



## **Editorial**

Most people looking for a holiday retreat generally specify that the location must be unspoilt. Travelling around Europe it is a delight to see Italian towns looking the way that they have done for centuries. The skyline of Florence is not marred by hideous modern glass and concrete blocks reaching up into the sky. French market towns whose 13th century origins are preserved to offer delight in the surroundings - without being defaced by intrusive cameras, painted lines on the roads and a surfeit of warning signs. Even in this country there are still villages like Chilham, near Canterbury that is almost as it was centuries ago. The planners in towns like Rochester have ensured that the streets are lined with small businesses, privately owned, individual in their appeal and a joy to visit. These places enrich our lives.

Yet there are those who want to carpet the countryside with hideous commercial "sheds" and un-necessary dreary housing estates, claiming that if towns and villages don't allow development they will die. Why? Over the past thirty years Ramsey has 'developed' with industrial estates and hundreds of houses - yet during those years the number of retail outlets in the town has dwindled to the present low point.

Upwood and The Raveleys are no different than anywhere else in this country - we are faced with planning applications that are out of character with the environment and a threat to the very nature of the villages. We must resist.

## **This is serious.....**

**There have been several reports recently of a young man exposing himself in the vicinity of the Childrens' Play area at the top of Bentley Close. This incident occurred when he appeared in a back garden in clear view of the occupants. The police were called immediately although the perpetrator had moved on. The play area, the adjacent spinney and the footpath through to the High Street are all used by children of all ages. Everyone should be vigilant and report any further incidents. Thanks go to several residents for bringing this to our attention.**

## **Flyers**

No - not bugs or aeroplanes - the advertising inserts that may be included in your newsletter from time to time. They are advertising. Their inclusion in the newsletter is not to be taken as an endorsement of the service.

# UPWOOD QUILTING GROUP

*Dates for 2008*

*The current programme is:-*

<i>25<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Suffolk puffs</i>
<i>29<sup>th</sup> April</i>	<i>Bag</i>
<i>27<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Trip to Lucy Boston's</i>
<i>24<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>House Block (2<sup>nd</sup> half of fees due)</i>
<i>28<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Saturday - Village Fete</i>
<i>29<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Quilt Block</i>
<i>26<sup>th</sup> August</i>	<i>How are you going to use your House Block?</i>
<i>30<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>Angel or doll</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Sunday – Patchwork Quilting and Needlework Show – Village Hall – cream tea afternoon</i>
<i>28<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>UFO</i>
<i>18<sup>th</sup> November</i>	<i>finish off any work before the Christmas Fair.</i>
<i>22<sup>nd</sup> November</i>	<i>Saturday – Craft Fair in Village Hall 10-4</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch at the Cross Keys</i>

We meet on the last Tuesday in the month at Upwood Village Hall 7-9 pm.

Membership costs just £33.00 per year. So if you like sewing and would like to join us you will be most welcome. You will need to bring your sewing kit and machine with you to the meetings. If you would like to come along as a visitor (cost £4.00) to one of our meetings you would be most welcome.

If you are interested in joining or would like more details please contact Deana Hudson on 01487 711221, Margaret Jones on 01487 814031 or Janet Philipp on 01487 711462.

## **LADIES GET TOGETHER (HOME TO HOME)**

LGT is a long established village "club" which meets once a month, usually in the Village Hall on the last Monday. Events vary from fashion shows, speakers and film shows to demonstrations. The AGM is held in July, followed by a buffet supper. Membership costs £8 per year, visitors to events pay £1 to include light refreshments. New members are very welcome as are visitors.

On 28th April Caroline Murray will bring her dogs Max and Dexter to talk about working with "sniffer-dogs" and on 19th May there will be a talk, demonstration, and plant sale, entitled "Spring Planting" by Jim Day, 8pm in the Village Hall.



## OPEN DAY AT UPWOOD MEADOWS

The Wildlife Trust Huntingdon Area Group are holding an Open Day at Upwood Meadows on Sunday 18 May as part of their Magic Meadows Summer Season.

The car park on Meadow Lane will be extended and Wildlife Trust volunteers will be on hand from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. to explain about the history, management and rarity of this National Nature Reserve.

**Guided Walks** will begin at 11.30 a.m., 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to visit Little Bentley and Great Bentley Meadows to see the stunning displays of cowslips, with appearances by green-winged orchids and adders-tongue fern amongst many others. See the ridge and furrows formed by oxen-drawn ploughs in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the old ant hills of the yellow meadow ant, showing the land has not been disturbed for many years.

**Upwood resident, Terry Wells**, warden of Upwood Meadows and a noted naturalist, will be able to answer questions on the meadows and their fauna and flora.

There will also be opportunities to visit the nearby **Lady's Wood**, a fine example of the now too rare woodland in Cambridgeshire. Managed by the Wildlife Trust since its purchase in 1971, Terry Wells was its first warden.

**Entry** to the reserve is **Free** at all times but a donation of £2.00 for adults (free for children) is requested for the guided walks. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits will also be provided free of charge. For further information, please contact Pat Doody on 01480 392706 or email [jp.doody@ntlworld.com](mailto:jp.doody@ntlworld.com)

**Web site** "<http://www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk>"

### Meet & Munch

Are you an Upwood & Raveley resident, aged 55 and over? Why not come along for tea and chat with our friendly group on the following dates at 3.00pm in Upwood Village Hall.

Please contact Mags Dudley 812424 or Jean Place 813742 for further information.

5th April 2008, 3rd May 2008, 7th June 2008, 5th July 2008,

2nd August 2008, 6th September 2008