

86 / April 1977

Out of Reach



Clayton Coburn

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

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Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck.
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Harvey Harrison, Tilden House,
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Joyce Harrison, Prospect Farm,
40 Great Lane.

Rodney Housden, Manor Close.
Tel. Newmarket 741386

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Alison Housden

Village Hall Committee Members:-

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Springhall Farm. Tel. 741426

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Bob & Emily Smith, Meadow View, Delph End.

Tel. 742130

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4 Swaffham Rd. Tel. 742081

"Out of Reach" Committee Members:-

Margaret Cook

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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

EDITORIAL

We have, I hope, a new trend beginning. Contributions are pressing a Spring growth on the magazine. With so much to report last month you may have noticed the absence of any feature articles. This month we have two - one stimulated by the Bridge Controversy and one which Janet Biggs allowed me to 'Bank', but which deserved to be included some time ago.

I want to say a special word of thanks this month to Joyce Blockage, who very kindly and meticulously typed the stencils for our March issue and who is also relieving Pat Harrison again this month.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

Approval has been given for the extension at the Dyke's End and for a Public House sign on a post.

The request for a new footpath at Well's Close has been placed on the Council's list. The work will be done when funds are available.

A request has been made for steps to be built into the grass bank alongside the Swaffham Road Council houses.

The Parish Council have asked a County Engineer to attend a meeting in April, as certain villagers are still not satisfied that The Bridge is structurally safe.

Next Meeting:- 1st April
A.G.M. 15th April (provisionally)

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL NEWS.

Birthday Cards: This year's designs, in two different packs, still at the reasonable price of 45p for 10, or 4p each, available now from Committee members, or school, while stocks last. - It is useful to have some ready, - buy a pack now!

Easter Egg Bingo: Friday, April 1st at 7-15 p.m. - Fun for everyone - All welcome.

Easter Dance: Saturday, April 16th. 8-Op.m. until 11-30p.m.
Licensed Bar. Refreshments.
Tickets available now from School or Committee members £1 including refreshments. - Bring your friends and make it a Night Out!

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THAT BRIDGE AGAIN.

There has been much talk of late over the future of Reach Railway Bridge - all of it with regard to that travelling over it: that which passed under it has long faded from most peoples' interests, so I hope that a few notes here on the old railway system will be appropriate.

The Bridge was built late in 1884 and was one of many such over-bridges on the 19 mile Barnwell Junction (Cambridge) - Mildenhall branch line of the Great Eastern Railway. The line was constructed with high hopes of providing a feeder route for the prolific agricultural produce of the area and to help develop Mildenhall. The track was started from the terminus at Mildenhall in June 1884 and reached the Cambridge - Norwich line at Burwell Junction by April 1885.

The branch, like so many of its genre, was never financially successful, although it was essential in serving Mildenhall Air Base during World War II. Towards the end of its life most passenger trains had one carriage only, so light was the demand. I am sure there are many in the Village who will remember hearing the Engines regular whistle as it headed down the straight after passing under 'our' Bridge into Burwell Station. Most services ceased as recently as July 1964, although the section from Fordham Junction to Burwell survived until 19th April 1965 in order to serve Pillootson's Factory.

Whilst on the subject of Railways into Burwell, the Village did have a second railway terminus, albeit for freight only, in Factory Road on a separate branch from the Ely line near Soham, just $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles long; but that is another story.

Reach villagers using the line had three options for catching their train: Burwell or Swaffham Prior were the obvious stations, but for Eastbound travellers Exning Road Halt could be reached by a quick spurt up Issacson Road if the train was already standing at the Burwell Platform. The little gate and steps leading down to the short platform on the East side are still to be seen.

The line was single track throughout and steam engines for passenger services ended during July 1958 when diesel railbuses were introduced as an economy measure. Traces of soot still line the apparently sound underside of The Bridge.

Today The Bridge stands as an anachronism, a useless artefact from the past. How different from the hopes and aspirations of the Great Eastern engineers when it was built for a far longer and more worthy future.

Edward C.W. Huggins.

Footnote: I am contributing to a new Regional History of local railways and would be most interested to see any old photographs of the line in its heyday.

K.S. & N.E. PEACOCK

REACH POST OFFICE STORES

Groceries	Cambridge Evening News	Wines
Fruit	Orders delivered weekly	Beers
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+-----+
+ MONDAY APRIL 4TH 1977 AT 8-OPM +
+ REACH VILLAGE CENTRE +
+ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING +
+ ALL WELCOME +
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VILLAGE CENTRE NEWS

Preparations are going smoothly for Reach Fair and all events previously advertised in the magazine have now been organised. Work in the hall has progressed well. We have the new ceiling installed and its effect on the heating is quite startling, as Committee members noticed during our last meeting. There are two other effects; the hall looks longer and the acoustics are improved. The latter will certainly help our musical functions, as the problem of distortion could not be solved by groups who have played there. It is hoped that the approach to the hall will be concreted by Fair date. A number of volunteers will be undertaking the task on the afternoon of Saturday, 26th March.

As this is the end of the Financial year for the Village Centre, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their support during the year.

WASTE PAPER COLLECTION. - It is hoped to start a waste paper collection fortnightly, as from Monday April 11th. Could anyone who will be saving paper please contact Joyce Harrison or myself.

John O. Robinson.

REACH PROTECTION SOCIETY.

There will be a meeting tonight, in the Village Centre, to be addressed by Mr. Geoffrey Woollard and guest speaker, Dr. J. Oakley.

- On the agenda will be:-
1. The tree planting scheme;
 2. An application by property developers to build sixteen executive houses on the Green;
 3. The recent proposal by the Ministry of the Environment to evacuate the Village by April 1st 1978 and use the surrounding agricultural land for field trials on the effects of radiation.

STOP PRESS: SEE PAGE 7 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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THE COUNTRYSIDE IMMIGRANT.

Would not it be interesting to know why townsfolk go to live in the country? Perhaps some long-hidden secrets would be brought to light! The problems imposed by such a move seem, however, to worry the villagers more than the immigrants, for an influx of 'strangers' can present a very real threat to the life of the 'natives'

It seems to me that the sort of passport one needs to achieve acceptance into a small community, is a willingness to adapt - and by this I mean, to adapt one's attitudes. In contrast to the closed and insular existence one leads in a town, resenting any hint of another's interest in one's affairs, the life of a village is far more open. 'Who is my neighbour?' is a far more meaningful question, because one's neighbours in a village are far less likely to come and go; they become friends.

As an immigrant, I can honestly say that if I am not liked or welcomed, it is probably my own fault, because I haven't yet reached a sufficient understanding of my adopted village to be counted a proper part of it. But I am hoping to become 'naturalized'. Already everyone else appears to know all about me and my idiosyncrasies: they seem prepared to accept me as I am, so long as I take part in local functions and behave as a good neighbour in return. This is small payment for the benefits of living in a village, as opposed to a noisy and dirty town; I feel that I am an individual instead of an automaton, and I have time to be quiet, and think things out.

None of my busy town-friends can understand why the novelty of 'living in the country' hasn't worn off; they look at me in sincere amazement when I tell them that living here is like belonging to a bigger family - that when I moved here, what I was really doing was coming home.

JANET BIGGS.

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From the vicar - poem continued.

These are thy wonders, Lord of power,
Killing and quickning, bringing down to hell
And up to heaven in an hour;
Making a chiming of a passing-bell.
We say amisse,
This or that is;
Thy word is all, if we could spell.

O that I once past changing were,
Fast in thy Paradise, where no flower can wither!
Many a spring I shoot up fair,
Offering at heav'n, growing and groaning thither;
Nor doth my flower
Want a spring-showre,
My sinnes and I joining together.

But while I grow in a straight line,
Still upwards bent, as if heav'n were mine own,
Thy anger comes, and I decline;
What frost to that? what pole is not the zone,
Where all things burn,
When Thou dost turn,
And the least frown of thine is shown?

And now in age I bud again,
After so many deaths I live and write;
I once more smell the dew and rain,
And relish versing: O my onely light,
It cannot be
That I am he
On whom thy tempests fell all night.

These are thy wonders, Lord of Love,
To make us see we are but flowers that glide:
Which when we once can find and prove,
Thou hast a garden for us, where to bide.
Who would be more
Swelling though store,
Forfeit their Paradise by their pride.

George Herbert.
(1593 - 1633)

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TRY OUR NOTED PORK SAUSAGES

Worship In April - St. Mary's and Reach.

- 3 Apr. PALM SUNDAY. - 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Youth Church (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)
- 4,5 & 6 Apr. Holy Week 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)
- 7 Apr Maundy Thursday 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion and Vigil before
the Blessed Sacrament (St. Mary's)
- 8 Apr Good Friday 12.0-3.0p.m. Three Hours Devotion (St. Mary's)
(The actual form of this will be announced later)
- 9 Apr Easter Eve 7.00 p.m. Confessions (St. Mary's)
7.30 p.m. Lighting of the Paschal Fire and
Renewal of Baptismal Promises (St. Mary's)
- 10 Apr Easter Day 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 11 Apr. Monday in Easter Week.
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)
- 12 Apr. Tuesday in Easter Week.
7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)
- 13 Apr. A.G.M. of P.C.C.
8.00 p.m. in Village Hall.
- 17 Apr. Easter I 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 23 Apr. Farewell to Bishop from Youth of the Diocese, Cathedral 3.0p.m.
- 24 Apr. Easter II 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 25 Apr. S.MARK. 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

REACH PROTECTION SOCIETY.

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS.

The most painful and difficult budget-making in recent history has now been completed at Shire Hall, and I think it would be fair to say that, having had some £10m. snatched from us, we have none-the-less, produced a package of cuts maintaining priorities and retaining the essential Civilisation with which the name of Cambridge is naturally associated. The prospects for the two following years look extremely alarming unless the hoped-for change in the Government grant formula comes about. We must, together, keep up the pressure by illustrating Cambridgeshire's unfair treatment.

This may be the last time that I can write to you as your County Councillor, and so I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the residents of Reach for their kindness shown to me personally, and for enabling me to spend two and a half stimulating and rewarding years on the County Council. Many colleagues have bemoaned to me the present financial constraints, and have said, "It's not as good as the old days." I have no means of judging whether this is true or otherwise, but my term at Shire Hall has been satisfying, and whilst I cannot boast of massive improvements in our area, I have been glad to be associated with a variety of efforts to preserve some quality in village life. As an example, I am delighted that 'Out of Reach' has started an important development. I am confident that we have, together, seen off the threat of industrial waste-dumping at Burwell at no small personal cost! More than anything though, I am proud to have played some part in the voluntary effort that culminated in the construction of Bottisham Village College's new swimming pool. To me this was good philosophy clearly illustrated - the community banding together in a common effort to provide an amenity for thousands of people-self-help writ large. Thank you all for everything.

Geoffrey Woollard,
County Councillor.

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THIS MONTHS RECIPE

SMOKED MACKEREL PATE

2 Slices of White Bread
 A little Milk
 2 Smoked Mackerel
 2 oz. Cream Cheese
 1 Clove Garlic, crushed
 Lemon Juice
 White pepper, salt.

Remove bread crusts and soak bread for about 10 minutes
 in milk then drain well.
 Bone mackerel carefully and mince flesh finely.
 Rub mackerel, cream cheese, bread and garlic through
 a sieve.
 Add a little lemon juice, pepper and salt.
 Shape or put into individual dishes.

Clarissa Cochran

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