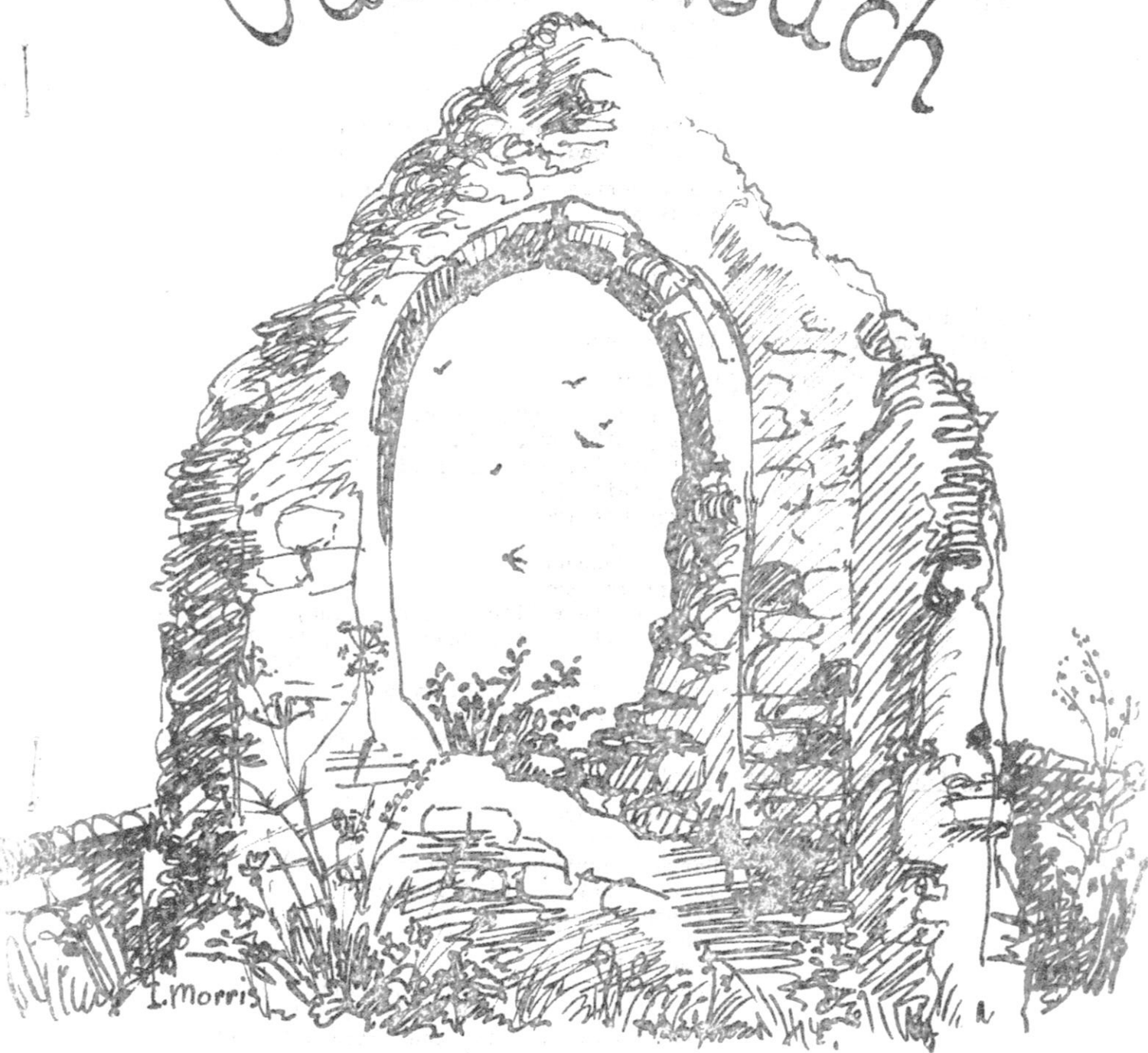


Out of Reach

NO 18 NO (2)
DOR. ESTO



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Bottisham. Tel. Cambridge 811209

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Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck.
Tel. Cambridge 811335

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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

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Parish Council

Alison Housden

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Stencils typed by:-

Patricia Harrison

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

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No.18

FEBRUARY 1978

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to Esther and Stephen Morris for submitting drawings which you will see, in due course, on the covers of 'Out of Reach', and for being the only entrants for our recent competition. We are sad that more of our children didn't find the necessary time and inclination.

Those of you who were unable to attend Mr. Len Warren's lecture on January 11th may like to know that next month there will be a summary published in the magazine.

J.J.

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Mr. Roland L. Folkes and Miss Glynnis Y. Whayman were married at Waterbeach Church on 14th January and the reception was held at Reach Village Centre. The happy couple are making their home at 88 High Street, Stetchworth. We wish them well.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A planning application has been received from Mr. C.I. Pote for a kitchen extension, which was approved.

1978 has arrived and along with it we still have to resolve the problem of improving our position in the Best Kept Village Competition. Perhaps if we all take a good long look at our own backyards (and frontages) some of us will be aware of something which needs to be disposed of, or tidied up. If you observe a litter bug dropping rubbish in the village - feel free to reprimand him (or her!) Let's all try to make 1978 THE year Reach lifted itself from bottom of the competition for the Best Kept Village.

REACH CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

COFFEE EVENING

Friday 24th February 1978 8 p.m.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

The beginning of another year, is perhaps a good time to take stock of our surroundings, and see what we can do to improve them. I am very sorry, and I know it is of great concern to your Parish Council, that the village of Reach, which has such great potential, should occupy a lowly position in the 'Best Kept Village' competition.

The Parish Council has done much by way of grass-cutting, tree-planting, work in the burial ground, and on the droves to give the people of Reach a lead; the District Council too, can help in many ways. A telephone call to the Environmental Health Dept. at Ely (3311), is all that is needed, and a lorry will be available to remove unwanted heavy, household rubbish. The Housing Services Dept. hopes that the paintwork at Ditchfields Estate, which should have been renewed in 1977, will be done early in the 1978 season. A face-lift here would do much to improve this approach to the village. In the meantime the Department will do what it can to have derelict cars removed from Council gardens.

Mr. Eastwood and Mr. Lorimer of the Planning Dept. are available to give advice to people who wish to improve their property; it is one of the tasks of the Planning Dept. to help improve and enhance the environment in which we live - within the limits of its resources. Its job is made much easier in these difficult times, if like-minded people of goodwill, who care about their surroundings, join together and work to this end. Improvements take time; they do not happen overnight, though it is wonderful what a few evenings working together will achieve.

A splendid example has been given to Reach by the transformation, over the past few years, of the old school into a marvellous Community Centre, by the efforts of a comparatively small group of people. The District Council made a grant to this work, and it will continue to give help and advice to Reach wherever it can.

Margaret Cook
(District Councillor)

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FROM THE VICAR

329 years ago this evening (29 Jan) William Juxon, the Bishop of London, was ministering to Charles I on the eve of his execution. The King himself, I believe, loved him, and the affection was certainly returned. A man's last hours are precious, not to be spent, if possible, with fools and chatterers, and Juxon was much in Charles' company after his final sentence. Indeed, it must surely have been this sense of Charles' trust and affection which enabled Juxon to counsel and encourage his King in terms which verged on something like banter, like a coach urging an athlete to a last supreme effort. 'There is one stage more', he said, as Charles ended his brief word on the scaffold; 'the stage is turbulent and troublesome. It is a short one, but you may consider it will soon carry you a very great way. It will carry you from earth to heaven, and there you will find a great deal of cordial joy and comfort'. And so, in a moment, he died.

Well, why all this? The reason, if it can be dignified by such a word, is rather obscure and personal. It has something to do with a curious habit I have gradually formed of regarding the early months of the year as equivalent to the early stages of a long climb, especially on a bicycle, formed, I fancy, in the days when I had a large parish, a bicycle as the only means of transport, and the worst of the work fell in these dark early months. Even now, it still seems as if one climbs steeply up to Easter, levels out a little towards Pentecost, reaches a high plateau at Trinity-tide, and then begins to free-wheel down to Advent.

Childish, I admit, though I suspect I am not alone in having a private mental picture of time-cycles, like the Victorian boy I read of recently, who had a special love of Monday because it was further removed from Sunday than any other day of the week.

But of course the real flaw lies in the basic attitude, especially to these early months, in the unspoken assumption that they are essentially something to be got through and out of the way, so that we can really begin to live later on, when the year is in its stride, and so to say, out of bottom gear. It presupposes that moments are significant only when we choose to attend to them.

But the biblical attitude to time is quite different. Any moment may become significant through the action of providence upon it. And when I say providence, I mean the minutely ordered purpose of God in bringing each of us to a state of wholeness, to a condition of maturity through knowledge of himself. 'Every moment', Herbert Butterfield used to say, 'is equidistant from eternity', because any and every moment, even a moment on a dark.....

TEL: CAMBRIDGE 811215

FROM THE VICAR contd.....

inconsequential day like the 29th of January, may be the moment when time ceases to be a procession of one indifferent thing after another, and is suddenly charged with absolute significance, when to refuse the proffered invitation is to be left decisively if not permanently disabled, if not crippled.

Job in his misery prayed that the day of his birth might be blotted from the calendar. The Psalmist, in Ps.31, said, with profound trust, 'My time is in my hand'. 'Any time', Jesus said, 'is right for you'.

Loose Stones

We have received the following observations from Mr. Arthur Whittingham, an archaeologist of Norwich, on the subject of the meteorite reported to have fallen near the village on 16 May 1646. He writes as follows:

Having copied out and considered the entry in the East Anglian Notes and Queries Vol. 6 (1895/6) p.362, there are several probabilities that can be deduced. As Jonathan Jephcote mentions,

1. 'no thunder or rain'. The sky was probably overcast, without sunshine, and as the second oblong light vanished when the first erupted, the second may well have been a reflection by a cloud of the primary light.

2. As he felt the spectacle was a menace to the village, he probably stayed indoors or looked out of an open door.

3. From the Vicarage (though since enlarged and modified), he would have a clear view North-West to the Fen, whereas the opposite view is obstructed by houses and the hill; and had there been a crater on hard ground damaging crops he would surely have mentioned it.

4. As he could see the Pyramid above, and four 'stout legs or poles' below, he was probably looking up at about 30 degrees (more likely 20 degrees). The four legs appear to indicate that the mass of the Meteor split into four pieces.

5. Picked up by the whirlwind, the 2 (surface?) stones that sparked off the lightning might have been of 2ft. diameter to be visible from $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away.

6. The cloud of steam rising from the ground, but dispersing before reaching the smoke-cloud, implies wet Fenland rather than hard soil.

7. The scattered 'small specks' (Guttae, not rain) falling for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour are likely to have been peat fragments, not hot enough to set fire to anything (not Meteor), probably reached the Vicarage Garden.

Contd. over.....

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

I have been contacted on numerous occasions during this winter by people seeking help towards restoration of electricity supplies, and although the County Council is not responsible for this part of public services, I have been very worried about the effect on local people of the large number of power cuts we have all suffered.

In correspondence with Mr. J.W. Hughes, the District Engineer of Eastern Electricity, and conversation with Mr. J.V. Slack, the Cambridge District Manager, I have ascertained the obvious - that in a rural area mainly supplied by overhead lines we are more vulnerable than an urban locality, and indeed, I am told that an average of four or five cuts per year might be expected due to action of wind, snow, falling trees, lightning, etc. I suppose we must live with this as a penalty for the pleasures of rural life!

However, it is admitted by the Board that some electrical equipment is obsolete, and I believe it would be helpful if we put pressure on Eastern Electricity to speed up their modernisation and improvement programme. Perhaps residents of Reach would help by writing in a constructive fashion to Eastern Electricity, Milton Hall, Milton, Cambridge. Having implied criticism of the Board, I must pay tribute to their massive effort following the crisis of January 11th/12th when, I understand, they brought in masses of human and technical help from as far away as Lincolnshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Birmingham. East Anglia took a pounding, but we eventually survived, thank God.

Geoffrey Woollard,
County Councillor.

OUT OF REACH - Further copies are available from the Post Office - 5p each. Send them to your friends - let other people read the news Out of Reach!

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Sugar beet was harvested with a two horse sugar beet lifter but topping and stacking were again manual tasks. The factory at Ely which still serves this area was set up in the early 1920s.

Harvest time brought whole families onto the land. Boys were frequently employed to lead the horses during loading and stacking operations. The women would take food out to their menfolk in the field or provide them with 'dockey bags' and, if they were working late, take out 'fourses'. Women also helped with the lighter harvest tasks such as tying of sheaves and stooking; they must have worked with boundless energy in those days - I wonder whether any of their household tasks were ever undertaken by the men!

'Gleaning' was a traditional harvest time economy. Once the stocks had been cleared from a field and no sheaf remained, villagers were allowed to go over the field and collect the fallen grain. This could amount to a substantial saving in the purchase of flour or chicken and pig food. Of course, there was the occasional mean farmer who left a sheaf on the field and so prohibited gleaning but I doubt very much that to do so would have been in his own best interests in the long run!

There were some other tasks during the year which involved the women such as singling and hoeing.

The nearest veterinary surgeon, until the middle 1930s, was at Swaffham Prior - a Mr. Auldhouse. Since his retirement vets from Soham and Cambridge have been called upon by Reach farmers.

Livestock kept on the farms was mainly the working horses, pigs, cows and chickens. All these would have been bred, either for replacement or for sale. Each farm provided a certain number of families with milk. Eggs, bullocks, young pigs and fattened cocks were sold outside the village, usually in the nearby markets. There were in addition some turkeys and geese kept, either by the farmers or by the villagers in their own gardens.

Working families invariably kept their own vegetable gardens, chickens and a pig.

Mechanisation spread through the area during the 1930s. The first local farmer to own a tractor was Mr. G. Webb, the largest landowner here. Over the years the tractor supplanted the horse and, as a consequence of the change in farming methods, the requirement for farm hands fell off. By the end of the second World War the tractor was part of the Fenland scene and many of the men were looking elsewhere for employment.

JACK HURRELL
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TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Since the last report the team have continued to do very well in the Ely and District League. We beat Soham VI 7-3 just before Christmas, mainly due to Peter Bridgeman and James Robinson gaining maximum points from their singles matches. (Pity I made a mistake and forgot to turn up!)

This was followed up by an away victory against Mepal II (J. Robinson 3 wins). We have now played 5 games without defeat since October 31st.

ELY LEAGUE

Division 3

	Pl	W	L	D	For	Ag	Points
Lakenheath USAF	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Mepal I	9	5	2	2	48	42	12
REACH	8	4	2	2	45	35	10
Soham Baptists	8	3	2	3	42	38	8
Mepal II	8	3	1	4	40	40	7
Centre E	7	3	0	4	30	40	6
Soham VI	6	2	1	3	31	29	5
Beck Row	6	1	2	3	26	34	4
Cottenham II	5	1	0	4	13	37	2

Colin Fletcher.

RECIPE - Walnut Toffee

4 oz. butter 1 lb. sugar (demerara)
3 oz. chopped walnuts $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. golden syrup

Boil butter, sugar and syrup together for 15 mins.
Add walnuts.

As soon as toffee will set (test by dropping a teaspoonful into cold water) pour into a greased tin and leave to cool.

Joyce Harrison.

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