

43  
Dec 1982

# Out of Reach



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OUT OF REACH  
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No 73

December 1982

EDITORIAL

Thank you all for coming along to our Bonfire Night celebrations and helping to make it such a success. It is all too rare that the whole village can come together in such a way, and encouraged by your response we will organize some similar future events. Thanks go to the men who lit the fireworks, the ladies who cooked the food and the lads who built the bonfire. The newly formed Reach Village Society is hoping to arrange carol singing on the Green and a Christmas party for the children. At the time of writing this has still to be fixed so details will be announced later, (probably on posters around the village as they will be too late for the magazine). Some December dates for your diary are a Jumble Sale at the Village Centre on December 4th (in aid of the over 60's dinner), and a Disco at Reach Village Centre on December 11th at 8.00 p.m. Also please don't forget to come to the Whist Drive and Christmas Draw at the Village Centre on December 13th at 7.30 p.m. and to Christmas Carols in Church on December 19th at 3.30 p.m. There will be refreshments afterwards.

This year for the first time every pensioner in the village is entitled to a £5.00 voucher for groceries. Please ask Mrs Tierney for yours and many thanks to the Trustees of Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities for this most kind gesture.

I would like to extend grateful thanks to the ladies who made such lovely things for the Craft Stall. I think they deserve a personal mention so thanks to Liz Piggott, Freda Lloyd, Lyn Aves, Jan Clarke, Dafila Clutton-Brock, Miriam Dolphin, Pat Harrison, Sue Summers, Sue Jordan, Judith Neeves and Jenny Reed!

I find it most heartening when young people take an interest in the magazine, and this month two village teenagers have made contributions. You will find two seasonal games and a poem from Sandra Harrison, and David Blocksage has submitted a new cover design for the magazine. This will appear in due course. Thank you to both.

The Poppy Appeal door-to-door collection in the village this year raised £31.17. Albert Owen who lived at 40 Swaffham Road died last month, and sympathy is extended to Kate Langley, a relative with whom he lived. He was a familiar figure walking his dog round the village.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

KAY POTE

STOP PRESS ..... STOP PRESS ..... STOP PRESS ..... STOP PRESS .....

At a meeting of the newly-formed Reach Village Society, some future dates were arranged which I can now give to you:-

On the morning of Sunday December 5th, the Village Centre will be decorated for Christmas. As many willing hands as possible would be appreciated! The next meeting of Reach Village Society will be on Thursday 16th December at 8.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome - it is your Society. On Saturday 18th December, there will be carol singing on the Green, with drinks and mince pies afterwards in the Village Centre. We are hoping to have a band to play the carols, and are getting a Christmas tree with lights. As our very limited funds are going on the tree and lights, we would be most grateful if people could bring along a few mince pies to the Centre in the afternoon. The time of the carol singing has yet to be arranged. On Tuesday 21st December there will be a party for the Village children (up to the age of 11 years) from 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. approximately. I hope that you will all come along to these events and have a good time!

K.P.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

#### GROCERIES FOR PENSIONERS

The Trustees of Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities have made arrangements with Mrs Tierney at the Post Office Stores to accept a voucher in exchange for groceries in time for Christmas 1982. The vouchers are available from the Clerk to the Trustees, Mr Eric Day. Each pensioner qualifies and the vouchers are worth £5.00.

Mrs Tierney will make a list of names and addresses of those interested to avoid travelling to Swaffham Prior.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

#### REACH PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 1982, the Council was given permission to erect an extra set of swings on the green. These are to include swings for small children and babies. No other matters of general interest were raised. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Centre.

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## FROM THE VICAR

The experience of having a heart transplant must be very strange indeed. It isn't too difficult to imagine what it must be like to feel a new source of energy pulsing through one's being in place of the old, ever-mounting exhaustion after the slightest exertion. What is harder to imagine is the feeling, the knowledge, that the new energy is flowing from a heart originally belonging to another human being; and that not a fairly elderly person who died a little prematurely, but someone whose life was terminated in the full flood of youth. So to the sense of marvellous new vigour in oneself is added the strange awareness of its being a pure gift.

This becomes all the stranger when one remembers that a prophet of the fifth century B.C., Ezekiel, who spent part of his life deported into exile in Babylonia, and had to watch his fellow countrymen being slowly eaten up with despondency, had a vision of God himself putting a new heart and a new spirit into them, in place of the heart that was turning to stone, to enable them to live their lives once more in the vigour of hope and obedience.

Strangest of all, there came a time, 500 years later, when the vision became a reality. A new people began to appear, spilling out from Jerusalem, conscious of possessing just this new heart and new spirit, experiencing both, moreover, as a pure gift. The resulting sense of exhilaration is something you can feel vibrating throughout the New Testament. It was as if life had begun all over again, with a new power and a new meaning: the old order had passed away, like a long rainy spell, like the exile in Babylon, like the pre-transplant life of hopeless weariness: everything felt new.

And at the root of this sense of power was the awareness that the new life flowing into them was the fruit not of a physical accident but a deliberate moral sacrifice, on the part of a new kind of being, so far unknown in the world. Jesus, a peasant of Nazareth, had seen his life's work in terms of a call to live out a fully human life in total obedience to the God of his people, and to do this on their behalf, so that they might be empowered to do the same, in his wake, as it were.

His obedience, however, was so complete, so literal, so absolute, it cost him his life, as he darkly hinted it would. Yet he remained undefeated. Beyond all hope, he was found to be alive again; and not simply alive, but offering them, through his spirit, the life he had set free in his death. This is the meaning of Christmas, a new spring of indestructible inexhaustible life mysteriously flowing into us as a pure gift, through the sacrifice of another, making us fully human again.

Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth.

May I wish you a very happy one.

J.K.B.

Worship in December: St Mary's and Reach

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)  
9.30 a.m. Matins and Eucharist (St Mary's)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Mary's)  
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Mary's)  
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)  
3.30 p.m. Carol Service followed by tea and mince pies  
(Reach)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

7.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass (St Mary's)

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)  
10.00 a.m. Children's Eucharist (St Mary's)  
4.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Mary's)  
11.00 a.m. Children's Eucharist (Reach)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

7.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

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## Communication

Almost all of the three or four days each week which I spend on county business are devoted to Education matters, and it is all too easy even for a Councillor to lose touch with the work of some of the Committees and Departments. Take for example Transportation. Although it does an enormous comprehensive job, my only dealings with it usually concern minor road and footpath maintenance. If you judge its work from the local press and radio you would be forgiven for thinking that its only aim in life was to double-track the remaining single-track sections of East Road, Cambridge, and install some unnecessary traffic lights.

My reporting on Education has to be selective and mainly local. To give but one example. The papers for one of the sub-committees last month, and I serve on five of them, ran to 45 pages doublesided. They dealt with 25 different subjects, some of enormous importance, both to schools and colleges. However, one of the items dealt with on one sheet of paper covered the very subject of these notes - communication. The Education Committee wishes to improve its communication with parents and governors.

John Brooks  
County Councillor

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Christmas, like many of our festivals, was originally a pagan traditional time for celebrating the return of the sun after the winter solstice. It was transformed by the Church into a religious festival to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

The most popular tradition is of course that of supernatural or make-believe beings who are supposed to visit homes on Christmas Eve. We call him Father Christmas or Santa Claus, and in this country he travels with sleigh and reindeers, and enters the house via the chimney. He brings gifts and often children leave food and drink to sustain him and his reindeer. In other countries he has other names such as St Nicholas. For a couple of weeks before Christmas, children and sometimes grown-ups too, go around carol singing. In olden times they were known as waits. For example, you will recall the song "Here we come a-wassailing". One Christmas custom which has almost disappeared is that of Mumming Plays. A group of lads in a village would dress up in weird disguises, such as long streamers hiding their faces and very high head-dresses. They would then go from house to house acting the Mumming Play. These Mumming Plays dated from the Middle Ages and were very amusing. They always included a fight in which one character, usually St George, would be killed and then brought back to life again by the Doctor. This ancient play really represents the growth of the corn in the ground.

As for the evergreens with which we decorate our homes at Christmas, these also date from about the same period. Long before holly became a traditional Christmas symbol, it was believed to bring good luck and to protect people from witchcraft. But mistletoe by contrast was thought to be an unholy plant because it was used by the Druids in their pagan ceremonies. Not nearly so old as the evergreens and the Yule Log, is the Christmas Tree, which came to Britain from Europe in the Nineteenth Century. The Christmas cake dates from Medieval times, although it only began to be decorated in Victorian times. The Crib came to us from the Catholic countries of Europe.

Boxing Day derives its name from the custom of giving Christmas boxes. They were originally given to apprentices, journeymen, sailors, soldiers and servants by their employers at Christmas time.

Moving onto the period following Christmas, a more common custom, of which we all know is the First Footing on New Year's

# CHRISTMAS IN A VILLAGE

John Clare

---

Each house is swept the day before,  
And windows stuck with evergreens;  
The snow is besomed from the door,  
And comfort crowns the cottage scenes.  
Gilt holly with its thorny pricks  
And yew and box with berries small,  
These deck the unused candlesticks,  
And pictures hanging by the wall.

Neighbours resume their annual cheer,  
Wishing with smiles and spirits high  
Glad Christmas and a happy year  
To every morning passer-by.  
Milkmaids their Christmas journeys go  
Accompanied with favoured swain,  
And children pace the crumping snow  
To taste their granny's cake again.

The shepherd now no more afraid  
Since custom doth the chance bestow  
Starts up to kiss the giggling maid  
Beneath the branch of mistletoe.  
That 'neath each cottage beam is seen  
With pearl-like berries shining gay,  
The shadow still of what hath been  
Which fashion yearly fades away.

And singers too a merry throng,  
At early morn with simple skill  
Yet imitate the angel's song  
And chant their Christmas ditty still;  
And 'mid the storm that dies and swells  
By fits - in hummings softly steals  
The music of the village bells  
Ringing round their merry peals.

And when its past a merry crew  
Bedecked in masks and ribbons gay,  
The morris dance their sports renew  
And act their winter evening play.  
The clown turned King for penny praise  
Storms with the actor's strut and swell,  
And harlequin a laugh to raise  
Wears his hunchback and tinkling bell.

And oft for pence and spicy ale  
With winter nosegays pinned before,  
The wassail singer tells her tale  
And draws her Christmas carols o'er,  
While prentice boy with ruddy face  
And rime-bepowdered dancing locks  
From door to door with happy pace  
Runs round to claim his Christmas box.

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Some Christmas Customs (continued)

Day. Once everyone believed that the first person to enter a house on that day brought good or bad luck, depending on whether he were friend or foe! For good luck, he was supposed to be a dark man, and he always carried some coal, some bread and a little money to ensure for warmth, food and money all the next year. In Scotland and Northern England this custom is still kept up. The first footer visits the houses as soon as midnight strikes on 31st December. Everyone waits for his arrival, and no one else is admitted until he arrives. Then his health and that of the family are drunk and he goes off to the next house.

Another tradition, which I believe does still in fact take place in Burwell, is the Plough Monday one. Years ago labourers had a twelve day holiday at Christmas and on Plough Monday, the Monday after Twelfth Night, work began again. Before it started the ploughs were blessed, then they were decorated with flowers and ribbons, and taken to church. When they had been blessed the ploughmen dragged them all round the village, singing and dancing. Sometimes they acted an old play called the Plough Monday Play and dancing the old Sword Dance. Although the plays and dances are not now often performed, the Ploughs are still blessed in many places, so that the ploughing season may start with Gods blessing. Some of the customs I have mentioned occur in the following poem I have selected. It is by the East Anglian poet John Clare, who came from a poor peasant family and was himself a farm labourer. It seems to sum up the spirit of Christmas.

Kay Pote

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Steve Bradley has been motor racing intermittently for eight years. In 1973 he started with a Merlyn Formula Ford Car, having borrowed money from the bank (they thought the money was to be used for a road car!) and lived in a caravan to afford the cost of racing. After a very successful first season, which included two wins, he was offered - and accepted - a partnership in a race hire and racing school organization. Steve spent the next three seasons teaching others how to race, testing cars, but doing very little racing himself.

In 1977 he gave up his interests in the race hire company to work for his father-in-law's quarrying and haulage business. He is still the office and finance manager of the five companies which are administered from the head office.

Steve did not seriously return to racing until 1981, when he purchased a Van Diemen RF73 to contest the B.R.S.C.C. Pre-74 Formula Ford Championship. The end of a very enjoyable season saw him placed 4th in the championship.

For 1982 Steve was determined to capitalise on the experiences of the previous season. Of the ten championship races contested he won seven, finishing second in the remaining three, and set five new lap records on his way to winning the championship.

The car has been faultless all season, due to the excellent work of Steve's father at Swaffham Prior, where the car is kept, and the team of helpers who assist in preparing the car, transport it and provide the necessary back-up at the race meetings.

In 1983 Steve plans to enter the ultra-competitive and highly prestigious world of Formula 3 racing by contesting the Marlboro British Formula 3 Championship. He is confident that any advertisers will get a very fast run for their money!

If anyone is interested in getting involved please contact Steve Bradley's father, who is none other than our village postman for those of you who do not already know him.

We all wish Steve luck in his 1983 campaign.

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# CHRISTMAS WORD PUZZLE

Can you find 51 Seasonal words and phrases?  
Turn to last page for answers

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C H A P P Y C H R I S T M A S V I F D C H U R C H A Y R
H A D E I W H I T E N A E M I T S A M T S I R H C F D C
R R A L H S N U T S I T A N I B I I E A D S D L A A A H
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Y G N I D D U P S A M T S I R H C C S E I P E C N I M K

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## STAINED HUNDRED

The next meeting of the Stained Hundred - the local history society - will be on Wednesday, 8th December. This will take the form of a visit to the Cambridgeshire Collection at the Central Library in Cambridge. Members, and others, who would like to go on this visit should meet no later than 7.30 p.m. at the main entrance to the City Library in Lion Yard, as it will not be possible to admit people to the Library after this time. It is expected that members will make their own arrangements about transport, but in an emergency they should get in touch with Mr Dan McMahon, 19 Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham (Phone: Cambridge 811224), by Monday, 6th December at the latest.

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Bottisham Players are putting on a real live pantomime in January, ALADDIN. It should be great fun. As usual new members would be very welcome. There are still crowd and small parts to be filled, and help needed back stage. There must be a lot of people who would like to try their luck 'on the boards' or would be willing to help paint or make scenery, or help with props., costumes or just selling tickets. All would be welcome. If you are interested please contact Jack Roberts 811526 or Mrs Phyl Shaw, 811837.

Another thing that would help us, if anyone is 'turning out' and they have uniforms, period or evening dresses, or material that could be adapted for costumes. Velvet or shiny material looks best on the stage but anything might do. Trimmings, braid, ribbon, lace, old jewelry, fancy slippers - we would be grateful for any of these - contact Mrs Doris Walker 811039.

Bottisham Players have put on many good plays in the past, King Lear, Arsenic and Old Lace, The Heiress, R V R, The Crucible, Present Laughter, Bonaventure, and the amusing musical Once Upon a Mattress to name a few.

In these days of so much passive entertainment there is something special in taking part in 'live' theatre. Come and try it - you might have hidden talent. There is something going for all, from school-leavers (or even earlier) to grandparents and who knows where it might lead?

ALADDIN will be performed at the Village College at 7.30 p.m. on January 13th and 14th and at 2.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. on January 15th. Tickets £1.00 for adults, 50p for children and O A P's obtainable from Shaws Newsagent, High Street, Bottisham. DO COME.

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FILL IN THE GAP

Songs

- a) Auld Lang \_ \_ \_ \_
- b) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ bells
- c) We three \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- d) I saw \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ kissing \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Claus
- e) Winter \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- f) Silent \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Food

- a) What you eat with cheese \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- b) These are fattening \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- c) A type of meat (bird) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- d) What sauce you eat with it \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- e) It has money in and you can set light to it  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- f) A Christmas drink \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- g) A drink which sounds Christmassy \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Games

- Postmans \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Snakes and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Hide and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Blind Mans \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Oranges and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Michael Aspel's TV Programme (Give us a Clue) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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[illegible]

Daylight now is nearly past,  
In they go to tea at last,  
Hoping that Jack Frost will stay  
For another happy day.

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PALMERS OF BURWELL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

G E Palmer and Son Limited

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If it's Farm Electrics - it must be Fullers!

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THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Margaret Evan's delicious Chocolate Fudge Recipe

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1/2 lb Digestive biscuits | 1 tablespoon Sugar              |
| 1/4 lb Marg               | 1 tablespoon Drinking Chocolate |
| 1 tablespoon Syrup        | 1 bar of Cooking Chocolate      |

Melt marg, sugar and syrup and drinking chocolate in a saucepan.  
Add crushed biscuits. Spread in tin. When cool, cover with  
melted chocolate and cut into fingers.

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Answers to the Christmas Word Puzzle

|                                 |                    |                   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| CHURCH                          | CHRISTMAS CAKE     | CAROLS            |
| HAPPY CHRISTMAS                 | CHRISTMAS PUDDING  | FAIRY LIGHTS      |
| HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING     | BRANDY             | NUTS              |
| THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS    | BETHLEHEM          | TOYS              |
| RUDOLF THE RED NOSED REINDEER   | STAR               | FRUIT             |
| WE THREE KINGS                  | MINCE PIES         | PRESENTS          |
| ROBIN                           | CHRISTMAS TREES    | MISTLETOE         |
| I SAW MOMMY KISSING SANTA CLAUS | LITTLE DRUMMER BOY | CARD              |
| GOOD KING WENCESLAS             | SWEETS             | SNOWDRIFT         |
| SNOW                            | SHERRY             | CHRISTMAS TIME    |
| WHITE CHRISTMAS                 | CHRISTMAS EVE      | CHRISTMAS MORNING |
| TINSEL                          | HOLY               | GIFT PAPER        |
| JINGLE BELLS                    | BOXING DAY         | CRIB              |
| FATHER CHRISTMAS                | FAIRY              | COLD              |
| JESUS                           | SNOW FLAKES        | ICE               |
| STABLE                          | SNOWMAN            | JOY               |
| TURKEY                          | ANGELS             | WHITE             |