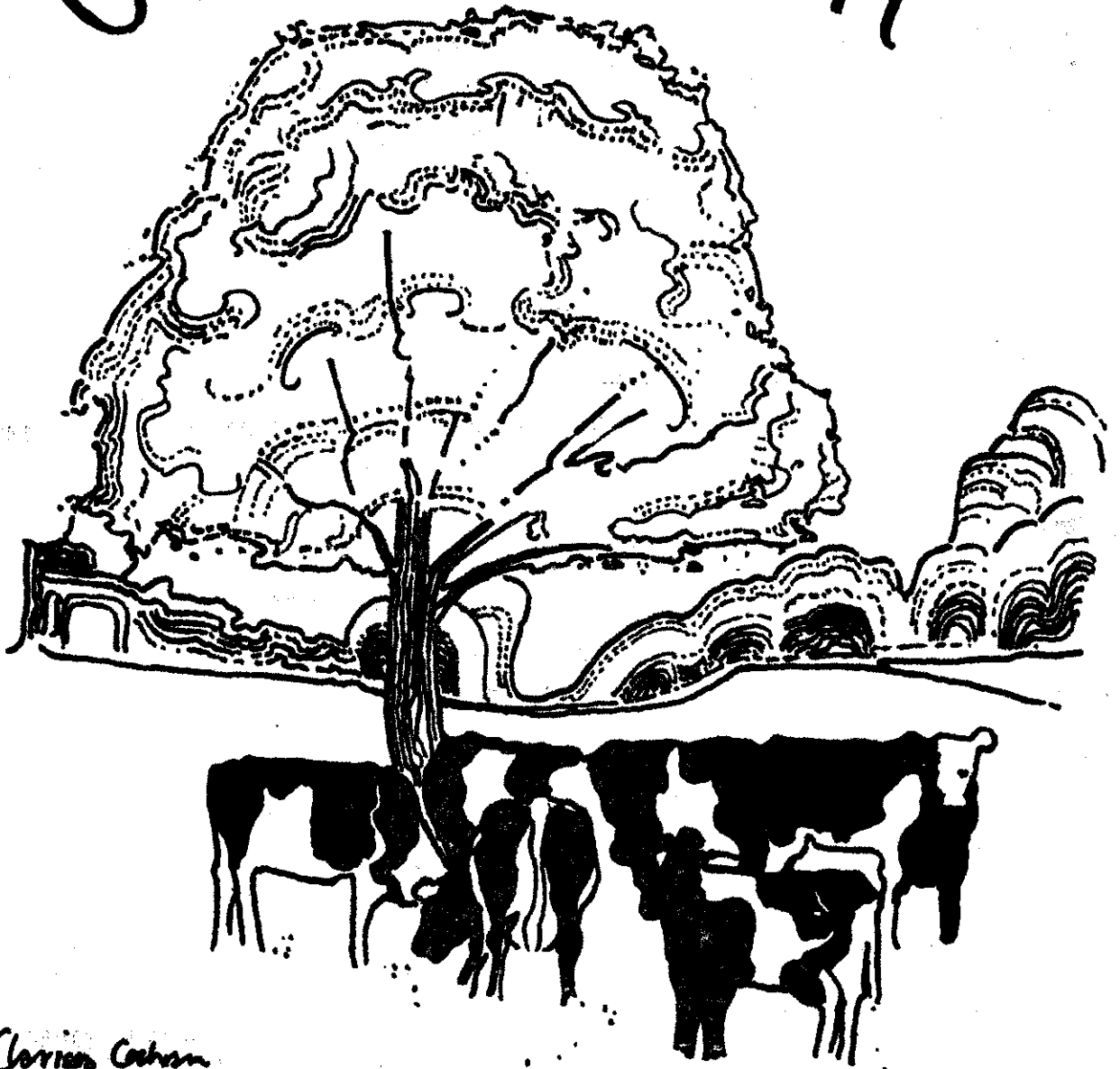


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OCT 1976

Out of Reach



Corrie Cohen

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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

Secretary Alison Housden

Village Hall Committee Members

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Bill Estell, 5 Ditchfield
Ray and Anita Folkes
Harvey Harrison
Joyce Harrison
Rodney Housden
Sam and Heather Mitchell, The Wilds, Burwell Rd.
Bob and Emily Smith, Meadow View, Delph End Tel. 742130
Phyllis Webb, Blackberry Drove
Co-opted member - Nicholas Hellowell,
4 Swaffham Rd. Tel. 742081

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Ray Folkes
Harvey Harrison (Business Manager)
Joyce Harrison (Distributor)
Alison Housden
Rodney Housden
Albert Johnson
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Jenny Mosley Delph End Cott. Tel. 741425
Bob Smith (Compiler)
Geoffrey Woollard

Editor's Note

Once again I have had to cut articles - in some cases drastically. I hope no offence is taken! Thanks to everyone's enthusiastic response there is no room for me to say more!

Jenny Johnson.

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Parish Council News

Some results.

The Parish Council's efforts to get Reach-Swaffham bridge repaired have resulted in the erection of a fence to make it safer, as an alternative to removing it altogether - which would cost £19,000.

A small warning sign of the bend into Great Lane has been erected on the Fair Green approach.

Mr. Reed of Swaffham Road has undertaken the care of the cemetery from April 1977 and will spend one morning a month there. A small number of donations have been gratefully received towards the upkeep; would anyone wishing to add to these please contact any Parish Council member.

Anyone who wishes to have some heavy refuse collected (e.g. old fridges or cookers) may like to note the following telephone number: Ely 3311, ext. 67 (ask for Mr. Townsend of the District Council).

'Any Old Tights'

Mrs. Peacock will be pleased to receive any throw-outs before the end of October. Our new village trees are expected about the end of the month and old tights are ideal for anchoring the young trees to their stakes. Would anyone willing to help with planting make themselves known to a Parish Council member and watch the notice boards for an announcement of the trees' arrival in the village.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Friday of each month. Please note that the time of the October 1st meeting has been changed from 7.30p.m. to 2.30p.m.

ELECTORAL PAPERS

Would everyone check that they have received and returned their electoral papers. If not, please see Alison Housden.

We are NOT OUT OF REACH - For prompt attention contact

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Gardening Tips

Mr. Dick Whitehead has kindly agreed to give us some monthly guidance on current tasks, so here is:-

October in your Garden.

1. Plant out August sown cabbage 6" apart, in rows which are 18" apart. Use alternate plants as 'callards' (young greens) in spring, leaving others to make large hearts.
2. There is still time to sow lettuce to stand the winter, e.g. 'Arctic King', 'Valdor'. Also sow Cauliflower ('All the Year Round' will need some protection).
3. Earth up celery.
4. Lift potatoes. There is no point in leaving them in the ground after the skins have set as slugs are very prevalent this year.
5. Pull off blown sprout knobs, at base of plants.
6. Transplant wallflower and Pansy plants to their flowering quarters.
7. Lift dahlia tubers, dust with flowers of sulphur and store in a frost-proof place.

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Village Hall Gossip

As you probably noticed in the last report from the Village Hall Committee, Mike Lamb has been appointed secretary. He celebrated this 'honour' by immediately falling from the top of the barn sited on the Reach - Burwell road. I am sure you will join with me in wishing him a rapid recovery.

Those of you who use the Hall for Bingo etc., will have seen that we have acquired new chairs (100, in fact) which have cheered up the interior.

A sub-committee is visiting other Village Centres to get ideas for interior design, including heating plans; as you may be aware, our old friend the coal stove is on its last legs.

Ray Folkes tells me that the drains have been passed byContd.

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REACH'S ONLY PUB

Village Hall Gossip contd.....

the local government inspector, and I believe that without Ray's patience we would still be awaiting that decision.

Numbers at the Bingo sessions have increased considerably over the last few occasions and I hope this trend continues. If so, we shall be able to increase the prize money.

It seems that there is some interest in a games night and with co-operation from those interested, I see no reason why this should not be arranged.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Strutton of The Royal Oak, Swaffham Bulbeck for their kind donation in support of our Hall. I am sure they know this is very welcome during these expensive times.

John O. Robinson.

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Treasurer's Report

Clay Pigeon Shoot. 12.9.1976. Proceeds: £45.50 + £5.00 on refreshments. Thanks are extended to Mr. A. Parr of Burwell, the organiser, and to Messrs. Housden Bros., in whose meadow the shoot took place.

Dog Show. 19.9.1976. Thanks are given to Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell for organising the event. Proceeds will be settled when the bill for rosettes has been received. Proceeds from side stalls £16.50.

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FROM THE REV'D J.K. BYROM

Colin Washtell

When Colin Washtell died, the project nearest his heart was the restoration of the dilapidated porch which now so disfigures the appearance of St. Mary's Church, and we are therefore very grateful indeed to his wife and family that, instead of floral tributes at his funeral, they should have invited contributions to the Restoration Fund. These should be sent to Mr. J.T. Norris, the Hon. Treasurer, at Anglesey House, Swaffham Prior.

Meanwhile, I can think of no more fitting memorial to his life and work amongst us than that we should get this work in hand and completed at the earliest moment.

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Services at Reach

We shall be holding our Harvest Festival on Sunday, 3rd October, at 6.30p.m. The Preacher will be the Rev'd. Claude Flood. The other services are as usual.

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COLIN CHARLES HENRY WASHTELL

1907 - 1976

An appreciation

Colin Washtell came to live in Reach after distinguished war service in the Royal Navy. He had returned to his native Cambridgeshire, as chief engineer of Labgear, one of the Pye Group of Companies.

Descended from a medieval mason, who built the roof of King's College Chapel, Colin was himself "of the stuff that history is made". A man of superlative talents, he was a member of both the Institute of Electrical and Nuclear Engineers. When he came to live in "White Roses" he found himself the owner of an historical monument. With his usual brilliant diversity, he plunged into what was to become a life long interest in Reach and its history. This, in turn, involved him in every aspect of the hamlet's life, and many things which will affect its future. Behind every village improvement, one could discern some.....Contd.

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An appreciation cont'd.....

of his influence, advice and experience. Much of his help was forthright and practical. As a famous church musician he built splendid and unique organs in the churches of both Reach and Swaffham Pribr. So, as was to be expected, he was to have contributed to "Out of Reach", a series on the history of the Parish. There follows ~~the~~ introductory article which he had completed. The Editors hope that somehow the series will be continued.

H.B.C. Jones

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THE CHANGING FACE OF REACH

The casual visitor to this area, finding himself at the end of the Devil's Ditch and seeing before him the sleepy cluster of old cottages huddled around the village green, can be pardoned for regarding it as a 'dead & alive' place and may well ask who chooses to live here, how old is it, and what is there to see? To the first question one can answer truthfully "Those who appreciate peace and quiet...." and "it is very, very ancient but nobody knows for sure exactly how old it is"; and to the second, quite briefly, "Very little"! For, as Reach has never been an Ecclesiastical Parish, records are sparse and little has been written about it.

The marks of history are there, but are chiefly confined to the soil ----- the earthworks, the dykes, the pits, and a wide-ranging number of finds of primitive implements and artefacts. Apart from the ruined remains of Sir John Peksbridge's 14th century chantry chapel at the rear of the Victorian school/church and the two much-altered 16th century merchants' houses beside the Hythe, there is little that can be readily associated with 'Reche', the important inland port ofContd.

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The Changing Face of Reach cont/d....

medieval and later times, and almost nothing to show its earlier Roman and Neolithic associations.

Yet, until the coming of the railways it was a thriving port, its quays a hive of activity where sea-going vessels were loaded and unloaded and trains of horsedrawn waggons brought and carried off the cargoes. All this commercial activity, and the consequent influx of foreigners, no doubt accounted for the many inns and alehouses the village once contained, the sites and names of which are still known. "The Black Swan" (linked in verse with the "Maid's Head" at Wicken) and the "No Hurry -- 5 miles from anywhere" -- at Upware, the "White Horse" on the west side of the green, the "Bull" and "Blackeyed Susan" on the Hythe, the "Moon & Sixpence" in Chapel Lane, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" on the Green and "The Ship" next to the church, are all now closed and, after a dry interval, superceded by a welcome newcomer - the "Dyke's End".

Even the roads have changed since medieval times, for, until the middle of the 18th century, there was no village green, the Devil's Ditch, originally aligned on the Roman Lode, extending right down to the fen to split the village into two parts, 'East & West Reche' (one part in the parish of Burwell and the other in Swaffham Prior), the old roads to the two nearest villages running along the fen edge, (that from Burwell coming out on the Hythe through Manor Farm and that from Swaffham following the Delph behind Church Hill into Great Lane).... courses that can still be traced. The creation of the village green in circa 1750 gave the opportunity to cut a new bypass to the top end of the Green.... the straight section of Burwell Road.... and improve the track to Swaffham which had once linked the five Roman settlements there with the Roman Villa near Reach Bridge, unearthed in 1892.

What we see today, however, gives us no idea of what their state must have been in the past, although one can easily imagine it, particularly if one can study even turn-of-the-last-century photographs - such as the one of the Rev. St. John Dearsley, the first chaplain of Reach, dressed in Norfolk jacket, knickerbockers and high boots, standing on Black Swan corner - and notes the cart ruts in two or three feet of mud and water in the road below!

But surely the greatest change is in the inhabitants; for within the past 25 years many of the local families have left the village....Contd.

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FOR PROMPT SERVICE

The Changing Face of Reach cont/d....

so that today perhaps almost half of the present population of under 300 souls are newcomers who, despite the run-down appearance of the place, apparently appreciate and enjoy the quiet, unspoiled rusticity of this ancient Cambridgeshire hamlet.

C.W. 24.8.1976.

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LETTERS

It is a pity that a potentially lovely village like Reach should be in such a lowly position in the Best Kept Village Competition. The Parish and District Councils will help as much as they can to keep the public places in good order but both need the co-operation and support of everybody if we are to achieve better things next year.

Margaret Cook
(District Councillor)

I am against the Best Kept Village Competition as I think each village should have its own character. The competition seems to be pressurising people who have rambling gardens and a tight budget to turn their overgrown but pleasant gardens into botanical wonders.

The hitching rails are probably quite a good idea as the village has twelve horses. I am, of course, referring to the white and green signposts put up all over the village. If they must be there they should have been left a natural wood colour to blend in with the rural hues.

If there has to be a Best Kept Village Competition there should also be 'The Most Characteristic Village Competition'. Reach would come top in this every time as it has such an independent character. Perhaps it should be pointed out that Reach is one of the few working villages left in this area.

Paul Robinson (14).

