



Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter

February 2014

Issue 70



Characters from this year's panto

'There was an Old Woman who lived in a Shoe'

from l to r: April Glasby (*Corydon*);
Dee Smith (*Dame Dallymore*)
Emily Howard (*Giggles*)
Chris Richter (*Sir Hugo Hepatitis*)
Isobel Hopkins (*Princess Marigold*)

Upwood Pantomime Company celebrated its 20th production this year – 'oh yes it did' – so we decided to spotlight the people who started the ball rolling.

See pages 8 & 9 for a glimpse into the background & future of this popular village phenomenon.

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DIARY OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY/MARCH

Date	Day	Event	Time	Place / Contact
29 Jan – 1 Feb	Wed - Sat	Upwood Panto – 20 th year	7.30pm	Village Hall
3 Feb	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Village Hall
4 Feb	Tue	WEA - East Anglian Churches	10.00am	Village Hall Liz 813008
5 Feb	Wed	New – Daytime Table Tennis	2.30pm	Village Hall David 812923
6 Feb	Thur	Community Led Plan meeting	7.00pm	Village Hall
8 Feb	Sat	Art Group Starts	10.00am	Village Hall Frances 711411
11 Feb	Tue	U3A – Silver Spoons	2.00pm	Ramsey Community Centre Nina 711265
13 Feb	Thur	Uke Club	7.45pm	17 Helens Close Doug 814114
16 Feb	Sun	Community Orchard Planting	10.30am	Village Hall Liz 813008
17 Feb	Mon	Garden Club –The National Hyacinth Collection	7.30pm	Ramsey Community Centre Ian 710702
19 Feb	Wed	Book Lovers' Evening Group	7.30pm	Village Hall Liz 813008
24 Feb	Mon	Home to Home	8.00pm	Village Hall Jackie 711329
25 Feb	Tue	Quilters AGM	1.30pm	Village Hall Margaret 814031
1 Mar	Sat	Meet & Munch	1.00pm	Village Hall Mags 812424
3 Mar	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Village Hall
6 Mar	Thur	WEA - Helms, Hatchments & Hedgehogs	10.00am	Village Hall Liz 813008
8 Mar	Sat	Lent Lunches	12.30pm	Village Hall
11 Mar	Tue	U3A – 'The Manor – Hemingford Grey'	2.00pm	Ramsey Community Centre Nina 711265
15 Mar	Sat	Flag Fen Visit – History Group	10.30am	Meet at Flag Fen, Ian 710702
15 Mar	Sat	Lent Lunches	12.30pm	Village Hall
19 Mar	Wed	The Cecils: Burley House and its Park	7.45pm	Village Hall, Ian 710702
21 Mar	Fri	UPA - Secret World of Dickens	7.45pm	Village Hall, Doug 814114
22 Mar	Sat	Lent Lunches	12.30pm	Village Hall
26 Mar	Wed	Community Allotments – AGM	7.30pm	Village Hall Liz 813008
29 Mar	Sat	Lent Lunches	12.30pm	St Mary's Village Hall
31 Mar	Mon	Home to Home	8.00pm	Village Hall, Jackie 711329
Future Events				
2 Apr	Wed	Book Lovers' Evening Group	7.30pm	Village Hall Liz 813008
5 Apr	Sat	Lent Lunches	12.30pm	Village Hall
12 Apr	Sat	Lent Lunches	12.30pm	St Mary's Village Hall
25 Apr	Fri	UPA - Chris & Kellie While	7.45pm	Village Hall Doug 814114
21 May	Wed	Cambridgeshire in WW1 & 2	7:45pm	Village Hall Ian 710702

Deadline for the April Issue is the 15th Mar 2014

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is always pleased to welcome parishioners to the PC Meetings which are held on the first Monday of the month (except for August) and start at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

PARISH COUNCILLOR: The Chairman was very sorry to report that Councillor Colin Bryce had resigned due to pressure of work. Councillor Bryce was an active member of the Council who worked hard in forming the Allotment Association and establishing good working relations so he will be sadly missed.

VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL: This vacancy will be advertised on the Parish notice boards and the village website. The Council would particularly welcome applications from parishioners living in The Raveleys, Farm Close or Fairmead to broaden representation and coverage of the whole parish.

SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED: So that Upwood can qualify for signs to be erected stating that this is a Speedwatch Area it is necessary for the village to have at least three volunteers prepared to give one and a half hours' time per month. These notices (one can be seen at King's Ripton) have proved very helpful in slowing down traffic to the legal speed. At the moment we have only two volunteers, so we urgently require at least one more. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to volunteer.

CROSS KEYS PUBLIC HOUSE: The two offers referred to in the previous Newsletter have been withdrawn but it is understood that another offer has been made by another publican who is also experienced in the restaurant business. This applicant is awaiting the surveyor's report but the probability of the sale being completed is impossible to assess at this stage. The Council is very keen to support any attempt to re-open "our pub".

TREE WORK IN ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD: The trees in the Churchyard were surveyed last year and a two year programme was agreed to remove old and weakened trees and replant young trees in their place. The Parish Council worked closely with the representatives of St Peter's, the HDC Tree Warden and the tree surgeon Andy Papworth. The trees that have been felled were either dead or considered responsible for the cracks in the masonry above the Church porch. The yew tree beside the path leading to the church door has been cut back and will regenerate over time and allow more of the beauty of St Peter's church to be appreciated from the road. HDC has offered six or seven saplings which will be planted in the churchyard.

PARISH COUNCIL continued

TELEPHONE KIOSK – BOOK EXCHANGE: This has proved very successful and the PC would like to thank the team of villagers who keep it tidy. Please do not leave big boxes of books in the kiosk as this makes accessibility difficult and gives more work to the volunteers.

HEDGES: Several hedges in the village have overgrown the pavements which are already narrow. People with buggies or mobility vehicles need the full width. We respectfully ask owners of hedges to please keep the hedge cut back to the edge of their land. This is usually marked by a concrete strip. Where there is no pavement, hedges must be kept within bounds because of safety for road users.

CARS PARKING ON PAVEMENTS: Car drivers need to be aware that they are liable to be issued with a fixed penalty notice if they park on the pavement. Parking on the pavement is illegal, as the vehicle is causing obstruction to users of the pavement.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD: Please see separate report.

COMMUNITY LED PLAN: The members of the committee continue to work very hard developing the next stage of the plan which will take the form of a questionnaire delivered to every home in the parish. The next meeting of the committee will be on Thursday 6 February at 7pm in the Village Hall.

DOG WALKERS: Remember dog mess can cause serious illness in humans so please do not forget to continue to use a plastic bag and dispose of it in the bins provided around the village. The wet weather and the possibility of snow or icy conditions make it even more essential. It is difficult to understand why some people have such little concern for their fellow villagers and allow their dogs to defecate in the middle of pavements that people need to use daily. If offenders are caught there is the risk of a £1000 fine (see notice at the end of Meadow Road).

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: MONDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY & MONDAY, 3RD MARCH at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

UPWOOD UKE CLUB



The first meeting of Upwood Uke Club will take place on Thursday 13th February at 17 Helens Close starting at 7.45pm. Please bring any instruments, books etc. you may have or just come along to find out more. No experience necessary. Contact Doug on 814114 or pndmcleod@btinternet.com.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The club finished 2013 with a party night on the 17 December. The evening dress theme was green and red with some players unrecognisable in their costumes which included a Father Christmas and several Wood Nymphs! Normal play stopped at 9pm when food and drink was served from a buffet. We are now playing on just one table for the rest of January due to pantomime stage set up, but will resume as normal on Tuesday 4 February.

A new daytime table tennis session will start at the Village Hall on Wednesday 5 February from 2.30-4.30pm. Anyone interested please contact David Williams on 812923 or email "hollyhouse.upwood@tiscali.co.uk"

HIGH STREET HEDGEHOGS

I would like to thank everybody that supported my mince pie and coffee morning, either by attending or sending a donation. The event raised around £150. I currently have 18 hedgehogs at home with a further 11 out with my team of foster carers. These will all be kept in captivity until the spring when they will be released so in the words of the famous supermarket 'every little helps'.

If you would like to help further I am looking for good quality bric-a-brac for the car boots sales that I shall start again as soon as the weather improves. Books, china, unwanted Christmas presents etc. will all be gratefully received. With a small bottle of antibiotics costing over £30, just one of the expenses involved in treating these little creatures, fund raising is a continuous necessity.

Jean Noble

UPWOOD ART GROUP

The Art Show held at the end of November was a huge success. We were delighted to welcome so many visitors. Thanks go to the members of St Peter's Church for running the cake stall. Regular meetings (after the Panto) restart in the Village Hall on Sat 8 February. New members are encouraged to join the group in the New Year. Fees are minimal and there is a new impetus among members with many new ideas and projects abounding. One to one help is always on hand and materials available to try at no cost. Having worked with many groups and classes over many years I can say that this mixed group of art enthusiasts is the most friendly and welcoming I have worked with. We share knowledge and ideas with one another and are keen to try new methods and materials. There is tea/coffee by the gallon (no charge) and for anyone looking for a new project for 2014, UAG could be just the thing. Saturday mornings 10am in the Village Hall. Further info call Frances on 711411

CAROL SINGING

A huge thank you to the “Upwood Carol Singers” who sang their way around the village on 10 December collecting donations for “The Cambridge Cancer Research UK Centre” helping to fund their groundbreaking research into pancreatic, oesophageal, breast, lung, ovarian, blood and prostate cancers; supporting cancer prevention and detection research; and exploring the potential of cutting edge imaging techniques for earlier diagnosis. Our grand total came to £270 and we are pleased to add this to our ongoing support to cancer charities. A special thank you goes to Jean and Tony Place, for welcoming our weary and thirsty team into their home at the end of the evening. Mulled wine, hot mince pies and sausage rolls were a lovely treat for us all.

Further information about the charity can be found at:

<http://myprojects.cancerresearchuk.org/.../cambridge...>

Carol Silverstone

UPWOOD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Two Trees Still Available for Sponsorship: The Group is delighted to advise that 13 of the 15 trees in the orchard have now been sponsored, leaving just two trees available. The trees are provided by the East of England Apple Orchard Project and are all local varieties. We have a selection of 15 apples, pears, plums and gages, eating and cooking varieties. Why do we need sponsorship? Each tree costs us £15.50 but comes with planting post, ties, netting, rabbit wrap and biomat for protection against wildlife and drought. We will also provide a plaque with the tree name and a short message from the sponsor. In addition we will be maintaining the site and planting hedging to attract bees and butterflies. As you can see, we need your sponsorship to make this community project work.

Planting Date Confirmed: As a result of the dreadful weather experienced since Christmas, the planting day for the orchard has been rearranged for Sun 16 February. All sponsors will be receiving a personal invitation to attend but we need as many people as possible to help us actually plant these trees - there will be posts to put in, netting to fix with ties and matting to peg down. We will be meeting at Upwood Village Hall at 10.30am for a brief planning session (refreshments provided) and then moving to the orchard site on Meadow Road for the actual planting. EVERYONE is invited to come along and help - there will be jobs for everyone and, if plenty of people lend a hand, the job will be pleasantly and quickly completed. If you want to sponsor a tree and/or want to be involved with the planting event please get in touch with Liz Carter on 813008 or email liz@backtracks.biz

UPWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Travelling Tuba. We were very pleased to welcome the 'Travelling Tuba' into an assembly last month. The company demonstrated a variety of musical instruments from around the world to the children. The concert was an hour in length and had a festive theme, with the children finding out about unfamiliar instruments used across the globe at Christmas. The children were thoroughly entertained and would all like to thank the PTA for funding the event.

The Great Fen Project. We also welcomed a representative from 'The Great Fen Project,' into our assembly which was entitled 'On Your Doorstep'. The assembly focused on what the children could see and do in their local area. The children found out about the wonderful activities they can do locally and also about the next steps for the 'Great Fen Project.' The team from the Project regularly come to the School to update the children about what is going on in their local area.

Fundraising Day. The children have been fundraising for Operation 'Smile' which is an International Charity providing free surgery to repair cleft lips and palates for children. Pupils and staff came into school wearing something that would make others smile! The bright and colourful outfits were really outstanding and definitely made us all smile and raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

UPWOOD & RAVELEYS COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF AGM – This will be on Wednesday 26 March at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. All allotment holders and anyone interested in the allotments are invited to attend. Refreshments will be available and the draw for the Upwood Community Orchard Project quilt will be made. Many thanks to everyone who turned out for the 'Clean-Up Sunday'; excellent progress was made with tidying up the inside hedge, clearing accumulated rubbish from ditches and hedgerow and helping tenants with weed control. Thanks also to the kind people in Meadow Road who supplied hot water for our tea/coffee and to everyone who supplied the yummy food - very much appreciated. There are currently two half plots available to rent - one at Gt Raveley and one on the Meadow Road allotments in Upwood. If you are interested in taking on a plot or would like to discuss having a starter plot (quarter size plot), contact the Parish Clerk (Carol Bilverstone), Ali Miles, or Liz Carter (see below for details). We can offer advice and encouragement for all new-comers and old-timers.

Contacts: The Parish Clerk-Carol Bilverstone on upwoodraveleyclerk@yahoo.co.uk
Chairperson Ali Miles amiles@gotadsl.co.uk (710548) or Secretary Liz Carter – liz@backtracks.biz tel. 813008

SPOTLIGHT ON DOUG McLEOD & GEOFF DUDLEY: UPWOOD PANTOMIME

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the panto we chatted to Doug & Geoff as they were getting things ready for this year's panto backstage early in January 2014.

Q: What gave you the initial idea of staging a panto?

It started with 'Christmas Revels' and was followed by 2 Music Halls which included a melodrama as well as lots of little sketches. It was suggested that it was a lot of work for just one performance and perhaps we should look at putting on something that lasted longer and the idea of a panto first took root.

Q: Who was involved at the start & how did you go about putting on the first panto?

John Taylor kindly lent us some panto scripts that he had used with SIMADS and Jean Place, Lynn Perkins & us read them and we decided that we liked the Queen of Hearts best. No auditions were held, we just asked people we knew if they wanted to take part and help backstage. Doug's school provided the lights and the stage in the form of old desks, which we laid chipboard on top. The lay-out changed every year; we never could remember how they fitted together despite numerous diagrams and arrows drawn on the desks themselves!

Q: Has anyone been involved for the whole 20 years?

Apart from us the only other people to have survived all 20 productions are Geoff Carrington (lighting) and John Hickman (technical wizard).

Q: How many people have been taken part over the 20 years?

Over 200, in a variety of roles including the cast and crew of each production and the people who help erect and take down the stage. It's a huge compliment to the pantomime that so many people have been willing to give up their time, free of charge, to help put on the show each year.

Q: Which is your favourite panto and why?

Doug: Cinderella. I played Euthanasia, one of the Ugly Sisters. It was my first (and last) time in drag & I loved having the excuse of harassing our pretty young leading lady Hannah. It was a very tiring, demanding and challenging role since we were hardly off stage and we had so many lines to learn; never our strong point.



Geoff: That's difficult since they have all been such good fun for slightly different reasons but I agree with Doug that being an Ugly Sister was great fun as well as challenging. It's very rewarding getting a positive response from the audience. At the moment I am really enjoying 'The Old Woman' as we're seeing the culmination of everyone's hard work over a period of 20 years.

Q: Which of all the sketches and 'extras' you've been involved in either as actors or directors caused you the most problems?

The never-ending tea pot in Hickory Dickory Dock in 2003: Martin Muir and Fiona Bennett were on stage and we can still remember the exclamations when Fiona picked up the table & walked off stage, leaving no sign as to where all the tea had gone; fantastic. David Bennett was the genius who solved the problem. However there's also the train, the aeroplane, the rat – in fact any of John's concoctions caused us concern!

Q: Have you got a favourite sketch or scene?



Busy Bee - the audience knows what is going to happen but it's still funny. There was also Jake the Peg – that was good fun – and when Geoff was Elvis and Doug his backing group with 3 heads. Then Doug played the xylophone with his head - it took ages to perfect!



Q: How have things changed over the past 20 years?

The grant from BIFFA in 2007 made a huge difference. We bought the modular staging, tiered seating and lighting as well as built the mezzanine and the double garage which is used for storage and acts as our changing room. Also seeing the way the youngsters develop. They join us as part of the chorus and many have moved onto main roles and then return to support as part of the audience or, as in Emily's case this year, return from uni to take a main part again.

Q: Why have you decided that 2014 is your last panto?

It just seems the right time; we are getting older, as are the crew who have mostly been with us for the majority of the 20 years. It's a huge commitment, starting with reading scripts in June / July and going through to the final clearing the day after the final performance. That's virtually 6 months of every year when we can hardly do anything else; there comes a time when you have to call 'time'

Q: What would you like to see happen in the future?

It would be fantastic if someone would take it on. All the sub-structure is in place now and there are a lot of people, both cast and crew, who are willing and able to carry on but perhaps in a lesser role. We would hate to see 2014 be the last Upwood panto – it's just the last panto that the current regime is producing.

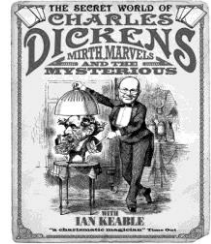
To celebrate 20 years of Upwood Pantomime we are holding a 'get-together' over the weekend 26/27 April. If you have been involved in any way over the past 20 years and are interested you can either contact us via pndmcleod@btinternet.com or 'like' Upwood pantomime's Facebook page.

UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR:-

Fri 21 March - Ian Keable – The Secret World of Charles Dickens
Tickets: £9.50 (no concessions)

Charles Dickens was not only one of the world's greatest writers, but also a talented **magician** and fascinated by **spiritualism** and **ghosts**. In this **humorous** and **mystifying** show, Ian Keable reveals this secret side of Dickens and recreates his **favourite tricks** and the **spooky practises** of the Victorian psychics.



Fri 25 April - Chris & Kellie While
Tickets: £10.50 (no concessions)

Mother and daughter, Chris & Kellie While, are returning to UVH by public demand. With wonderful harmonies and deft guitar playing they are sure to provide another memorable evening of acoustic music.

Box Office for all events: 01487 814114 / pndmcleod@btinternet.com

***Advance Notice:** booked for Sept 2014 – Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman
Winners of Best Duo at the 2013 Radio 2 Folk Award*

UPWOOD QUILTERS

The Quilt Group will meet again for their AGM on the Tue 25th February at 1.30pm in the Village Hall. We are looking forward to meeting up again after our 'winter break'. We had a lovely Christmas meal at Frost's in December, kindly organised by Freda. Hopefully we shall begin with some new ideas for projects for the coming year. New members are always welcome to join us.

GREAT FEN PROJECT

There is only one event happening locally to support this very worthwhile cause to report in this newsletter:

Walk: Wed 12 February – at Grafham Water. Meet at the Marlow car park, Grafham, PE28 0BH, 10am, for a 5 or 8 mile walk. The suggested donation is £2.50. If you are interested please contact Adrian Kempster 07983 850886, or email adriankempster001@gmail.com

However if you want to find out more about what is happening within the Great Fen Project please visit their website at www.greatfen.org.uk

UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS HISTORY GROUP AND VILLAGE HISTORY PROJECT

The History Group meets in Upwood Village Hall on the third Wednesday of alternate months. The next meeting is on 19 March and will be a talk by Brian Jones on “The Cecil’s Burghley House and its Park”. This will be linked to a group visit to Burley House in June. The visit includes a guided tour by Brian. In May (21) Mike Petty will give a talk on “Cambridgeshire in World Wars 1 & 2”. We know that both Brian and Mike are excellent speakers.

Membership cost is £10. Visitors are welcome to individual meetings at a cost of £3. Further information please contact Ian Gaunt on 710702 or ian.gaunt@care4free.net

Edwardian Upwood: We are planning a project to explore the available records to define how the villages looked in 1910, who owned the various properties, who lived in them and what trades were carried out. Longer term we hope to compare these records for properties and land with current use to give a broad-based, overall summary for the modern villages but with no specific detail for a property. If anyone is interested in contributing to this project please let us know. Also we are developing a time-line chart of the villages. We are interested in anything that happened back to the medieval period but also more recent events. If you have any information, however minor, please let us know.

RAMSEY AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

We meet in the Ramsey Community Centre at 7.30pm on the third Monday of the month with a variety of talks and demonstrations and we hold our annual show in July at the Ramsey Rural Museum. This show is open to entries from all of the community and not just our members. The meeting in November was our AGM followed by a talk on Alpines and Alpine Troughs by Angela Whiting who runs an Alpine nursery in Pidley. January’s talk was on “Trees and How They Grow – the Right Tree in the Right Place” by Andrew Papworth of Upwood based Arboreal Services.

The meeting on 17 February is a talk on “the National Hyacinth Collection” by Alan Shipp. In March (17) Chris Carr will be presenting “Herbs for Medieval Medicine”. In April the date has changed to the last Monday of the month (28). This talk by Geoff Hodge should appeal to many people as it is entitled “Easy Gardening”

Annual membership costs £10. Visitors are welcome to individual meetings at £2. Further information contact Ian Gaunt on 710702 or ian.gaunt@care4free.net.

UPWOOD ST PETER'S CHURCH

2nd February:	Morning Prayer 9.30am
9th February:	Holy Communion 9.30am
16th February:	"Open the Book" Family Service 9.30am
23rd February:	Holy Communion 9.30a
2nd March:	Morning Prayer 9.30am
9th March:	Holy Communion 9.30am
16th March:	"Open the Book" Family Service 9.30am
23rd March:	Holy Communion 9.30am
30th March:	United Benefice Service in Upwood 10am

Christmas Season

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas Tree Festival a success. The winner of the adult category in the 'Best Christmas Tree' competition was Ramsey St Mary Church with the 'Bells of St Clements' tree and Lighthouse won the children's category with their tree entitled 'God with us'. Congratulations! There was also a huge range of stalls selling a wide variety of festive gifts as well as refreshments served all day. The Hand Bells charmed us with their lovely rendition of Christmas music in the afternoon. This event is getting better and better; if you didn't come this year make sure you do next!

Jean Place organised a very enjoyable Carol Service; it had a pantomime theme with the readers, the organist, the sides-men, the person who led the prayers and the minister all people who have or have had connections with this village event. A very full church enjoyed the traditional service lit using a new 'fairy-light' style of lighting which gave a wonderful atmosphere.

Lent Lunches: 8 March – 12 April

These will again be offered in Upwood Village Hall with wonderful homemade soups and cheeses being served. If you want to come and share a light meal with friends, you are invited to come on the following Saturdays from 12.30 to 2pm: 8 March, 15 March, 22 March and 5 April in Upwood Village Hall and 29 March and 12 April at Ramsey St Mary's. If you know anybody who you think would enjoy a meal in pleasant company please tell them to come along.

HOME TO HOME

Home to Home is a women's group which meets on the last Monday of the month in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along as a visitor to enjoy an evening of talks, demonstrations or activities – you might even want to join us. The group is aimed to interest women of all ages. We have just put together our programme of events for 2014 as follows:

February 2014	Cheese and wine quiz evening
March 2014	Ormiston – making young lives better and a talk on the Ramsey food bank
April 2014	Goldilox by Lian
May 2014	Fashion Show
June 2014	Trip to Buckden Towers
July 2014	AmDram fun night
August 2014	Trip to Ramsey Walled Garden
September 2014	AGM and quiz

Our last meeting in December was our Christmas party. We all enjoyed an evening of food, drink, silly games and a quiz and everyone went home with a present from Santa's post-box!

Our next meeting is on Monday 24th February when we will be having a cheese and wine evening with a quiz.

As you will see from our programme, in May we will be having a fashion show of end of line clothing from quality high street retailers. This event is open to non-members for an entrance fee of £3.00 (no cost to members). This will be on a ticket only basis to non-members and we expect the tickets to go quickly. We will supply further information in the next newsletter.

For further information, please telephone Jackie 711329.

POLICE NOTICE

There is a rising trend in reports of people knocking on doors stating that they will or in some cases have already cleaned the gutters of the property. In many cases the work has not even been completed but payment has been requested / demanded. On other occasions the work has been done but at an extortionate price. The majority of the reports have been just on the border of Huntingdonshire but everyone needs to be aware of this problem. If you have any concerns about this sort of incident occurring please call the **Police on 101**.

MEET & MUNCH

Members of this friendly and informal group are looking forward to meeting for lunch at 1.00pm in the Village Hall on Sat 1st March (don't forget that there is no meeting during February). Meet & Munch welcomes Upwood & Raveley residents, aged 55 plus to join them for a meal and chat. Contact Mags Dudley on 812424 for details.

RAMSEY & DISTRICT U3A

Our open meetings will be on the following Tuesdays: 11 February, 11 March and 8 April, starting at 2.00 pm in the Ramsey Community Centre. February's subject will be 'Silver Spoons', and in March we have Diana Boston who will tell us about the Manor at Hemingford Grey and its colourful owner Lucy Boston.

Apart from our monthly meetings, all our interest groups hold their separate meetings on different days of the week. Full information is available at our website at www.u3asites.org.uk/ramsey. The latest Interest Group to form is 'Classic Films' which involves discussions to decide which films should be shown. Discussion and analysis follows each month's showing regarding the film's production and the performances of the actors etc.

Visitors are always welcome (£2 entry charge) refreshments included. We'd love to see you then. More information - please Ring Nina Akehurst on 711265.

WEA UPWOOD BRANCH

Spaces are still available on the two Day Schools with Chloe Cockerill:

'East Anglian Churches': Tuesday 04 February - Cost £16.00. This day course is a study of these fascinating buildings with their special regional characteristics from the early round towers and flint work to the splendours of the wool churches.

'Helms, Hatchments & Hedgehogs': Thursday 06 March – Cost £16.00.

Heraldry is all around us, not only when we visit country houses, cathedrals and castles, but in all our towns and cities and nearly every village. A straightforward introduction to what is often dismissed as an esoteric subject.

Both day schools start at 10 am and finish at 4 pm and are held at the Upwood Village Hall. Refreshments provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch. To reserve a place at either of these Day Schools, contact Liz Carter on 813008 or email liz@backtracks.biz

CARERS SUPPORT NETWORK

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ABOUT SUPPORT FOR ADULTS WITH LONG-TERM NEEDS AND CARERS

Do you need: Information and advice?

Are you: Living with a long term illness or disability?

Providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends who could not manage without your help?

Struggling with an age related condition?

If you answer 'yes' to any of the above then why not come along to one of our **Adult Support Drop Ins**: A series of drop-in events has been organised to provide free and confidential information and advice to adults living with a long-term illness or disability, older people struggling with an age-related condition, and anyone providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends who could not manage without this help.

The drop-in sessions are being held on the first Monday of the month during 2014 at Hartford Village Hall, Main Street, Hartford, Huntingdon, PE29 1XU. Come along any time between 10am and 1pm for a cup of tea and to find out about the support available to you.

Current programme: 3 February 2014 Activity: Making Healthy Snacks
 3 March 2014 Therapeutic Art

The advice is free and confidential and a warm welcome is guaranteed.

For more information phone 01480 377616 / 01480 373220, or email

Drop-inessions_asc@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit www.cambridgeshire.net and search "Adult Support Drop-in".

UPWOOD ON FACEBOOK

Do you realise that there is an Upwood Facebook page? If you go to **upwood.org** you will find a Facebook 'like'. Click on it and you will be added to the Upwood Facebook feed and you will be able to keep up with what's happening on in the villages.

UPWOOD VILLAGE WEBSITE

Don't forget that there is an excellent village website full of news, information, photos and what's going on in the parish. Items for inclusion should be sent to:

webmaster@upwood.org

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGES

Organisation	Contact	Telephone
Art Group	Frances Ashfield	711411
Book Lovers Group	Liz Carter	813008
Brownies	Louise Jackson	079211 97850
Community Bus Co-ordinator	Dave Blandford	711330
County Councillor	Michael Tews	tew180@gmail.com
Cricket Club	David Drage	07796 352200
Cross Keys Golf Society	Malcolm Hudson	01840 779425
District Councillor (Chair of Parish Council)	Robin Howe	814393
History Group	Ian Gaunt	710702
Home to Home	Anne-Marie Cracknell Jackie Johnston	812195 711329
Meet and Munch	Mags Dudley	812424
Parish Clerk (including Allotments)	Carol Bilverstone	812447
Ramsey Bridge Club	B & A Quinton	813349
Ramsey Camera Club	Trevor Brown	711541
Ramsey Choral Society	June Green	813562
Ramsey & District Garden Club	Ian Gaunt	710702
Ramsey Rural Museum	Michael Latchem	01354 694241
Ramsey Tennis Club	Jason Tuxworth	07858 151966
Small to Tall (Upwood School Clubs)	Angie Dean	802086
Speed Watch	Keith Sisman	710552
St Peter's Church Matters	Gordon Slinn	815951
St Peter's Handbells	Ann-Marie Cracknell	812195
Table Tennis Club	David Williams	812923
U3A	John Austin	01733 844474
Upwood Business Association	Frances Ashfield	711411
Upwood Community Orchard	Liz Carter	813008
Upwood Quilters	Margaret Jones	814031
Upwood & Raveley Community Allotments	Liz Carter	813008
Upwood and Raveley Community Archive	Judith Harvey	710219
Upwood School PTA	Jody Howell	812843
Upwood Pantomime Society	Doug McLeod	814114
Upwood Village Website	www.upwood.org	
UVH Performing Arts Events / [act] Shows	Doug McLeod	814114
Village Hall Hire	Bob Child	815475
Village Fete Committee	Andrew Peck	711372
W.E.A	Liz Carter	813008

The editors are diligent but regret that they cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions

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The Newsletter can also be viewed and downloaded online: www.upwood.org