



# Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting  
Monday 09 May 2016. 8:00pm  
Upwood Village Hall, High Street, Upwood, PE26 2QE

## Minutes

**Present:** Councillors: J. Noble, R. Howe (Chairman), H. Nel, J. Paxton, A. Perkins, R. Singleton, G. Slater, H. Smith. County Councillor M. Tew and three members of the public.

**In Attendance:** Mrs. C. Silverstone (Clerk),

**1. Welcome by Councillor Robin Howe.** Councillor Howe welcomed parishioners to the meeting.

**2. Apologies.** Councillor Edwards: Work commitments

**3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2015:

Copies of the minutes and the reports of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2015 had been circulated in advance following their informal approval by the chairman. Councillor Slater proposed acceptance of the minutes. Councillor Paxton seconded the proposal. All who had been present were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. The chairman signed the minutes.

**4. Report from the Chairman of Upwood & the Raveleys Parish Council.** Please find attached.

**5. Financial report from the Clerk to the Council.** Please find attached.

**6. To invite village representatives to address the Meeting**

Reports were received from the following groups and organisations:

Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (HACT). Presented by Jo Philpott, Manager.

Meet and Munch, prepared by Jan Howe, Coordinator. Presented by the clerk.

St. Peter's Church, prepared by Anne-Marie Cracknell, Churchwarden. Presented by the Clerk.

St. Peter's Handbell Ringers, prepared by Vernon Cracknell. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood Cricket Club. Prepared by Neil Tuffin. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood Branch WEA. Prepared by Liz Carter. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Archive. Prepared by Judith Harvey. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association prepared by URCAA committee. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood Community Orchard Group, prepared by Julia Evans. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Local History Group, prepared by Andrew Silverstone, Chairman. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood Primary School, prepared by Mrs S. Whitelaw, Headteacher. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Newsletter, presented by David Paine, Chairman.

Upwood Quilters, prepared by Margaret Jones. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood Table Tennis Club, prepared by David Williams, presented by the clerk.

Upwood Ukuleles, prepared and presented by Carol Silverstone, member of the management committee.

Upwood Village Hall Management Committee, prepared by Stephen Howes, Chairman. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Website, prepared by Doug McLeod & Stephen Howes, Webmasters. Presented by the clerk.

**7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.** No matters of interest were raised.

## **8. Questions for the County and District Councillors**

Please find attached written reports from Councillor Michael Tew (County Councillor) and Councillor Robin Howe (District Councillor). There were no questions.

## **9. Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The Chairman began by asking "whoever said there was nothing to do in Upwood?" He added that when he first joined the parish council there were nowhere near the number of reports, or the number and diversity of community groups. He told Councillor Noble that if she does nothing else in the course of the coming year, that she must get the children of Upwood Primary School to attend next year's annual parish meeting to present their own reports.

Councillor Howe noted that every parish council in his ward complains about the lack of public transport. He thanked Jo Philpott for raising the profile of HACT once again. The door to door service provided throughout this area and beyond is outstanding and parish council will continue to promote this service (Current HACT leaflets are included within the attached reports).

The chairman concluded by thanking those who had taken the time to prepare reports for this meeting. He added that Upwood and the Raveleys is host to such a rich variety of organisations embracing all aspects of social activity and these thoughtful accounts of parish life had enlivened the evening.

Close of meeting: 9:00pm

Please visit [www.upwood.org](http://www.upwood.org) to view the reports.

## **UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council has completed a successful year in which most of its key objectives have been met.

The Community Led Plan was completed and launched in January following two years' work by a dedicated team of residents supported by several parish councillors. The plan identified a long list of issues and a number of priorities and these have guided the decision-making of the council in recent months. Notable amongst these was the demand for improved communications in the parish and with the help of a grant from the Ramsey wind turbine trust a number of important investments had been made.

Expenditure is closely monitored by a subgroup of the council and reported monthly at the parish meeting; the effect of which was the annual budget was slightly underspent for the third year running, which meant the reserve fund increased again to a such level that it was decided to ask for a lower precept for 2016/17, thereby ensuring the parish does not add to the council tax burden for the year.

The council has continued to improve governance, financial management and reporting and thanks to our indomitable Clerk Carol Silverstone, will apply for the coveted Quality Council award in 2016, which will place Upwood, if successful, in an elite category of councils in the country.

We are committed to improving the appearance of settlements in the parish and the maintenance schedule for grass cutting and hedge tending has been increased to the point where Upwood village is now better presented than at any time in recent memory. Efforts will be made to clear the blight of litter from our paths and roads and volunteers for a litter picking day will be called for in the next month or two.

The council membership has altered during the year following the departure of Gill Shelford, Hayley Huskinson and Fiona Hopkins and I would like to thank them, on the half of the Council, for their excellent contribution and to single out Fiona for her outstanding chairmanship of the community planning team.

In their places have arrived Jane Singleton, Helen Nel and Howard Smith, all of whom bring their unique skills and energy to the council.

Five years ago the council was lucky to have one applicant for vacancies on the council, but the latest recruitment produced an amazing total of five applicants, which surely confirms the council now commands more respect from residents.

The work arising from the Community Led Plan project is considerable as expected and the CLP team under the leadership of Howard Smith are defining the priorities and allocating tasks to the various sub group teams which cover the following subjects:

Transport Roads Pavements and Footpaths

Public Transport

Housing and Planning

Communications

Environment Conservation and Appearance

Local organisations Groups and leisure activities

Crime safety and emergency services

Young People

Community

Details of work needed in each of these categories are shown in the CLP action plan which is held on the Parish website [www.upwood.org](http://www.upwood.org)

One of the greatest concerns which residents express is the increasing level of congestion on our local roads and this situation can only get worse in the future as planned housing developments generate new levels of traffic.

It is expected that, in addition to the 60 homes being built on the site of the USAF clinic, up to 160 houses will be built around the base commander's house and the barracks area in the next few years. Further developments planned for Ramsey town area will increase traffic flows through Bury and Upwood as well.

The Parish Council will be campaigning vigorously for improvements to our crumbling road surfaces, footpath's and cycle ways and will continue to call for a speed limit reduction on the road past the primary school.

I would like to close by saying that due to my recent appointment as Executive Leader of the District Council I shall be unable to continue as a member of our parish council for an extended period and will step down in the next month or so. I will be happy to stand for re-election of Chairman until my successor can be identified and a succession plan agreed.

I believe we have restored the good reputation of the council in the last six years following the unhappy episode with a previous Clerk. I think the residents have learned to trust the council again and are generally satisfied with services we provide. We have rebuilt the depleted finances over this time and have reserves representing 1.5 times the annual precept again; a little higher than desired, but we are planning for a controlled reduction in reserves over the year as we fund new projects and subsidise our annual expenditure to avoid raising the precept this year.

I will continue to attend parish meetings as often as the District calendar allows but I know there is strength in depth among the council team and they are more than capable of managing the parish affairs of Upwood and the Raveleys.

Robin Howe

May 2016



# Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting. 09 May 2016

## Financial Report from the clerk to the parish council

In 2015/2016 the parish council worked with a budget of £23,268. At the end of the year receipts totalled £29,286.69 and payments £26,772. The balance brought forward on 31 March 2016 was £36,891.37 (an increase of just over £2,500 on the previous year). The award of £3,000 from REG Ramsey Wind farm Community Benefit Fund to enhance communication across the parish has been well documented and has made a positive social impact. In financial terms the grant covered some of the council's budgeted projects (for example, the refurbishment of the noticeboards); and enabled investment in areas highlighted by the results of the community led plan. Comparing the forecasted budget with actual expenditure in 2015/2016, there are five notable variances:

- The district council estimated an election fee of £135. The actual cost was £1138.96!
- Unplanned tree work was carried out in Glebe Paddock at a cost of £664.00
- The council did not budget for the launch of the community led plan and the printing of the final document at a cost of £907.00.
- The council made several unplanned small investments in parish asset maintenance. The purchase of a new grit bin; new signage for the play areas; and the servicing of a lawn mower added £300 to its unplanned expenditure.
- The set-up fee of £300 for a new employee pension scheme was un-budgeted. The parish council received insufficient notice of the government's intention to impose new pension regulations on employers.

Other notable expenses and achievements include continued financial support to the parish newsletter (the grant application from the village hall was received and approved after the end of the financial year); work to clear the ditches and improve drainage to the allotments and the cemetery; two continued professional development courses for the parish clerk (a course in Planning; and a Regional Conference, both of which continue to benefit the day to day management of council business); and further investment in the upkeep and maintenance of parish grass and hedges.

The Smaller Authorities Transparency Code came into force on 1 April 2015, requiring the parish council to publish online a significant amount of information about its activities, spending and governance. Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council is fully compliant with the code and exceeds the minimum requirements.

The 2014/2015 Audit was positive and the internal auditor identified the asset register as the only area of the parish council's administration in need of attention. This has since been reviewed and updated in compliance with national guidelines. The internal audit for 2015/2016 took place last week and I have yet to receive a formal report. The meeting was positive once again and the auditor was satisfied with all areas of the parish council's financial administration and governance.

In conclusion, the parish council has applied for recognition through the Local Council Award Scheme. It is hoped that the council's achievements will be recognised with the achievement of the "Quality" Award. If successful, there is scope in the budget for 2016/2017 for the parish council to apply for the ultimate recognition of "Quality Gold" status within the next twelve months.

Carol Silverstone  
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council  
09 May 2016



Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport

TELEPHONE: 01480 411114



Ring & Ride Specials  
not operating Bank Holidays

### Area 3

#### BAR HILL

Return fares from £6.50  
4th Tuesday of every month  
Start 09:30—Return 13:30

#### CAMBRIDGE

Return fares from £6.50  
2nd Wednesday of every month  
Start 09:30—Return 13:30

#### ELY

Return fares from £6.50  
1st Thursday of every month  
Start 09:30—Return 15:30

#### STAMFORD

Return fares from £6.50  
3rd Friday of every month  
Start 09:30—Return 15:30

Return times are approximate—this will be arranged at the drivers discretion  
Please note bookings for Ring & Ride Specials are only taken 1 week before the travel date.

WE ALSO OFFER DAY TRIPS AND PUB  
LUNCHES—DETAILS OF THESE TRIPS WILL  
BE SENT TO YOU, ONCE YOU JOIN



Updated 14-11-14

### Registration Form

continued

Any other information that you feel is relevant:

.....  
.....  
.....

Please return completed form together with annual membership fee of £15.00 made payable to HACT to:

HACT  
5 Martin Avenue  
March  
Cambridgeshire  
PE15 0AY

A membership number will be sent to you once your membership has been approved, this can take up to 14 days.

If you value our services and wish to make a donation, however small. Please send the donation to the above address.

Registered as a Charity No 1151445.  
VAT Reg No 158052610.

## FREE WITH YOUR BUS PASS

Providing door to door transport for Huntingdonshire

### Area 3

Including Abbots Ripton, Bluntisham, Broughton, Bury,  
Colne, Earith, Fenstanton, Fenton, Godmanchester,  
Great Raveley, Great Stukeley, Hartford,  
Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Holywell, Houghton,  
Huntingdon, Kings Ripton, Little Raveley, Little Stukeley,  
Needingworth, Oldhurst, Pidley, Ramsey,  
Ramsey Forty Foot, Ramsey Heights, Ramsey Mereside,  
Ramsey St Mary, Somersham, St Ives, Upwood, Warboys,  
Wennington, Wistow, Wood Walton, Woodhurst, Wyton

Not operating bank holidays

- Do you live in a rural location with limited or no access to public transport?
- Do you have to rely on family and friends to take you places?
- Do you have difficulty using local transport due to age or disability?

Ring & Ride is available to anyone subject to meeting any of the above criteria

WWW.HACT-CAMBS.CO.UK



www.facebook.com/hact.transport



www.twitter.com/HACTTransport

## Who are HACT?

HACT is a registered charity in the Huntingdonshire area which offers a door-to-door service for people who cannot access local bus routes due to age and disability, people living in rural locations with limited or no access to local bus routes.

## What is Ring & Ride Service?

This is a pre-bookable service operating throughout the Huntingdonshire area five days a week. The service is based on a timetable/route and users holding a Cambridgeshire County Council bus pass can use the service free of charge after registering.

## What can Ring & Ride be used for?

If you are eligible for Ring & Ride, then you can use us for any reason. For example: shopping, days out, pubs and restaurants, etc

## How do I join Ring & Ride?

To become a Ring & Ride member there is a small annual membership fee of £15.00 per person and is payable on registration. Please complete and return the registration form with your annual membership fee and we will send you a welcome pack.

## How do I book the bus?

Booking a Ring & Ride is easy. All you need to do is contact the HACT office on 01480 411114 before 1:00pm the day before you wish to travel. If you plan to travel on a Monday, please ensure that you contact HACT on a Friday before. Driver will wait a maximum of 5 minutes before moving on to the next pick up point.

**For further information about HACT and our different services,  
please check out our website:**

**[www.hact-cambs.co.uk](http://www.hact-cambs.co.uk)**

## Registration Form

All the information you give us is confidential

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

Phone No .....

Date of Birth .....

Email address .....

.....

Emergency contact name, relationship  
to you and telephone number

.....

.....

Would you have any of the following  
when travelling? (please tick)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheelchair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shopping trolley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking aid
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guide dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Escort

MONDAY St Ives Start 09:30 - Return 13:30 TUESDAY Peterborough Start 09:30 - Return 13:30 WEDNESDAY Huntingdon Start 09:30 - Return 13:30 THURSDAY St Neots Start 09:30 - Return 13:30					
Pick up from:	Return Fare				
	St Ives	Peterborough	Huntingdon	St Neots	Cambsourne
Abbots Ripton	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Bluntingsham	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Broughton	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.50	£7.00
Bury	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Colne	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Earith	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Fenstanton	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Fenton	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Godmanchester	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Great Raveley	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Great Stukeley	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Hartford	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Hemingford Abbots	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Hemingford Grey	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Holywell	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Houghton	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Huntingdon	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Kings Ripton	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Little Raveley	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Little Stukeley	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Needlingworth	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Oldhurst	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Pidley	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Ramsey	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Ramsey Forty Foot	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.50	£7.00
Ramsey Heights	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Ramsey Mereside	£6.50	£6.50	£6.50	£7.50	£7.00
Ramsey St Mary	£6.50	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Somersham	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
St Ives	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£6.50	£7.00
Upwood	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Warboys	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Wenington	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Wistow	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Wood Walton	£6.50	£7.00	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Woodhurst	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00
Wyton	£6.50	£7.50	£6.50	£7.00	£7.00

Return times are approximate—this will be arranged at the drivers discretion



## DAY TRIPS 2016

We would like to offer all our individual members some additional days out, to enjoy coastal trips, historic places, shopping and garden centres with a door-to-door service.



These trips are payable as you cannot use your bus pass. The return fare listed is per person.

We will start all routes at 08:30 unless stated and the return time will be arranged on the day between driver and passengers.

If you wish to book:

- Call the office before the booking deadline to reserve your seat.
- You can pay over the telephone by card or send a cheque into the office.
- If we are doing a spilt trip, which place you are going to or both.
- If you will be taking a trolley/frame/scooter with you.
- Once we receive your payment, we will contact you to confirm your seat.
- Without prompt payment, we cannot guarantee you a seat.
- Payment will not be accepted on the day of trip.



You will be contacted the day before the trip to confirm the approximate pick up time.

If we have room we are able to accommodate a scooter, but you will be charged an extra **£15.00** due to us having to remove "paying" seats from the vehicle to store the scooter. Most places we visit have a mobility shop where you can hire a scooter, and we advise you check this out (we can drop you at the shop if requested).

**These trips are booked on a first come first served system, so you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.**



**TELEPHONE: 01480 411114**



[WWW.HACT-CAMBS.CO.UK](http://WWW.HACT-CAMBS.CO.UK)

### Norwich

**Monday 24 October 2016**  
One of the UK popular destinations.  
There are 2 main shopping areas with over 150 shops and a market which is open every day.  
**Return Fare £15.00** **Booking Deadline: Friday 14 October 2016**

### Milton Keynes Shopping Centre

**Thursday 27 October 2016**  
Home to over 200 shops ranging from national store to smaller specialist shops with a range of cafés and restaurants all under one roof.  
**Return Fare £10.00** **Booking Deadline: Monday 17 October 2016**

### Meadowhall Shopping Centre, Sheffield

**Friday 04 November 2016**  
Shop the latest high street and designer fashions in over 280 stores, and you will be spoilt for choice when it comes to dining.  
**Return Fare £20.00** **Booking Deadline: Tuesday 25 October 2016**

### Springfields Shopping & Garden Centre OR Baytree Garden Centre

**Monday 28 November 2016**  
Choice of either Springfields which has over 55 outlet stores and gardening products or Baytree where you can explore every aspect of gardening.  
**Return Fare £10.00** **Booking Deadline: Friday 18 November 2016**

### Kings Lynn

**Tuesday 06 December 2016**  
In the town you have many shops and a market, also out of town shopping at Dobbies and The Range. Either spilt time between both or stay in the town.  
**Return Fare £15.00** **Booking Deadline: Friday 25 November 2015**

### Milton Keynes Shopping Centre

**Thursday 22 December 2016**  
Home to over 200 shops ranging from national store to smaller specialist shops with a range of cafés and restaurants all under one roof.  
**Return Fare £10.00** **Booking Deadline: Monday 12 December 2016**

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

**By sending in payment, you agree to the following:**

- A carer/friend/child is able to travel with you, they will need to pay the full fare as well. Please inform us when booking.
- The service is subject to change dependent on demand.
- If you have not informed us that you are taking a trolley/wheelchair/scooter, we have the right to refuse these on the vehicle due to vehicle capacity/layout/safety.
- Times we give are only an approximate guide, drivers will wait a maximum of 2 minutes before moving on. We are unable to give you a time of arrival at destination as this depends on collections and traffic.
- If you wish to be seated with a friend, please make us aware and we will try to keep you together. These trips normally have more than one vehicle and we cannot guarantee you on the same vehicle as your friend unless requested.
- Be aware we collect passengers from a wide area so you need to allow for time spent on the minibus, where possible we will try and accommodate a comfort break.
- If you cancel, payments are not refundable and not transferable to another person/outing.
- Details and dates are correct at time of setting up, we cannot be held responsible for any changes due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Any complaints with the venue are to be made direct to the venue and not to us.
- We need a certain amount of people booked on to be able to run the trips, if we do need to cancel due to low numbers, we will issue a refund.

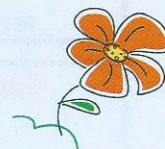
<p><b><u>Springfields Shopping &amp; Garden Centre OR Baytree Garden Centre</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 18 January 2016</b></p> <p>Choice of either Springfields which has over 55 outlet stores and gardening products or Baytree where you can explore every aspect of gardening.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Downtown Superstore &amp; Garden Centre, Grantham</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 15 February 2016</b></p> <p>A wide range of shopping including fashion, gift ideas, arts &amp; crafts and gardening products. Refreshments are also available in the onsite restaurant.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Milton Keynes Shopping Centre</u></b></p> <p><b>Thursday 18 February 2016</b></p> <p>Home to over 200 shops ranging from national store to smaller specialist shops with a range of cafés and restaurants all under one roof.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Norwich</u></b></p> <p><b>Thursday 24 March 2016</b></p> <p>One of the UK popular destinations.</p> <p>There are 2 main shopping areas with over 150 shops and a market which is open every day.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £15.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Springfields Shopping &amp; Garden Centre OR Baytree Garden Centre</u></b></p> <p><b>Thursday 31 March 2016</b></p> <p>Choice of either Springfields which has over 55 outlet stores and gardening products or Baytree where you can explore every aspect of gardening.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Kings Lynn</u></b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 05 April 2016</b></p> <p>In the town you have many shops and a market, also out of town shopping at Dobbies and The Range. Either split time between both or stay in the town.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £15.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Bull Ring Shopping Centre, Birmingham</u></b></p> <p><b>Friday 22 April 2016</b></p> <p>The glamorous heart of Birmingham with over 160 imaginative and desirable shops to explore and more than 40 restaurants and cafes to relax in.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £20.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Bury St Edmunds</u></b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 04 May 2016</b></p> <p>A market town with a glorious cathedral and abbey gardens.</p> <p>Department stores, selection of shops and an award winning market on Wednesdays.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Hunstanton</u></b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 31 May 2016</b></p> <p>A very popular destination, you can enjoy all the traditional coastal attractions, walk along the extensive promenade or sit in the colourful gardens.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £17.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Bedford</u></b></p> <p><b>Friday 03 June 2016</b></p> <p>Bedford has a vibrant town centre offering shoppers a range of shops, independent retailers, along with major retailers and department stores</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p>	<p><b><u>Springfields Shopping &amp; Garden Centre OR Baytree Garden Centre</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 18 January 2016</b></p> <p>Choice of either Springfields which has over 55 outlet stores and gardening products or Baytree where you can explore every aspect of gardening.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Downtown Superstore &amp; Garden Centre, Grantham</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 15 February 2016</b></p> <p>A wide range of shopping including fashion, gift ideas, arts &amp; crafts and gardening products. 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Either split time between both or stay in the town.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £15.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Bull Ring Shopping Centre, Birmingham</u></b></p> <p><b>Friday 22 April 2016</b></p> <p>The glamorous heart of Birmingham with over 160 imaginative and desirable shops to explore and more than 40 restaurants and cafes to relax in.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £20.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Bury St Edmunds</u></b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 04 May 2016</b></p> <p>A market town with a glorious cathedral and abbey gardens.</p> <p>Department stores, selection of shops and an award winning market on Wednesdays.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Hunstanton</u></b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 31 May 2016</b></p> <p>A very popular destination, you can enjoy all the traditional coastal attractions, walk along the extensive promenade or sit in the colourful gardens.</p> <p><b>Return Fare £17.00</b></p> <p><b><u>Bedford</u></b></p> <p><b>Friday 03 June 2016</b></p> <p>Bedford has a vibrant town centre offering shoppers a range of shops, independent retailers, along with major retailers and department stores</p> <p><b>Return Fare £10.00</b></p>
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We would like to offer all our individual members some outings to enjoy a lunch with friends and other members with a door-to-door service. These trips are payable as you cannot use your bus pass. The return fare listed is per person.



- If you wish to book:
- Call the office before the booking deadline to reserve your seat.
  - You can pay over the telephone by card or send a cheque into the office.
  - If we are doing a spilt trip, which place you are going to or both.
    - If you will be taking a trolley/frame/scooter with you.
  - Once we receive your payment, we will contact you to confirm your seat.
    - Without prompt payment, we cannot guarantee you a seat.
    - Payment will not be accepted on the day of trip.



We are able to accommodate a scooter, you will be charged an extra **£15.00** due to us having to remove "paying" seats from the vehicle to store the scooter.

**These trips are booked on a first come first served system,  
you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.**

## TELEPHONE: 01480 411114

*You will be contacted the day before the trip to confirm the approximate pick up time.*

### THE WHITE HORSE, TILBROOK

**Monday 25 January 2016**

**Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00**

Situated in the picturesque village of Tibrook, deep in the heart of the countryside.  
Traditional pub food at affordable prices.

**Return Fare: £ 7.50**

**Booking Deadline: Friday 15 January 2016**

### THE APPLE CART, STANGROUND

**Thursday 25 February 2016**

**Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00**

The Applecart is a new build pub situated on the outskirts of Peterborough.  
Full table service, serving good quality food and offering 2 for 1 deals on all main courses

**Return Fare: £ 8.00**

**Booking Deadline: Monday 15 February 2016**

### THE WEEPING ASH, ST NEOTS

**Wednesday 30 March 2016**

**Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00**

A wetherspoons pub in St Neots where the old post office was situated.  
Value meal deals on offer, all day, every day. With different themes for food each day of the week.

**Return Fare: £ 7.50**

**Booking Deadline: Friday 18 March 2016**

### THE FARMERS, YAXLEY

**Monday 18 April 2016**

**Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00**

Renowned for its magnificent carvery. Order from the all day menu, special board or choose what you would like on your plate from the Carvery. Quality food at affordable prices.

**Return Fare: £ 8.00**

**Booking Deadline: Friday 08 April 2016**

### HUNTINGDON GARDEN CENTRE and/or HARTFORD MARINA

**Tuesday 03 May 2016**

**Arriving 10:00, Departing 14:00**

Have 2 hours shopping and looking round Huntingdon Garden Centre then choose to stay for lunch (a further two hours) in their onsite restaurant or be taken to nearby Hartford Marina for lunch.

**Return Fare: £ 7.50**

**Booking Deadline: Friday 22 April 2016**

### **YE OLDE GRIFFIN HOTEL, MARCH**

Wednesday 01 June 2016

Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00

A friendly and welcoming venue.  
Offering delicious food at great prices.

Return Fare: £ 7.50

*Booking Deadline: Friday 20 May 2016*

### **TWENTY PENCE GARDEN CENTRE, WILBURTON**

Friday 22 July 2016

Arriving 10:00, Departing 14:00

Find all the products you need to keep your garden looking good all year round and eat in the Applejacks restaurant which offers a wide selection of hot and cold meals all at great prices.

Return Fare: £ 7.50

*Booking Deadline: Tuesday 12 July 2016*

### **FROSTS GARDEN CENTRE, BRAMPTON and/or BREWERS FAYRE, BRAMPTON HUT**

Wednesday 31 August 2016

Arriving 10:00, Departing 14:00

Have 2 hours shopping and looking round Frosts Garden Centre then choose to stay for lunch (a further two hours) in their onsite restaurant or be taken to nearby Brewers Fayre for lunch.

Return Fare: £ 7.50

*Booking Deadline: Friday 19 August 2016*

### **THE MARSH HARRIER, ST IVES**

Monday 26 September 2016

Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00

This is a new build pub situated on the outskirts of St Ives.  
Serving good quality food and offering 2 for 1 deals on all main dishes.

Return Fare: £ 7.00

*Booking Deadline: Friday 16 September 2016*

### **JOHNSONS OF OLD HURST FARM SHOP, OLD HURST**

Friday 28 October 2016

Arriving 11:00, Departing 14:00

A Farm shop which has a good Variety of fresh and speciality foods. Take a look at the crocodiles and then relax in the tea room, where you can enjoy pasties & cake with a drink.

Return Fare: £ 7.00

*Booking Deadline: Tuesday 18 October 2016*

### **THE ADMIRAL WELLS, HOLME**

Tuesday 15 November 2016

Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00

The Admiral Wells is an independent, family run free house located in the pretty village of Holme.  
Freshly prepared food with a varied menu, as well as the daily special board, all at affordable prices.

Return Fare: £ 7.50

*Booking Deadline: Friday 04 November 2016*

### **THE GREEN MAN, COLNE**

Monday 19 December 2016

Arriving 12:00, Departing 14:00

Nestled in the delightful village of Colne.  
The Green Man serves traditional, home cooked pub food at good affordable prices.

Return Fare: £ 7.00

*Booking Deadline: Friday 09 December 2016*



### **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

#### **By sending in payment, you agree to the following:**

- A carer/friend/child is able to travel with you, they will need to pay the full fare as well. Please inform us when booking.
- The service is subject to change dependent on demand.
- If you have not informed us that you are taking a trolley/wheelchair/scooter, we have the right to refuse these on the vehicle due to vehicle capacity/layout/safety.
- Times we give are only an approximate guide, drivers will wait a maximum of 2 minutes before moving on. We are unable to give you a time of arrival at destination as this depends on collections and traffic.
- If you wish to be seated with a friend, please make us aware and we will try to keep you together. These trips sometimes have more than one vehicle and we cannot guarantee you on the same vehicle as your friend unless requested.
- If you cancel, payments are not refundable and not transferable to another person/outing.
- Details of venue and dates are correct at time of setting up, we cannot be held responsible for any changes due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Any complaints with the venue/food are to be made direct to the venue and not to us.
- We need a certain amount of people booked on to be able to run the trips, if we do need to cancel due to low numbers, we will issue a refund.



[WWW.HACT-CAMBS.CO.UK](http://WWW.HACT-CAMBS.CO.UK)

## Meet and Munch Report

Meet and Munch is run by a group of 15 volunteers who, each month, serve teas in Spring and Summer and lunches in Autumn and Winter to the older members of the Upwood community. In all, the group holds ten events a year.

The helpers are greatly appreciated as they provide a delicious two course lunch or an amazing array of sandwiches and cakes. We ask for a minimum donation of £3 to cover costs.

The group currently has 19 members but we would encourage anyone over 55 to join us as it is a welcoming group and provides an opportunity for a chat and to make new friends.

The special event of the year is the June lunch party and this year we are celebrating the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We would also like to thank the Ukulele group who provided so much fun at the December meeting. A donation to Magpas was made on behalf of Meet and Munch.

Jan Howe

Co-ordinator for Meet and Munch

## **ST PETERS'S CHURCH REPORT**

Firstly, I send my sincere apologies as I am unable to come to the meeting today.

Around 20 people meet in our congregation on Sundays with an electoral roll of 45.

Morning Prayer is now said at St Peters on Wednesday mornings, with a chance to go to the Cross Keys for coffee and a chat afterwards and therefore supporting our local pub.

2 funerals and 4 baptisms have been performed this year. We have a strong link with the Upwood school and we offer "open the book" weekly.

We support the food bank being a collection point and with volunteers as well as Kings Ripton Lodge (Salvation Army) and EACH charities.

The fabric of the church is quite sound and Award Lead will be coming this summer to do some roof-work.

The Parish Council is carrying out their schedule of the tree work and we are very thankful for this.

We have had many events this year of which the community has supported like at the candlelight concert.

We wish to reach to the need of the young and the old alike and giving everyone the possibility to come to church which is open daily.

Anne-Marie Cracknell

(St Peter's Churchwarden)

## **St Peter's Handbell Ringers Report 2016**

St Peter's Handbell Ringers meet every Monday evening in St. Peter's Church, Upwood.

Our team currently consist of 8 players from Upwood and the surrounding villages and are always willing to recruit and welcome new musicians.

This year, we have looked at different ways of playing to increased our possibilities in ringing more challenging music with fewer musicians by playing from tables.

We played at the Methodist Carol Service, the Christmas tree festival, Van Hage garden centre, Alconbury RAF library and for the Hobby Show in the village hall.

Our focus is now on improving our standard so that we can play more ambitious music.

Vernon Cracknell

## Upwood Cricket Club Update

### Quiz

Upwood CC held their annual quiz night on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Bury Village Hall but this year was a slight change to the proceedings. The club decided to make this year's quiz a more family orientated event tailoring the questions to allow the youngsters to show off their trivia knowledge. Although not quite full there was an excellent turn out with about 60 people young and old attending. With the entrance fee, raffle takings, heads and tails game and the auction of a football signed by the Peterborough United team (kindly donated by Andy Morris) the club made £250 which will help to pay for some of the impressive improvements in the revamped pavilion. Special thanks must be made to veteran quizmaster Mr Pat Tuffin who had to do some additional research for his questions than normal and scorer Mrs Chris Morris. Also thanks to all those who contributed raffle prizes or helped out packing away at the end.

### Open Day

On Bank Holiday Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May the Cricket Club are planning a New Pavilion Unveiling an Open Day. The day will form part of the Club Open Day scheme run by the ECB and Waitrose. Although plans need to be finalised the day will include an adult 20/20 match start at 1pm; followed by a junior softball game at 4 pm. There will also be a bouncy castle, stalls and refreshments during the day and a bar in the afternoon and evening. In the evening there will be a BBQ and for the first time ever at the club some music and dancing; either a band or disco. There will be no charge to participate and everyone is welcome including non-members. The club would love to see you there!

### Pavilion and Ground

The updates to the pavilion have moved on well although time was tight for the start of the season. Much progress was made on the club's working weekend on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. As well as continuing to work on the inside of clubhouse much work was done to the outside and ground including painting the new extension, tidying up the surrounds and fixing new fencing around the boundary edge. On the same day the members present decided in a very short EGM to agree to new subscriptions for the year: Adults will be £35, Juniors £15, Family Membership £50 and Social Members £5. The club have also procured some wheeled covers which are a useful which should allow more games to be played when the weather is inclement.

### Training and Games

The junior training has now switched to outside and will continue throughout the summer on Monday nights. Times are:

5-30 to 6-30 PM for Under 9 and Under 11

6-30 to 7-30 PM for Under 13 and Under 15.

As well as training many games versus other local teams have been planned and the cost will be £2 for these. All juniors are welcome regardless of experience. The coaches are very experienced and ECB qualified. All kit will be provided as necessary for practice and games.

The adults have now started their games and the next few weeks home fixtures have been reproduced here. The first team play in the Hunts League Division 3 and the 2nds in Hunts League Division 5. Please feel free to pop in and relax watching the cricket; tea, coffee, ice creams, wine or beer are available. If you fancy going one step further and would like to play adult cricket we are always looking for new players please do make contact if you are interested

### 1st Team

**MAY**

Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	RAMSEY 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	Div 3	1.00PM
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	HAMPTON 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Div 3	1.00PM
Sat	28 <sup>th</sup>	BIGGLESWADE	Div 3	1.00PM

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team****MAY**

Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	GODMANCHESTER	Div 3	1.00PM
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	HOUGHTON & WYTON	Div 3	1.00PM
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	SHEIKH XI	Div 3	1.00PM

**JUNE**

Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	ST IVES	Div 3	1.00PM
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Neil Tuffin npe.tuffin@gmail.com

## UPWOOD BRANCH WEA

The Upwood branch of the WEA has had a successful year with daytime, evening and study day courses.



The autumn term saw the welcome return of Honor Ridout and her course on the History of Cambridge – Town and Gown with culminated with a fascinating walk around Cambridge with the tutor.

Honor entertained us with tales of early Cambridge, maps and sketches of the buildings and bridges and all the students were enthralled and entertained.

In February we hosted a study day with Ian McLachlan on 'The Friendly Invasion – the US Army Air Force in East Anglia'. This was well-attended and proved to be a fascinating topic. We hope to have Ian back again next spring to give us the companion study day on the RAF in East Anglia.

March saw the second study day, this time with Chloe Cockerill who gave a series of beautifully illustrated lectures on 'Pomp & Circumstance' looking at the significance of the royal ceremonies and regalia.

We are, at the moment, in the middle of our first-class summer term, evening course on 'Royal Gardens' with Andrew Sankey – looking at five royal gardens including Hampton Court, Windsor and Buckingham Palace. We are looking forward to a visit to Sandringham to finish off the course.

We have a superb selection of courses lined up for next year including the return of Dr. Hartnell talking about historical climate change and a Tuesday morning course starting in September on Victorian Crime & Punishment. As you can see, there is something for everyone!

The WEA is open to all – it is not a club! We welcome people of any age, creed or colour and have free places available for people on specific benefits – just ask.

**The Upwood and Raveleys Archive** is part of the Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN). The network has 36 participating groups that operate totally independently but under the umbrella of CCAN. CCAN celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; the Upwood and Raveleys Archive being one of the first groups to get up and running. The archive is a web based archive and can be viewed on [www.upwood.ccan.co.uk](http://www.upwood.ccan.co.uk)

The website has photos of both events and documents. The aim is to provide a record, in pictures and words, of life in the villages making it a 'living archive' that will grow with the villages. Such archives exist in communities across the country and are a valuable source of reference material for school projects, family history research and for tracking social and economic changes and lifestyles. The archive is definitely for the use of past and present members of the community.

Over the past year the archive group has been less active than in previous years but with the new broadband facility in the village hall it will now be possible to hold an open event and show how the website can be used and enjoyed and how to contribute to the site. The group looks forward to an active future.

## **Upwood and Raveley Community Allotment Association (URCAA) and Upwood Community Orchard**

### **Update for Trustees, March 2016**

We have continued to make progress with our stated plans for the allotments. Our main aim, and greatest continuing challenge, is to acquire and keep new plot holders. We have varied the plot sizes to provide opportunities for people with different needs/time available and, as such, hope that the allotments can be an enjoyable and manageable activity for everyone. For 2016, we will look to focus our efforts on a recruitment drive. At the 2015 Allotment AGM we welcomed Trevor Brown to the committee in order to represent issues from the Great Raveley allotment plots.

The 2016 AGM will take place at the end of March/beginning of April (date tbc) where we will confirm the Associations plans for 2016.

#### **Activity over 2015 - allotments**

With the successful installation of the barrier gates and continued hedge planting, the security of the Upwood site has been improved. We have received two sets of hedging trees from the Woodland Trust, and are just finishing (weather permitting) the Huntingdon road stretch with a mix of Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Elder, Dog Rose and Hazel.

Four water troughs, funded through the community chest fund, have been purchased and placed for water storage on the Upwood site. This is our first step in a more long term ambition to have a water supply across this site.

Members carried out a litter pick of the ditches around the Upwood allotment site to enable the ditch clearing organised by the Parish Council. The spoil from the ditches has been held on the Community Plot, where we will gradually sort through the material and then reuse any suitable soil for projects.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June, we opened the allotments for the first time as part of the Upwood Open Gardens. We also managed to host two prize winning scarecrows!

We have invested in weed suppressant material and spent time trying to clear plots ready for prospective new allotmenters. As always, nature doesn't necessarily agree with our plans!

We have had some issues with dog fouling on the allotments so we have followed up with signage and, hopefully, this will not be such an issue this year. We welcome dog walkers and the community on the main track of the allotment but, as with everywhere, owners need to clear up after their pets.

#### **Activity over 2015 - community orchard**

We have now installed the donated bench and have created and planted up three raised beds with lavender and spring bulbs. Still a work in progress but hopefully it will become a quiet corner for villagers to enjoy the orchard. We have also planted hedging to help delineate the orchard area on the western edge.

We have lost one tree across the first year, when the graft failed. This will be replaced this Spring but otherwise the trees seem to be progressing well. Following another successful fund raising Quiz, we will look to expand the orchard planting, and hopefully will have sufficient funds to keep the area mown.

We are keen to get people involved in the Orchard as it starts to develop. People do not need to be plot holders – this is a Community Orchard for the village, and support can vary from weeding to coming up with fund raising ideas. There is a job to be done to meet anyone's ability or amount of free time and we are hoping to encourage local people to take an interest in the orchard.

Ali Miles, Liz Carter, Carl Dowdell, Julia Evans, Trevor Brown (URCAA committee)

## BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE UPWOOD & RAVELEY COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION (URCAA).

The Upwood & Raveley Community Allotments Association was formed in 2012 with its own constitution and a management committee comprising of the 3 key positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer . URCAA has taken over the everyday running of the allotment plots situated in Upwood (Meadow Road site) and Great Raveley (junction with Raveley & Huntingdon Road) with guidance from the Allotment Trustees who report to the Charities Commission.

URCAA is responsible for:

- rent collection
- rule enforcement
- elements of ground maintenance to the internal boundaries of the site

Maintenance to the external boundaries of the site fall to the Upwood Parish Council.

The Upwood site currently consists of 28 full plots split into a range of sizes to meet the varying needs of the community, included in this is a communal plot as well as a community orchard. The site is divided roughly in half with one half of the land being rented for hay production.

The Raveley allotment site consists of 5 defined plots and a block of land which is rented for crop production.

The URCAA Group's mission statement is to provide a community-managed resource for the purpose of self-sustainment and crop production for local residents and aims to achieve this by:

- Providing plots which local people can hire at a reasonable annual rent.
- Providing basic facilities on site including water, parking and a communal area for storage.
- Create a social group that shares a common interest in growing vegetables, crops or flowers.
- Encourage community schemes that utilise the site for all groups.

## CURRENT SITUATION

- 26 of the available 28 plots are actively cultivated or managed by allotment holders at Upwood leaving 1 large plot to be divided up this spring and 2 x ½ plot without a tenant.
- The Raveley site has a half vacant plot
- Currently there is not a waiting list for plots.
- The Upwood site is flanked by natural hedgerow on two sides with a restricted-access track running through the site, leading to two secure points of entry onto the site.
- There is a parking area opposite the plots at the Meadow road entrance, together with a standpipe tap for the hand watering of crops.
- There are a number of personal tool stores, small sheds and water containers on site, for equipment storage and rainwater harvesting.

## PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

## **Short Term Objectives.**

### **1) General Maintenance**

The vacant plots are being resized and cleared with a view to encourage uptake by new members asap. There is an ongoing need to help clear plots that remain or become vacant throughout the year. Whilst much of this can be done through self-help, URCAA have now invested in weed suppressant membrane to reduce overall maintenance requirements. We are also investigating the use of green manures. Plot holders have the opportunity to spray their plots for a reasonable cost by renting out a backpack sprayer and weed killer. We arrange for the grass track through the Upwood plots to be cut regularly throughout the growing season.

### **2) Security**

Security has been dramatically improved with the recent installation of 2 padlocked gates at both entrances. With a further successful application to the Woodlands Trust, URCAA is extending the hedging along the Huntingdon Road to complete the hedgerow at the top of the current hayfield.

### **3) Strengthening the association.**

As a group, URCAA committee members now stands at five, including a representative from the Raveleys site. There is always a need to recruit additional members to share some of the everyday site management and to drive forward future projects. URCAA would look to engage the wider membership in projects. A key project for 2016, will be the recruitment of new plot holders.

### **4) Publicity.**

Whilst we are managing the vacant plots, with natural turnover and some downsizing, there is always a need to attract new interest in the allotments. We will increase work to publicise plot availability in 2016 until such time as a waiting list is generated. Publicity through village newsletter, website publicity and potentially local free newspapers, will be ongoing.

### **5) Social events.**

The committee intend to hold at least one social event in the year, to raise the Group's profile as well as engender a community spirit. (Ongoing maintenance, such as ditch clearance & hedge trimming, will be done on a self-help basis.) This year's event (tbc) will be discussed at the Association's AGM

### **6) Community Orchard Project.**

The Orchard will continue to be maintained, and if funds allow we will, expand the tree planting and complete the hedging along the bottom edge.

### **7) Water provision.**

We have placed the four water troughs at the Upwood site and a 1000 litre water container at the Gt Raveley site. Over 2016 we will look at innovative ways to fill them as we work towards a long term aim of providing access to water for all plots.

## **Long Term Objectives.**

### **8) Plumbed Water Supplies.**

A successful application to the Community Chest included funds to help improve water storage for both sites. The long term aim is to have mains fed containers strategically placed around the sites so that we can attract more plot holders.

#### **9) Sensory Garden Project.**

There is the opportunity to establish a community sensory and easy access garden for use by all members of the community. Interest may also be provided through willow structures or gazebos. With a network of paths, raised planting beds and seating areas, all ages can contribute to the maintenance, layout, planting and upkeep of the area. With close proximity to the care home and footpath access, it could be seen as an opportunity for residents to grow plants on a small scale, as well as establish an area for relaxation.

#### **10) Primary School Project**

Previous mention has been made about offering one of the plots as a community plot for use by the local primary school. A volunteer would be needed to start up the project and offer seeds to grow easy return produce. School parties, under adult guidance, would cultivate these areas, fitting in with natural history and green studies within the school curriculum.

#### **11) Communal Hut.**

There is a long term aspiration to raise money to purchase a communal hut. As well as funds for the hut, additional funds will be needed to:

Provide shelving and storage cupboards so that allotment holders can store implements etc. Offer some portable heating and lighting; provide a couple of tables and some chairs to shelter from inclement weather.

Estimated cost: TBD

### **FINANCE**

Allotment rents are now collected and managed by URCAA and retained for future investment, it is hoped that there is enough income to manage the site on a day to day basis with a small surplus generated for site improvements. URCAA should build up a reserve from fund raising events and maintain approximately £300 in reserve, for ongoing maintenance.

All projects are dependent on fund raising, sponsorship and annual allotment rents collected by URCAA.

### **RISK ANALYSIS**

The main risks that the URCAA committee have identified are:

- The Site's personal liability is now included within the Parish Council's existing cover, however the risk remains due to unauthorised entry by dog walkers and ramblers.
- Reduction in the number of plot-holders - there is a risk of interest in the allotment scene decreasing and further plot holders not coming forward.
- Adverse weather - severe weather could damage the site and the growing potential of the plants and vegetables, most notably drought, flooding and wind damage can dishearten plot holders and see a decline in allotment usage and funds to support the site.

# UPWOOD COMMUNITY ORCHARD



Summary for Parish Council – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

A second fund-raising quiz was held in October 2015. It was very well supported and we raised a little over £350.00 (exact amount is in URCAA accounts).

We have had one tree from the original plantings die. The East of England Orchard Project have very kindly replaced this tree free of charge.

We have planted a further 10 trees this March, 2 plums, 2 quinces, 2 pears, 2 apples and 2 crab apples.

Of the 10 new trees 2 have already been sponsored, 8 are remaining and we'll continue to advertise the availability of trees to sponsor.

We have arranged for the orchard site to be rolled and then routine mowing will begin this spring. A stone-picking session was held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April with a couple of extra volunteers helping out – and very much appreciated.

Hedging on the bottom boundary of the orchard has been completed using the free Woodland Trust plants. It is intended to plant a similar hedge on the boundary between the orchard and the grass track of the allotments.

With thanks to Liz and Ali the raised beds either side of the wooden bench have been successfully planted with lavender and 'tete-a-tete' daffodils and are already creating a lovely spot to sit!

Land at the bottom corner of the site next to the t-junction of the grass tracks is always boggy as water naturally collects here so we now have a small wildlife pond to use this tricky corner more purposefully.

The 'Friends of the Community Orchard' idea is off to a shaky start. The 1<sup>st</sup> request in the February newsletter didn't bring any volunteers but we will try again. We have had help – e.g. the stone-clearing – but will continue to work at getting a few volunteers we can call on for specific help from time to time.

Thank you to everyone for all the help and support we receive – the orchard is progressing nicely.

## **Upwood & The Raveleys Local History Group – Annual Parish Report**

2015/16 year has been a very period as the History Group delivered some great evenings of local and national historical events.

The programme committee provided us with informative presentations and had to be extremely flexible in adapting to changing presenters. We also developed the 'I'll show you mine if you show me Yours' evening that was a success and highlighted the depth of history within our own families as well as in the village. We also held our annual lunch again at Ramsey Golf Club.

We also organised trips to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens and the nationally recognised Must Farm. Each visit was engaging and informative, but without efforts from willing volunteers, these visits cannot organise themselves and we will be missing out as a group.

The Must Farm trip went down as the most exciting trip this group has ever been involved in. It was an absolute privilege for us to be the first members of the public to see the first whole Bronze Age wheel ever found in the UK at Must Farm alongside the world's press. As visiting members we kept quiet about what we saw and did not 'Twitter' any pictures before the national news.

As we look forward to 2016/17, there are issues and tasks we have to take on. We need volunteers to run the small posts within the group. The average age of the group is steadily rising and there is a need to encourage some younger members of the village to keep us moving forward.

There is also a need to finance the electronic village archive. This is currently held within the Cambridge Community Archives Network and holds over a 1000 images and documents from the village. This network incurs an annual cost which is not the History Group responsibility however it is required in maintaining Upwood history for the future generations. To do this we will contact the Parish Council to request a grant to cover the network costs to Upwood.



## Annual Parish Meeting

### 2016 Report

Upwood Primary School is a community school striving to forge strong links with the local and wider community. It is the school's vision to maintain and develop these links.

#### Links With Our Community Which We Value

##### Manor House

Our strong links with Manor House have been maintained this year as we once again collected toiletries for the residents during October. Pupils delivered the items to the residents after visiting St Peter's Church for a 'Harvest Festival' of their own. Residents are also invited to our annual May Day celebration, which focuses again this year on 'Dances From Around the World'.

##### St Peter's Church Service

On Monday 14th December, the whole school walked to St Peter's Church in Upwood for a Christmas Service planned by the school. The children performed a variety of songs and poems. We were once again welcomed warmly into the church.

##### Open the Book

Each Thursday, trained members from St Peter's Church visit Upwood Primary to deliver an assembly called 'Open the Book'. The members use a variety of engaging techniques to deliver stories from the Bible. Our pupils look forward to the assembly each week and we would like to thank the trained members for their continued support.

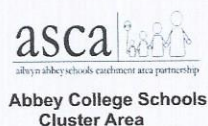
##### PTA

We are extremely fortunate at Upwood to have a very high degree of involvement and commitment from our community. The PTA organisation is actively involved in a full programme of educational, social and fund raising activities, for both children and adults, from

UPWOOD - HUNTINGDON - CAMBRIDGESHIRE - PE26 2QA

T - 01487 813510 / E - office@upwood.cambs.sch.uk

Head Teacher - Mrs S Whitelaw B(Ed) M.A.





which the school benefits greatly. This year the PTA has continued to organise termly discos, movie nights and tuck shops, as well as the Upwood Ball, which is always a great success.

### Charity Work

We believe our pupils gain a great deal from taking part in fundraising events for both our school and national/international charities, as it develops empathy towards others, a sense of community and an understanding of the wider world. We agreed to support the following three charities for this academic year:

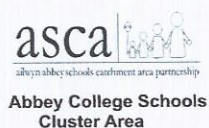
- The Royal National Institute for the Blind;
- Sport Relief;
- The Poppy Appeal.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind supports blind and partially sighted children and adults in the UK. We fundraised for this charity during the latter stages of the Autumn Term, by supporting their 'Wear dots, raise lots' appeal. We raised a fantastic £170.

On Friday 18th March, everybody at Upwood Primary School came together to raise money for Sports Relief. Due to its popularity two years ago, we decided to complete a mile long obstacle course once again. In and out of cones, over hurdles, stepping through hoops and crawling through gates were just some of the obstacles the children had to overcome. We are extremely proud of everyone who took part. Most importantly we managed to raise £521.

We also continued to support the Poppy Appeal. Children were asked to make a voluntary contribution to an appeal box, in exchange for a Poppy pin. Staff felt that it was important to continue with this fundraising event, as it has such great significance in our nation's history.

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## Special Events

### Catering Workshops

Upwood Primary School pupils will have the opportunity to develop their cookery skills again in May. Each KS1 year group will welcome Carole Youngman and her team ('Cooks on the Move') from Cambridgeshire Catering Service into their classes. Staff at Upwood Primary School consider cookery to be a key part of the curriculum, as it develops independence in later life and can foster an interest in healthy eating. Overall, the aim of the workshops is to give the children a greater understanding of where food comes from and how to create a tasty dish from scratch using healthy ingredients.

With the 'Cooks on the Move' the children will be making cakes and bread and be taught many cookery skills including mixing, kneading and chopping safely. At the end of the session each child will be able to eat their cookery project.

### **Lastly...a Thank You**

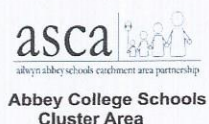
As another successful and eventful academic year draws to a close, we would like to thank all those residents of Upwood Village who support us in our endeavours.

*S Whitelaw*

Mrs S Whitelaw

Head Teacher

UPWOOD - HUNTINGDON - CAMBRIDGESHIRE - PE26 2QA  
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## **Newsletter report to Parish meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

There have now been over 80 editions of the parish newsletter since it started in 2002. We now have a fully constituted committee of 9 people. They are supported by another group of 9 volunteers who distribute the bi-monthly publication through every letterbox in the parish. We also have an increasing number of recipients, currently 24, who have also requested digital copies. This along with its capability to download from the villages' website, means that the newsletter can reach all corners of the parish and beyond.

2 newsletter committee members also organise the distribution of the "Ramsey & Warboys Informer" in Upwood village. There are another 12 volunteers who deliver this publication on a monthly basis and donate their delivery fee to newsletter funds.

Particular mention should go to the editorial committee of Paul Charman, Judith Harvey and Pauline McLeod, along with Fran Charman as proof reader, who manage to maintain such a high quality of publication from issue to issue.

This year we have managed to raise the profile of the newsletter even higher by introducing 4 colour pages on a regular basis. This is thanks to the successful bid for funding from the Ramsey Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. This project, involved members of the newsletter committee, village hall committee and the Communications sub-group of the Community Led Plan committee. It proposed a co-ordinated approach to addressing communication needs within the parish. As a result there is enough extra funding for continued colour publications over the next 18 months as well as a designated laptop and software for the editorial committee to use.

The newsletter relies on financial donations for its continuing existence. This year I would like to thank the Parish Council, the Open Gardens Event, the Fete Committee, the Cross Keys Fun

Day, the Newsletter Treasure Hunt, "Informer" Deliverers and the Ramsey Windfarm Community Benefit Fund for their generous donations. These allow the newsletter to go from strength to strength. Future funding is an issue that the current newsletter committee is aware needs addressing. We are a voluntary non-profit making organisation and, as such, our sources of income are limited to receiving donations from the parish council and local events

## Parish Clerk

---

**From:** NORMAN JONES <normanmag@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 07 May 2016 16:22  
**To:** parishclerk@upwood.org  
**Subject:** Report for the quilt group.

Dear Carol,  
Please find the report for the Quilt Group.

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the village hall.  
We have a membership of 23. Most of the members bring their own projects to the meetings and there is always help and advice from the other members should you need it.  
At present we are in the process of making a group quilt, which will be raffled at a later date.

Thank you Margaret.

**From:** Williams David hollyhouse.upwood@tiscali.co.uk  
**Subject:** upwood tt club-report for your agm  
**Date:** Today at 10:20  
**To:** Clerk Parish parishclerk@upwood.org

---

Hi Carol

The TT club continues to grow in popularity with a current membership of 50 which includes Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon players.

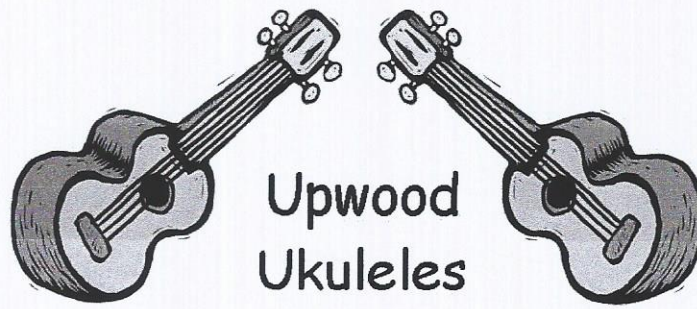
The Wednesday group has proved particularly successful and now has a waiting list for new members.

The club ran several tournaments over the past 12 months and provided subsidised social outings to Hunstanton in summer and Pidley bowling in winter.

The year concluded with a meal at the Cross Keys Pub attended by 44 members and guests.

Regards

David Williams



Formed in February 2014 with the accent on having fun and making music together, our popularity has taken us somewhat by surprise. Upwood Ukuleles has gone from strength to strength, playing at an ever increasing variety of events ranging from WIs, residential homes and day centres to private parties and social evenings, entertaining adults and children alike. We also performed on Radio Cambridgeshire just before Christmas in 2014 and again in 2015.

Upwood Ukuleles include a wide assortment of musical styles and instruments. As well as the whole range of ukuleles from piccolo to bass, we play kazoos, harmonicas, recorders and various percussion instruments including the cajon. Audience participation is encouraged and we play songs ranging from George Formby classics, through 1960s novelty numbers, to current chart hits.

We do not usually charge a performance fee as such but do request a suitable donation to our designated charity, Magpas Helimedix. The most recent update from Magpas on 09 May 2016 acknowledges the group's total donation of £3603.58.

Upwood Ukuleles has evolved to the point where it had become necessary to formalise its administration. Election of officers and the adoption of a constitution has provided the group with terms of reference for its smooth operation and a formal status demonstrating accountability and allowing the group to apply for grants. We now have a constitution, a bank account and public liability insurance cover.

The twelve members of the group take financial responsibility for their own instruments and personal equipment but we have evolved to the point where we need to purchase a sound system to assist and enhance sound projection. Some venues with complex acoustics or larger audiences have challenged the group and impacted on the enjoyment of listeners. Playing in the outdoors has also proved problematic for this reason. Many of our groups of listeners have particular needs. For example, many of our elderly listeners need amplified sound, not just for volume but also for clarity. Some of our most rewarding performances have been with those suffering from Alzheimer's where music and song lyrics have brought back long lost memories. Carers have thanked us for helping their loved ones to sing for the first time in years. Experiences such as these are very powerful and have made us realise what a difference we are making.

We have taken advice and conducted extensive research regarding the best equipment to purchase and hope that this may be achieved via grant applications enabling us to provide higher quality performances with greater clarity; the flexibility to play in bigger or more acoustically challenging venues; and the ability to reach out to a wider audience whilst continuing our financial support of Magpas Helimedix. Making music for our own enjoyment; the enjoyment and tangible benefit of others in our community; and the opportunity to support a vital charity has evolved into a powerful synergy and inspiration for continued improvement and success.

*"Everyone enjoyed the occasion and have requested that you come back again soon, please!"*  
Wendy Ibbett – Coffee Pot Memory Club, St Neots

*"I would like to thank Upwood Ukuleles for a very enjoyable afternoon. Though we have had some excellent speakers/performers you are the first where I have been asked to re-book while you were still in the hall!"*  
Whittlesey U3A

*"Such a splendid evening's entertainment."*  
Judy Bainbridge, Warboys WI

*"Thanks for coming in yesterday, you were fabulous."*  
Katharine Park, Producer, Radio Cambridgeshire

*"We would like to thank everyone at Upwood Ukuleles. Your support really is fantastic and very much appreciated."*  
Debbie Florence, Head of Fundraising, Magpas

For more information and booking contact Doug McLeod: [pndmcleod@btinternet.com](mailto:pndmcleod@btinternet.com) / 01487 814114 / 07709 930398



## **UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**



### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**April 2016**

Regular bookings of the hall have generally remained steady in 2015 however it is a matter of concern that in the past few years that there have been few new regular hirers and some long standing groups have folded due to lack of support. A recent concern has been the Brownies, a long-time hirer that has recently had to suspend their meetings due to a lack of helpers.

To try and counter this, the Village Hall Management committee have undertaken a programme of work over the past few years to improve facilities in an effort to make the hall more appealing and comfortable. This has included the installation of new heating, improved insulation, redecoration inside and out and more recently the purchase of new chairs. With the aid of a community grant we have also recently upgraded the video projector and installed free Wifi for our users.

The fabric of the hall (the original part of which is almost 150 years old) continues to require maintenance, Last year the outside woodwork was repainted and rot was discovered in some of the beams, similarly we have had to keep a watchful eye for dampness and one such area was recently repaired near the front fire exit.

As a village we are extremely lucky to have a village hall and I would encourage everyone to let people know what a great resource it is in an effort to boost its use and provide us with a valuable income that can help us keep it open and in a good state of repair.

As well as regular bookings we have been fortunate to host a number of performing arts events, not only are these extremely well attended, they draw people from outside the village and are a great advertisement for the hall. Many thanks go to Doug McLeod for organising them.

Once again we would like to thank all of our fundraisers who enable us to invest in major refurbishment projects and to the Parish Council who's grant has helps to cover our insurance costs.

Last but not least, my sincere thanks go to the Village Hall committee and its trustees whose tireless efforts continue to ensure that the hall remains a valuable community resource.

Stephen Howes  
Chairman,  
Upwood Village Hall Management Committee

Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall  
Bank Balances as at 29 February 2016

Current Account (No 609369280)		
Balance	£788.51	
Less unpresented cheques	£92.00	£696.51
Plus outstanding payments		£561.60
Business Premium Account (No 8090 5143)		£10,694.34
Fund Raising Account		£12,972.65
Petty Cash		£0.86
		<hr/>
		£24,925.96

I hereby certify that the income and expenses accounts and balance sheets for Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall for the year ending 29 February 2016 are a true record according to the information provided.

Signed

*R. W. Peckover*

R.W. Peckover

Date 14.3.16

29th February 2016

29th February 2016

R. W. Pedraza.  
14. 3. 16

Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall      Fund Raising Account      29th February 2016

INCOME

Knightley and Mischa ticket sales  
 Donation from RSC  
 Mischa raffle proceeds  
 Autumn shows ticket sales  
 Coppin/Silver raffle proceeds  
 Melrose Quartet raffle proceeds  
 Christmas & Spring 2016 tkt sales  
 Nelson raffle proceeds  
 Celtic Strings raffle proceeds  
 Interest

£1,359.00  
 £50.00  
 £156.00  
 £3,661.50  
 £107.00  
 £134.00  
 £3,127.00  
 £71.00  
 £126.00  
 £30.47

EXPENDITURE

Refunds for Steve Knightley tickets  
 Steve Knightley performance fee  
 Steve Knightley - UVH elec & hire  
 New Ropes - UVH elec & hire  
 Mischa Macpherson performance fee  
 S Woodward & V Crivelli performance fee  
 Mischa Macpherson-UVH elec & hire  
 Mischa -refreshments, B&B, sound eng  
 Coppin/Silver performance fee  
 Cup O'Joe performance fee  
 Coppin/Silver-UVH elec & hire  
 Coppin/Silver-refreshments, B&B, sound eng  
 Melrose Quartet performance fee  
 Melrose Quartet -UVH elec & hire  
 Melrose Qu-refreshments, B&B, sound eng  
 Nelson performance fee  
 Nelson - UVH elec & hire  
 Celtic Christmas Strings performance fee  
 Celtic Christmas Strings - UVH elec & hire  
 Celtic Christmas Strings B&B exp  
 OVC performance fee  
 UpUs performance fee  
 OVC & UpUs -UVH elec & hire  
 Various concert expenses

£120.50  
 £1,152.00  
 £46.20  
 £68.30  
 £800.00  
 £50.00  
 £48.70  
 £75.00  
 £800.00  
 £100.00  
 £51.20  
 £125.00  
 £850.00  
 £55.80  
 £90.00  
 £500.00  
 £47.60  
 £600.00  
 £53.90  
 £30.00  
 £350.00  
 £350.00  
 £61.30  
 £138.70

30 banqueting chairs  
 Microphones,stands & leads (Thomann)

£1,612.80  
 £324.02

£8,501.02

Income over Expenditure

£320.95

TOTAL

£8,821.97

£8,821.97

R.W. Pedlow  
 14.3.16



## **UPWOOD & THE RAVELEYS WEBSITE**

### **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The website which serves the villages began as a website to serve the needs of the village hall, but has expanded over the years to cover many of the parish's activities including a large local history archive.

This year the website was transferred to a more fluid format using Joomla!, an award-winning content management system (CMS), which enables website construction. Many aspects, including its ease-of-use and extensibility, have made Joomla! the most popular website software available. Best of all, Joomla is an open source solution that is freely available to everyone.

The process of moving all the content over from the old website format to the new CMS took a substantial amount of time but this is now complete and the new format is much more mobile- and tablet-friendly than the old one.

Parish organisations can now have much more control over the content of their own webpages, should they so wish, rather than waiting for the webmaster to update articles.

The website is administered on a voluntary basis by Steve Howes (technician) and Doug McLeod (day to day admin / webmaster). It also relies on parishioners to send in up-to-date information on activities and events in order to keep the website current. Updates are completed on a regular basis according to need and free time available to the webmaster.

In the past the website organisers have been grateful to the Fete Committee for providing funding for the annual cost of web hosting. As this funding stream no longer exists would it be possible for the parish council to take over this small annual financial commitment, please?

Doug McLeod & Steve Howes  
Upwood & The Raveleys Website

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT 2016

This report is designed to give the Parish Council an overview of District activities in the previous year which has a bearing on the Parish.

I have divided the report into four sections, the first being Finance, the second Planning, third Devolution and Shared Services and finally general Council services.

### **Finance.**

Like all councils across the country, HDC has, since 2011, been subject to severe financial restrictions imposed by the government which can best be expressed in the net revenue budget for HDC. In 2011, this was c. £23million per annum, in 2016/17 the budget is £17.9m and by 2021 it is required to be £13.8million; an overall reduction of 40%.

The government is removing more than £7million of grants traditionally provided to councils in order to exert pressure upon the cost base and this has created a revolution in the way HDC finances and manages its services.

A system known as zero based budgeting has been adopted to ensure that all departments operate at the minimum cost level possible given the service levels to be delivered and this will yield savings of £4million per annum by 2020.

The council have succeeded in bringing down the operating cost without impairing service levels and have managed to do this without the help of council tax rises which have remained unchanged for three years at £133 for a band D property, amongst the lowest levels in England.

The council must ensure that the level of reserves does not fall below 15% of the annual budget and whilst this current budget year is in balance, there is a projected deficit of £4 million at the end of the plan period in 2020. Therefore, the austerity measures will continue for several years and there will be a constant fight to protect frontline services.

**Commercialization** as part of the attempts to reduce the gap between revenue and costs, efforts have been made to improve the business performance of some of the costlier activities run by the Council. One such example is One Leisure which has in recent years been losing more than £2million per annum. A more commercial approach has been adopted and new management installed with the result that OL has moved from negative figures to surplus in the last 12 months. The OL Group achieved annual sales of £6.85m (Budget £6.97m) with an operating surplus of £425K (Budget £343k), representing a turn-round of over £500k in comparison to 2014/15.

### **Devolution**

As you no doubt aware HDC signed up to the agreement presented by the Treasury prior to the recent Budget statement which involves the devolution of powers to Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and described in the attached document The East Devolution Agreement. When our position was discussed in Council on the 23rd March, the Leader explained that it was important to stay at the negotiating table to ensure we could fight for the best deal for Huntingdonshire.

Since this date, members of the Cabinet have been involved with our Executive Officers in numerous meetings with members of all 23 Councils and LEs in the Anglian region and have explained that the Greater Anglia Deal is unappealing to our Council because of the huge geography it covers with the corresponding difficulties which will be faced by a single Mayor.

We have support in this view from adjacent councils notably South Cambs, Peterborough, Cambridge City, The Local Enterprise Partnership and although their support is politically ambiguous, from Cambridgeshire County Council as well. The leaders of these councils have agreed to present to the Treasury and Greg Clark, a new version of the Peterborough/Cambridgeshire deal document which was produced earlier this year. This document, now in draft form, reflects most of the aspirations the government has defined for devolution but on a smaller geographic scale. Most importantly it explains why the Greater Anglia deal is less attractive economically than a twin track deal to both devolved areas.

Once complete it will be discussed with government with a view to obtaining an early decision on its viability.

The timetable imposed by Government is such that a decision in either direction must be taken to allow an announcement on the appointment of the Mayor(s) to be made by 4 July.

As soon as the proposed revised document is completed it will be shared with Members who will be asked to vote on a Devolution motion at the special council meeting on the 29th June.

### **Shared Services**

The Share Services project is a voluntary initiative through which HDC, South Cambs and Cambridge City have agreed to centralize certain activities to provide both lower costs and more efficient use of resources. The first project has successfully merged the CCTV networks of HDC and CC into a single control room in Huntingdon controlling 270 cameras in six town and city locations across the district. This is saving around £100k per annum.

Work is now underway to merge IT Services, Building Control and Legal Services for the three councils and this is expected to yield c£2million per annum for HDC by 2020, which will go some way to reducing the deficit mentioned earlier.

### **Planning**

The Local Plan, which calls for 21000 new homes by 2036, (of which 8000 are 'affordable') has been delayed due to questions about traffic management around Wyton on the Hill. The District Council believe there must be major infrastructure investments to relieve congestion and this would necessitate a new river crossing being built across the Ouse to link the A141 direct to the A14. Uncertainty about funding has caused the Council to plan for different scenarios in order that the full housing quota can be met, but the 'Final' Plan must be completed by the end of 2016 and submitted to the Inspector by the Spring of next year. A long queue of Local Plans means that approval is unlikely to be given until mid-2018.

To address the potential shortfall in housing arising from the Wyton delay, Alconbury Weald developments may be intensified and Upwood Airfield may be brought forward. c450 homes are being considered for Upwood, of which 125 could be built in the next 5 years.

### **Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment**

An updated version of the 2010 Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (GTANA) is being coordinated by Huntingdonshire District Council in partnership with South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Forest Heath District Councils, St Edmundsbury and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Councils and Cambridge and Peterborough City Councils. The main purposes of the GTANA are to:

- Inform the development of future housing and planning policy for each respective authority
- Provide information on gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople's accommodation needs both temporary and permanent, including 'bricks and mortar' accommodation
- Gain a better understanding of the pattern of movements and encampments in and between the Councils' administrative areas
- Translate these accommodation needs into five year increments covering the period 2016 to 2036

It is not intended to 'designate' potential sites as occurred in 2011, but instead to take a more holistic, regional view of requirements, which should hopefully avoid the controversy of the last policy initiative.

### **Neighbourhood and Community Planning**

With the exception of Wyton on the Hill which has a potentially large scale development within the parish, the other parishes in the Ward cannot justify a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage and all have instead completed a Community Led Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans only reward parishes in which medium to large scale housing projects are being planned and so unless there is an opportunity for several smaller parishes to 'club together' thereby gaining scale and access to higher CIL contributions, the Community Plan will have to serve its purpose.

However, if the situation should change, parishes may consider the work to upgrade their Community Plans to Neighbourhood status to be worth the effort.

Robin Howe  
District Councillor  
Upwood and the Raveleys

Cambridgeshire County Council is facing financial challenges on a scale never seen before and have had a very tough year to reach a balanced budget however by liaising with officers and scrutinising strategies the council managed to achieve an under spend of around 5 million pounds By the year 2020 there will be a gap of £102 million between the funding we have to spend and the funding we need to continue to provide our services, this years budget is even more challenging with savings of 51 million to find.

To achieve, this it will inevitably lead to reduced services. Some services have been cut significantly such as youth work and children's centres and school transport routes have been reviewed and made more streamline, We have merged teams that used to be separate and are now sharing some services with other organisations such as Care Network, the Fire Authority, carers trust, Generally, the county council has moved away from providing services that are classed as being for everyone to access (universal), to services targeted at those that are most vulnerable and in real need, however, the number of people in this group is growing and we are struggling to meet this demand.

One of the main changes the county council has made is the strategy of a programme called transforming lives which is being rolled out from middle of April having proved effective in a pilot scheme where savings were achieved, this strategy is based on outcomes for the most vulnerable and elderly in our communities, part of this strategy is a new point of contact called the early help contact centre this came on line in early April which signposts to community organisations and our more complex services, which should improve the speed of which enquiries are dealt with We have increased the use of technology to meet people's needs, such as assistive technology for older people so they require less face to face visits. However we are still delivering broadly the same services but at a lower cost which has been achieved through reviewing departments and services and making some significant restructures which have resulted in reductions of staff, particularly management. Office space for Council staff has been reduced and, where it remains, the vast majority of staff do not have an assigned desk but have to share space and use a hot desk solution.

In February it was agreed at full council to increase council tax by 2% which is ring fenced for Adult social care which will help alleviate the stress put on to the social care budget in the coming year. the main council tax was not increased.

Discussions have been ongoing on devolution, the county council voted 64 with one abstention to carry on with discussion however the deal that was put forward by government was not accepted and that a new deal should be negotiated and bought back to the Councils, this is an ongoing discussion and will further brief this council when anything is known.

In Upwood Potholes, have been filled and patches put in where necessary, The footpath between Bury and Upwood has had some substantial work completed, new initiatives have been put in place to help mitigate reductions in services to the elderly and most vulnerable, a monthly walk about is now taking place so that any seen problems can be reported ASAP to the appropriate services. A new reporting system is being trailed and if successful will be rolled out in the next couple of months which should speed up the reporting process.