



## **Editorial**

They do say that everything that goes around comes around - and that is certainly true of the production of the village newsletter. While I was upside down for five weeks (in Australia) I was grateful to Deana Hudson for stepping into the breach and producing a newsletter. The experience cannot have been too traumatic - because she volunteered to be deputy editor and help with the production. Thank you Deana. Now I am back after a break of almost a year. There is a Law, Murphy's, Parkinson's or Sod's, that says that work always fills up the time available and this is so true. Because "The Boss" thought that we should get out more I decided to give up all thoughts of growing veggies on the allotment. Then I finished my book. Then I resigned as Chairman of the Horticultural Society. Do I have more free time? One of the more time consuming parts of the editor's work is getting material in from all the contributors before the deadline. But I am sure that will change. I am, I must admit, encouraged by the plaudits that I receive. I am also sometimes rather smug when I see other parish's newsletters - because - thanks to all the contributions that I receive from the various groups - this is still one of the most interesting and informative newsletters around. Keep it up. And thank you.

## **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 offered. Thought I should say that.

### **UPWOOD QUILTERS**

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)**

The Christmas meeting was held on December 17th in the Village Hall and members enjoyed a dinner provided by the committee. Thanks to them for all the hard work involved, it was a lovely evening.

On February 25th 2008. there will be a talk entitled 'Holistic Therapy' with Yasmin May in Upwood Village Hall. The event starts at 8pm. There is a £1 charge for entry and light refreshments for non members and visitors.

Time, and venue, is the same for the March meeting on the 31st. This is a "Weekenders" fashion evening showing the summer collection. Again, visitors are very welcome to come along and enjoy the demonstration.

Ladies Get Together meets once a month, usually on the last Monday. Membership is £8 per annum. Activities and speakers are very varied, there is a summer outing and a Christmas Evening. New members are always very welcome. Not sure? Come as a visitor to one of the evenings and meet the members.

Frances Ashfield

### **Upwood & Community Extended Care and Education Project**

The Governors of Upwood Community Primary School, with Upwood & The Raveleys Pre-School Playgroup and Upwood's Out After School Child Care Club are working on a project that will vastly improve the facilities available to our community.

They are planning a purpose built, eco-friendly building at Upwood School and are looking for support at the planning, funding and development stages.

If you would like to join this exciting project contact either Liz Edwards, Angie Dean of the Playgroup or Sharon Whitelaw, Head of Upwood School. Her telephone number is 813510.

## **CAROL SINGING - 11TH DECEMBER**

It was a perfect winter's evening for this year's carol singing round Upwood village. We sang and collected our way round the village, with the Cross Keys being the last port of call. Then it was across the road to the Harveys for welcome refreshments. Thank you to everyone who sang and collected and everyone who made donations. Thanks also to the Cross Keys quizzers who raised £120 A magnificent Grand Total of £475 was raised for men's cancer treatments in Cambridgeshire. Val Gingell

## **Ramsey & District Horticultural Society**

At the Society's meeting in Ramsey's George Hotel on Monday 21st January, George Aldridge of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners spoke about the origins of the City of London Livery Companies, their progress through the centuries, their aims and objectives and the part they play in modern times. He spoke for more than an hour, without notes, and members agreed afterwards that he was an excellent speaker who taught them a lot about these ancient guilds.

Chairman Ian Gaunt made a presentation to David Paine to mark his fourteen years as Chairman of the Society since its reformation in 1992.

Ian also sought comments about amendments for the annual show as some classes are poorly supported and could be replaced with a more popular theme. Fran Jackson also spoke about a proposed garden project at Abbot's Ripton later in the year.

After the usual raffle everyone went home.

The March meeting will focus on the secrets of fruit and vegetable growing. For more information call Ian Gaunt on 710702

## **Parish Council matters**

It is encouraging to find more residents coming to Parish Council meetings to listen to the deliberations. In the past few months there have been discussions about appointing a contractor to handle all the grass cutting in the parish. As with almost everything these days, costs are rising substantially over previous years. The cemetery hedge in Meadow Road was getting rather overgrown, so a contractor was called in to reduce the height and width of the hedge before the birds started nesting. The next tidying up project is on the young trees that are on the boundary abutting Ailwyne Road properties. This will be cut back from the garages and reduced in height. Apart from this there were the usual planning applications to be considered as well as other matters that had been raised.

The council meets in the Village Hall on the first Monday of each month, unless that is a bank holiday, in which case the meeting is a week later. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm

## **UPWOOD ART GROUP**

UAG enjoyed a good year in 2007. The Open Art Exhibition, held in partnership with the Ramsey Rural Museum, had fewer visitors, and consequently sales, than the year before, but the weather was appalling. It was a pity as the works on display were better than ever. Our thanks to all the artists who entered. In fact it wasn't the summer for painting outdoors too often. We did manage a few visits to sites of interest. Let's hope for better next year.

A number of members visited the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. This has become an annual event and is not to be missed, there is something for every taste.

In October the group held an Open Day in the Village Hall. The new picture rails meant members could hang their works in both halls. Visitors were able to view the pictures and chat to the artists as they worked. It was a lovely experience and to the group's surprise 6 pictures were sold. The idea was to promote the group, so that was a bonus!!

A professional model sat for 2 mornings in November and hopefully will sit for us again in Feb/March.

Thanks to Jane and Kevin, Christmas Lunch at the Cross Keys on the 15th December was a great success.

Classes start again in the Village Hall after the pantomime. So if you'd like to try your hand at painting or drawing, come along and meet the group on Saturday 9th February at 10 am.

All the necessary materials are available for visitors to "try-out" at no extra cost. Members pay £2 per 2-hour session. Light refreshments are provided. It's fun, friendly and very relaxing and absolutely no previous experience is needed. Se you there?

Frances Ashfield - Tel: 01487 711411

## **COMPOST**

As a long term member of the Soil Association and believer in recycling we've always composted garden and kitchen waste. This year our three compost heaps and one bin were filled to overflowing but not rotting down as quickly as usual. The weather I guess. As I don't dig, but mulch each Spring with two or three inches of compost, I knew that we would have a shortage and decided to get some from the Council's recycling centre as there is a special offer in the local paper. At £1 a bag it seems very reasonable. I called the centre and was assured that the bags aren't huge and if 50 or more were ordered there would be no delivery charge. The chap was persuasive and assured me that the quality was good. Our garden is fairly large so.....

If anyone needs some compost for the Spring please feel free to contact me and have one or two of the large bags blocking my garden path. They are big!

Call me - please - on 01487 711411 - Frances Ashfield.

## **Upwood & The Raveleys History Group**

Twenty three members enjoyed the Christmas Dinner held at the Cross Keys in Upwood on 23rd January.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 19th March at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall. After the AGM Francis Ashfield will give a talk on the History of Pottery.

## **Upwood Youth Club**

Twenty four members of the Upwood Youth Club enjoyed a brilliant night out Ten Pin Bowling on 18<sup>th</sup> January. A big thank you to Ed Lee in particular, other committee members and parent helpers for organising the event and making it such a success.

The Youth Club will resume regular meetings in the Village Hall from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February. We are still looking for volunteers to join the committee and/or help out on a rota basis at Youth Club.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we are holding a special fund raising event known as the 'NOT SO YOUTH CLUB' evening. This will be a fun packed evening to give the grown-ups an opportunity to re-visit their youth and take advantage of all the youth club facilities -- Table Tennis, Snooker, Dance Mats, Karaoke etc. There will be a buffet, bar and music. Tickets are £10 each and are available from the Cross Keys.

For more information on any of the above please contact Dee Smith, 01487 711735 or Judith Marshall on 01487 812471.

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A woman requested in her will that she be cremated and her ashes sprinkled on the floor of Somerfields. Her solicitor asked her why such an unusual request. She replied that it would mean that her daughter visited her at least once a week!

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## **PARISH COUNCILLORS - Names and Telephone numbers**

Colin Racey.....812380	David Paine.....814350	Terry Bell.....813799
Andrew Perkins..812826	Keith Sisman.....710552	Nigel Gowler....
James Rignall.....813371	Jo Paxton.....812138	Fiona Hopkins..710045
Terry Bell.....813799	David McCreadie..812831	

## **Table Tennis Club**

The Upwood Table Tennis club are up and running every Tuesday night from 8-10pm and would welcome any new members whatever their standard. We can guarantee a fun evening where ability takes second place to enjoyment of the game.

There is a really nice bunch of players who ensure a good time is had by all. Looking forward to seeing you soon. Phone 812923 for more details

## **Upwood & The Raveleys Village Fete**

The fete this year will be in the "Cross Keys" paddock between 1 and 5 pm on Saturday 28th June. The Fete Committee are hard at work planning this year's event and there promises to be even more stalls, exhibits and games than ever before. Make a note of it in your diary so that you don't miss it.

If you would like to have a stall, or game or take part in any way please get in touch. Maybe you know someone who has a hobby or a craft such as spinning or wood turning and think that they may be interested? Stall are now available. We are always looking for new demonstrators and craft workers, as well as helpers on the day.

Don't forget to note the date and if you would like more information please contact Frances Ashfield on 711411

## ***UPWOOD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION***

*20 members of the Business Association had an excellent Annual Christmas lunch on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the Cross Keys prepared by Jane and Kevin and their team. A BIG THANK YOU TO THEM.*

*Want to join? Simple, the only criteria is that you run a business from your home.*

*The date for this year's Christmas Lunch is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008. So put a note in your diary.*

*If you would like further information please contact Deana Hudson on 01487 711221.*

**Who is who in the Villages****Contact****Telephone**

Parish Council inc. Allotments	Jane Haggar	711129
District Councillor	Terry Bell	813799
County Councillor	Victor Lucas	822812
Horticultural Society	Ian Gaunt	710702
History Group	John Taylor	813955
55+	Chris Bruce	812327
Cricket Club	Pat Tuffin	812785
St. Peter's Church	Tony Place	813742
Ladies Get Together	Jean Place	813742
Upwood School PTA	Jane Day	710362
Upwood School Playgroup	Angie Dean	830373
Upwood's Out (after school club)	Ester Rowley	814092
Embroidery Group	Jane Slinn	815951
Brownies	Louise Jackson	814844
Toddler's Group	Emuna Smith	812525
Meet and Munch	Mags Dudley	812424
Upwood Youth Club	Denise Smith	711735
Art Group	Frances Ashfield	711411
Cross Keys Golf Society	Malcolm Hudson	711221
Upwood Pantomime Society	Fiona Bennett	719847
Community Bus Co-ordinator	Ivan Youds	814645
Village Hall Hire	Bob Child	815475
Village Fete Committee	Frances Ashfield	711411
Upwood Business Association	Deana Hudson	711221
Sunday Club	Ann-Marie Cracknell	812195
Table Tennis Club	David Williams	812923
Ramsey Bridge Club	B & A Quinton	813349
Ramsey Choral Society	June Green	813562
Upwood Quilters	Deana Hudson	711221
Upwood Road Safety Group	Graham Hillman	711407
Upwood and the Raveleys Community Archive	Margaret Jones	814031

**Note:** Deadline for the April issue is the 21 March. The Editor is very diligent but regrets that he cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions.

**Editor:** David Paine 17 Meadow Road, Upwood Tel: 814350  
e-mail: david.paine176@btinternet.com

**Deputy Editor:** Deana Hudson Tel: 711221