



## **Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter**

**Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – May 2017**

The current editorial team took over in August 2012, so they have now been doing the job for nearly 5 years. 29 editions of the newsletter have been collated in that time and as a committee we like to think that the quality of both presentation and content has improved over these 5 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Payne, the original founder and editor of the newsletter who resigned at the AGM last year after 14 year's involvement, 9 of which as editor. Without his relentless application it is doubtful if the parish newsletter would still be in existence.

The committee is now as follows:-

Doug McLeod - Chairman

Frances Ashfield - Vice Chairman

Paul Charman - Secretary

Geoff Carrington – Treasurer

Paul Charman, Judith Harvey & Pauline McLeod - Editors

Fran Charman - proof reader

Pam Dowdell - in charge of distribution.

Everyone mentioned is a volunteer and the time they dedicate to producing a quality newsletter hopefully is appreciated by all parishioners. As well as the management committee there is also a group of wonderful volunteers who distribute and deliver the newsletter throughout the parish, come rain or shine. Added to that there is another group of volunteers who deliver the Ramsey & Warboys Informer in Upwood village and kindly donate their "pay" to newsletter funds.

In 2015 we were fortunate to receive money through the Ramsey Wind Farm Trust, which enabled us to buy a dedicated laptop for the editors as well as introduce 4 pages of colour into the newsletter. In every edition the front and back pages display photos of local interest and the centre pages are always a 'spotlight' on a parish group or establishment which incorporates relevant colour photographs. From comments received this initiative has been much appreciated and we are just about to embark on a second bid to the Wind Farm Trust to see if we can continue our forays into colour. Finance is always an issue and we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support.

We now send out 27 digital copies to people who have requested them and the current issue, as well as all the back catalogue, is available to be downloaded from the parish website.

Every year we hold the AGM in the village hall – this year's is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May – and we invite parishioners to attend. It is always advertised in the April/May newsletter to give people the chance of either attending in person or contributing in writing. We would love more feedback and some input as to what people would like to see featured in the newsletter but to date no parishioners have attended the meetings. This also means that we do not receive any 'new blood' onto the committee – a common complaint in the parish I know, but still a valid one. As the committee are all over 60 it doesn't take a genius to work out that we will not be able to continue forever and it would be great to see some of the younger members of the parish starting to take on some of the responsibility for running parish organisations.

On behalf of the Newsletter Committee I would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who help with the production and delivery of the newsletter in any way. I think that the parish has a publication of which it can justifiably be proud.

Doug McLeod

Chairman

Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter Committee





## **Parish Website and Facebook Page**

### **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting – May 2017**

The parish website is operated by two parishioners, Steve Howes and Doug McLeod. Starting out as a website to promote the village hall, the website now hosts a wealth of information about the villages, both current and historical. Moving the website to the “Joomla” platform has made the website’s content more accessible for mobile phone and tablet users as well as allowing access to a limited number of individuals, the parish clerk for example, who have permissions to edit specific related items. The homepage hosts a diary of events in the parish which is updated on a regular basis.

The webmasters are very grateful to the parish council for its continued financial support.

The Facebook page: “Upwood” was also set up by the two website webmasters as a community resource and is a growing means of communication within the parish. It currently has 371 followers. Anybody can post items to its page so it has helped in finding lost cats in the parish and more recently warned people of the swarm of bees on the footpath from Bentley Close to Upwood Meadows!

Esther Rowley has been asked to keep the page fresh with photographs taken from around the parish – this has been particularly successful and the webmaster would like to thank Esther for contributions.

Doug McLeod

Steve Howes

Webmasters, Upwood & The Raveleys Website and Facebook page



## Annual Parish Meeting

### 2017 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 Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal, which this year was entitled 'Countdown to Christmas' and will be invited to our May Day Performance.

##### St Peter's Church Service

On Monday 12th 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.

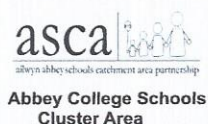
##### Open the Book

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

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







educational, social and fund raising activities, for both children and adults, from 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. This year the PTA has also supported a reading incentive in Years 5 and 6, with the committee providing small prizes such as Easter Eggs, for those children reading widely at home.

### 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 charities for this academic year:

- Comic Relief;
- The Poppy Appeal.

Comic Relief is one of our nation's great fundraising efforts, which brings the entire country together raising money for a common cause. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, children were asked to come to school in something that would make someone smile! A wide range of bright and colourful costumes were seen in school. Families made a contribution to Comic Relief on this day and we raised nearly £200.

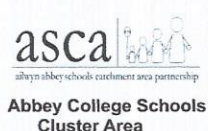
We also continued to support the Poppy Appeal. Children were asked to make a voluntary contribution to an appeal box, in exchange for a Poppy pin. Staff felt that it was important to continue with this fundraising event, as it has such great significance in our nation's history.

### Special Events

#### World Book Day

We celebrated 'World Book Day,' on March 3rd. This is a global event celebrating reading and books. Many fun events were organised in school including pupils and staff dressing up as their favourite fairy tale characters, from books such as Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk. Pupils

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also entered a competition to design a new front cover for Cinderella and had a go at matching teachers with their favourite books.

### Egg Day

As the Spring term drew to a close, we held our annual 'Egg Day.' Children in Years 1-6 were invited to take part in a competition to design 'something' using a hard boiled egg. There were prizes for each class and an overall winner. Judges, Paul and Esther Rowley, arrived in school during the afternoon to choose the winners. Creations were displayed in the hall at the end of the day for parents/carers to view. This day always proves to be very successful and popular.

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

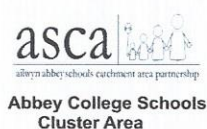
As another successful and eventful academic year draws to a close, we would like to thank all those residents of Upwood Village who support us in our endeavours.

*S Whitelaw*

Mrs S Whitelaw

Head Teacher

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## **Annual Parish Meeting 2017 Report from Upwood Primary School's PTA**

Upwood Primary School is very fortunate to have a dedicated and hard-working team of volunteers, leading our fundraising efforts. The work of the PTA is so important as it establishes and maintains a true partnership with parents and carers to promote and enhance the education and development of all children at Upwood Primary.

The PTA supports the central aim of the school which is: *'To create a stimulating, challenging and imaginative environment in which, and through which, children are able to achieve the highest standard socially, physically and intellectually'.*

Children, parents and carers, staff and governors have had a lot of fun at all of our events over the last school year raising money to enhance every child's learning. This has enabled us to purchase I Pads which has been used by all the children, from Foundation to Year 6, for various educational purposes. The PTA have pledged to fund a further fifteen I Pads for our pupils to enjoy, next academic year.

This academic year, the PTA have organised a wide range of events for members of our school community to enjoy, including a termly disco and Pop and Popcorn Nights, where children are invited to watch a film on the big screen in the school hall, whilst enjoying various snacks and drinks. We also look forward to our wonderful annual Christmas Fayre, which in 2016 raised over £1000. We still have some great events to look forward to this year, including the Summer Fayre, which always proves to be popular.

The PTA have directly impacted upon children's learning this year, by providing termly prizes for children's reading. PTA members have received feedback from parents and carers which suggests this is making a positive impact on encouraging children to read at home.

Residents of Upwood can support the PTA by purchasing tickets for our annual Summer Ball or attending other events, such as the Summer Fayre. We hope to see you there!

## Upwood Primary School PTA Progress Report – January 2017

The PTA have another fantastic start to 2017. From January to march we have raised £795.05. We are continuing to contribute towards providing the school with Ipads.

Incoming profits:- September 2016 – December 2016

Valentines Tuck shop - £64.60

Disco - £220.55

Mother's Day cards - £155.98

Pop & popcorn night - £276.62

Easter tuck shop - £77.30

Upcoming Events:-

Disco

Pop & popcorn

Summer fayre

As of March 2017 our bank balance is £13,708.98

Kind Regards

Mrs Rebekah Cornthwaite



## Parish Clerk

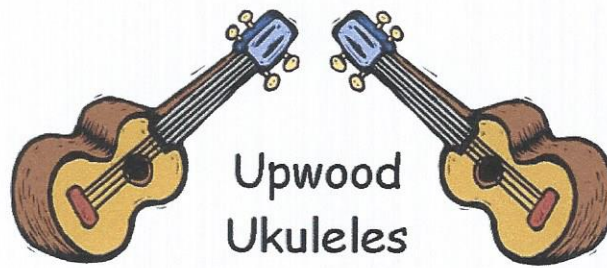
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**From:** NORMAN JONES <normanmag@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 08 May 2017 10:50  
**To:** parishclerk@upwood.org  
**Subject:** Quilt group.

Dear Carol,  
Sorry that i have not answered before now, but my husband broke his leg so have been rather busy. Hope this is not to late.

We have a membership of about 20 and meet every last Tuesday of the month.  
(ommitting December) The members will bring their own sewing and will always be ready to help anyone wishing for new ideas on projects. Last year we raised £220 which was devided between St Peter's Church and the Village Hall.  
Thank you Margaret.





### Upwood Ukuleles

Report for annual parish meeting 2017 by Pauline & Doug McLeod

Now well into our 4<sup>th</sup> year of existence Upwood Ukuleles goes from strength to strength. I never imagined when I put an advert in the parish newsletter in December 2013 asking if anyone wanted to learn to play the ukulele that the idea would be so successful. Our first meeting was in February 2014 and we were taken by surprise when we were asked to perform to the Warboys Day Care Centre in May. Five players, 3 of whom were complete beginners, turned up and since then we have never looked back. Our popularity seems to be on the increase and we are constantly in demand, so much so that, we sometimes reluctantly have to turn down requests. We generally meet every Thursday evening in each other's houses but about once a month meet in the village hall.

In November 2014 we decided that we would start collecting for Magpas Helimedix, in lieu of asking for a performance fee. We wanted to collect for a local charity and this one seemed ideal. None of the ukulele players take any money, all travel costs are paid for by the players themselves and the only expenses are for our public liability insurance and for props such as kazoos, which are given to members of the audience so that they can join in with the band. To date we have raised over £9000 and are hoping to reach £10,000 before our fund-raising concert in May in the Village Hall. This was another surprise – we sold out in about 4 weeks!

We now have 11 players, Chris unfortunately moved back to Liverpool in March, some of whom still work so are unavailable for daytime gigs, but everyone is totally committed and it is wonderful to see the reaction our playing generates. Our successful bid to the local Windfarm trust enabled us to buy some pa gear which has really enhanced the listening experience for our audiences. Gigs vary tremendously from playing for Alzheimer's groups to wedding anniversaries to WIs; to Whittlesey Lions and for Warboys Community Days to performing in care homes. We travel the county and seem to be well received by all. Many organisations ask us back –Whittlesey U3A have already booked us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time for March 2018. We all 'have a ball' and thoroughly enjoy this novel way of fund-raising for a very good cause. When it stops being fun we will stop but meanwhile we'll just keep on learning new songs and entertaining the good folk of Cambridgeshire.



## **UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**



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

**April 2017**

Regular bookings of the hall have generally remained steady in the past year however there are still a number of available booking slots available during the week and at weekends. Despite the efforts of the committee to try and encourage new hirers we have had very little success, the reason we suspect is the general lack of new community groups being formed.

The management committee continues to work hard to maintain the general fabric of the hall. During the past year the flooring has been replaced in the kitchen and entrance hall and in the coming weeks we plan to refurbish the store room. This will include repairs to stop damp ingress and general redecoration.

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 continue to be 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 once again go to Doug McLeod for organising them.

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 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

28th February 2017

## Income

Deposits	£	519.00
One-off users	£	490.00
Art Group	£	786.14
History Group	£	121.85
Home to Home	£	259.48
Parish Council	£	2,608.52
St Peter's Church	£	209.71
Quilting Group	£	320.79
Brownies	£	20.00
Table Tennis	£	2,401.60
WEA	£	398.43
Book Club	£	121.03
Performing Arts	£	419.48
Donations/misc	£	121.07
Upwood Ukuleles	£	122.63
Sale of chairs	£	100.00
Interest	£	6.47

**£ 9,026.20**

## Expenditure

Refunds	£	307.30
Rates	£	248.50
Water Rates	£	331.57
Cleaner	£	1,132.30
Repairs & Maintenance	£	2,339.88
Electricity	£	936.32
Insurance	£	885.92
Consumables	£	101.94
Plusnet	£	232.80
Sundry expenses	£	72.88

Income over Expenditure    £ 2,436.79

**£ 9,026.20**

R. W. Pedder

19.3.2017

Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall      Fund Raising Account      28th February 2017

INCOME

Ticket sales Spring 2016 shows  
 Raffle proceeds Spring 2016 shows  
 Mischa & Autumn ticket sales  
 Mischa & Autumn raffle proceeds  
 Ticket sales New Year shows  
 Raffle proceeds New Year shows  
 Sales of costumes & microphones  
 Interest

£1,800.50  
 £404.00  
 £4,468.00  
 £576.00  
 £2,571.50  
 £296.00  
 £350.00  
 £27.67

EXPENDITURE

UVH elec & hire for 9 events  
 Phil Beer performance fee  
 Mervyn Stutter performance fee  
 Sykes/Preston performance fee  
 Mischa Macpherson performance fee  
 Cup o'Joe performance fee  
 While & Matthews performance fee  
 James Hill performance fee & workshop  
 Megson performance fee  
 Henry/Martin performance fee  
 Refreshments for artistes - 9 events  
 Expenses for B&B and for sound engineer  
 Ramsey Arts Festival - 50% Mischa profits  
 Misc expenses for ink, flowers & ticket refund

£452.58  
 £960.00  
 £550.00  
 £744.00  
 £900.00  
 £450.00  
 £800.00  
 £1,200.00  
 £775.00  
 £900.00  
 £225.00  
 £260.00  
 £123.45  
 £93.73

TOTAL

£10,493.67

Income over Expenditure

£2,059.91

TOTAL

£10,493.67

R.W. Packwood  
 19.3.2017



Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall  
Bank Balances as at 28 February 2017

Current Account (No 30379868)

Balance

£757.08

Less unpresented cheques

£68.65

£688.43

Business Instant Access a/c (No30543368)

£13,700.81

Fund Raising Account

£15,032.56

Petty Cash

£0.86

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£29,422.66

I hereby certify that the income and expenses accounts and balance sheets for Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall for the year ending 28 February 2017 are a true record according to the information provided.

Signed

*R.W. Peckover*

R.W. Peckover

Date 19.3.2017

Shortly after my appointment as Leader of HDC in May last year, the Devolution deal for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire began to develop and in June I became a member of the Combined Authority Shadow Cabinet with responsibility for finance and fiscal policy. This created unexpected demands on my time with the result that my engagement with my five parish councils has reduced and my attendance at meetings has been sporadic. This is a regrettable situation as I am elected to serve the residents of the parishes and yet my time has been allocated to the District Council and increasingly, to the Combined Authority.

I was elected to the HDC leadership by the Conservative Group on a manifesto of reform and I appointed a Cabinet whom I felt could deliver the changes which are needed.

These include

- the transformation of Council processes to improve service levels and productivity;
- delivering the 2016-2036 Local Plan with a strategy to build 21000 homes across the District, with a high percentage (approaching 40%) of affordable housing,
- an overhaul of the relationship between the District Council and our town and parishes
- an increase in the Councils commercial activities to raise non-tax revenues and help bridge the widening gap between revenues and costs to protect front line services
- the development of a strategic plan for the District which defines improved community resilience, economic growth, prosperity and housing plans and sets the framework for creating a more effective council for its residents.

We have published a rolling two-year corporate plan with



input from the commercial sector, developers, landowners, the MOD, educational establishments and other stakeholders to ensure that development plans are coordinated. Our first objective is to ensure frontline services are not only protected, but continuously improved. To that end we have implemented programmes to improve the delivery of services for waste management, street cleaning and grounds maintenance, and are constantly fighting the challenges of littering and graffiti removal. Our officers efficiently administer housing benefits and related services to residents, both existing and new, while providing accommodation for those who for one reason or another have become homeless. Our planning department, in addition to their daily duties, are working on plans for the new A14 trunk road which, once completed in 2021, will unlock huge development potential for the district.

The Government has allowed Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to increase planning fees by 20% as from 1 July. The proviso is that all the income generated from the increase must be invested in improving the performance of the LPA. HDC has taken advantage of this increase and is in process of recruiting three new planning officers. We will also use some of the income to upgrade IT systems, including the website, to improve our service to customers.

Angie Dickinson, the Cabinet member responsible for Community Resilience chaired a parish and town council seminar in the Burgess Hall at the end of April. The aim was to establish better communication channels with all parishes and improve relationships. Good progress was made and it was agreed this event will be made a regular calendar feature with increasing interaction between local parishes and the District Council.

In the last nine months I and other members of the Cabinet have been busy developing the Devolution deal proposed for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The formation of a new local government system in our area has involved the creation of a new Cabinet under the control of the elected Mayor, James Palmer. Many people simply see another layer of



government presided over by a costly figurehead. Well nothing could be further from the truth! I see the Mayor and his Cabinet as a new, powerful decision-making body which, unlike the current system which relies upon anonymous Whitehall officials, will live and work in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and make decisions on key strategic issues which will improve the prosperity and lifestyles of all our residents, current and future. Cambridgeshire has one of the highest economic growth rates in the Country with an annual Gross Value Added total approaching £22bn but the Mayor has set the objective of doubling this over the next 20 years. To make this happen we must deliver a targeted programme which links together the creation of jobs, the skilling and education of the labour force, transportation, the building of 29,000 new homes by 2021 and 72,000 more by 2036. Affordable homes must be the highest priority in the home building programme to allow young people to come into the area to work and bring up families.

In Huntingdonshire we have identified a number of sites where c750 additional affordable homes can be added within one or two years to existing sites, because planning permission already exists and infrastructure barriers are low around the site. The cost to buy a new home remains a challenge to young people wanting to live and work in Huntingdonshire and so the CA is evaluating various types of factory built houses which can be delivered complete to site and erected within two or three days. Ultimately a manufacturing site for modular homes based on Alconbury Weald to serve local demand, would be a possibility.

At a local level we are working upon programmes which ensure that Huntingdonshire's four market towns Ramsey, St. Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon become part of the region-wide strategic plan and that residents and democratically elected members feel they are fully involved. The revitalisation of these towns will demand changes in transportation and communications, economic investment and the alignment of skills and training to local employment needs. All of the programmes which drive these reforms will



be developed by and financed by the Combined Authority using the devolved funding from Government.

Having said all of this, I receive every week many requests from Councillors and residents from across my five parishes for assistance with issues for which they require help. These include planning complaints and enquiries, housing benefits or homelessness challenges, noise and anti-social behaviour complaints, parking and speeding issues; in fact the myriad of things a Ward Councillor is expected to deal with. I enjoy this local role more than most others I carry out!

Robin Howe

Ward Councillor

Upwood and the Raveleys

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