



Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter

MAY 2021 Issue 110

GREAT RAVELEY RESIDENT, KYM, IS KEEPING THE VILLAGE TIDY



Kym Bannister has taken the 'Keep Britain Tidy' slogan to heart, and since January he has collected over 50 bags of rubbish from the roadsides around Great Raveley. Sometimes assisted by his partner Pam, Kym has cleared a wide variety of discarded rubbish, ranging from take-away food wrappers to a bike and a car battery. His voluntary work shouldn't be necessary but unfortunately it is vital. You can join Kym in his battle against the rubbish by joining the Great British Spring Clean from 28th May – 13th June (see page 15 & PC minutes after the 4th May meeting for more details.)

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DIARY OF EVENTS MAY /JUNE 2021

Date	Day	Event (subject to government guidelines)	Time	Place / Contact
1 st Sunday of month		Holy Communion	9.30am	St Peter's Church: Jean 814372
2 nd Sunday of month		Morning Prayer	9.30am	St Peter's Church: Jean 814372
3 rd Sunday of month		Holy Communion	9.30am	St Peter's Church: Jean 814372
4 th Sunday of month		Morning Prayer	9.30pm	St Peter's Church: Jean 814372
5 th Sunday of month		May - Benefice service at St Thomas a Becket	10am	St Peter's Church: Jean 814372
Weekly	Mon & Fri	Seated Exercise – re-starts on Monday 26 th April outdoors	9.45am	Cricket Club: info@oakactivities.com
Weekly	Tues & Fri	Ramsey Library open	2-6pm 10-2pm	
MAY (subject to government guidelines)				
4 th	Tues	Virtual Parish Council meeting NB: change of usual day & time	6pm	on-line. Parish Clerk: 07835 939547; parishclerk@upwood.org
6 th	Thurs	Local Elections	All day	UVH
TBC		Ramsey Rural museum to re-open	TBC	Ian: 710702
16 th	Sun	Holy Communion followed by APCM	9.30am	St Peter's Church: Jean 814372
17 th	Mon	Village Hall opens		UVH: Bob: 815475
20 th	Thurs	Great Fen celebrity talk: Adam Frost	TBC	on-line: www.greatfen.org.uk
JUNE (subject to government guidelines)				
TBC		Parish Council meeting		TBC
Future Events				
3 rd July	Sat	Rural Museum: treasures of Ramsey Abbey	TBC	Rural Museum: Ian 710702
TBC		Parish Council meeting	TBC	TBC
12 th or 19 th July	Mon	Home to Home – outdoor informal chat	TBC	Pauline: 814114
10 th Sept	Fri	Upwood Golf Society Golf Day	TBC	Howard: hjsuk@btinternet.com ; 07770847953
24 th Sept	Fri	UVHPA: Granny's Attic	7.45pm	UVH: Doug: 07709 93039
27 th Sept	Mon	Home to Home: Murder Mystery Evening with Doug & Geoff	7.30pm	UVH: Pauline 814114

Next issue of the newsletter TBA. Contributors will be informed.

PARISH COUNCIL



The parish council has been meeting every month, remotely, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and you can access the minutes of the meetings in its section on the parish website (www.upwood.org/index.php/parishcouncil) and other information on its dedicated Facebook page. Meetings will return to the village hall once government guidelines permit.

YOUR PARISH NEWSLETTER

The last year has been strange for everyone and, with most of us staying at home and not venturing far from the parish boundaries, there has been little call for a newsletter. One was prepared, as usual, for distribution in April but the pandemic came and changed our plans. So, the April and June editions were delivered together with a third coming through your letterboxes in November 2020.

Since then, another lockdown rendered the newsletter obsolete but the committee decided that, if there was enough interest, now would be a good time to republish. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of the subscribers who have not only filled the usual 16 pages but, for this edition only, have expanded it to 20 pages! We hope that you enjoy reading it and finding out what has been happening and what is being planned once life returns to resembling something a little more like normal. *Editor*

UPWOOD GOLF SOCIETY / AN OPEN INVITATION



So how many of you were doing exercises during lockdown to keep your golfing muscles in trim? I did a lot of walking but no upper body exercise. Having now played three games (in very bad weather and cold) I can confirm that I am a true crumbly and that my whole body is suffering. I will however persevere so that by September 10th I can play and still attend an event in the evening without drugs.

September 10th is the date of our next Village Golf Day to which all who can swing a club are welcome. The day will mirror past events and will start at Lakeside with a Team event on the par3 course. This will be followed by a GFB (Greasy Fried Breakfast) which has to be consumed before the Team report to the first Tee for 9 holes of Texas Scramble. The 10th Tee will see the start of the championship individual 9 hole Stableford. Following the excursions of the day we will be gathering at the Ale House in Ramsey with our guests for a three-course dinner followed by prize giving and more alcohol (it dulls pain).

I have to report that the funds deposited for the 2019 Spring open and golfers' insurance have not earned any interest (feel free to take this up with the Treasurer on the 10th.) They are, however, available for the purpose originally intended. If, like me, you have trouble remembering what you did before lockdown Jon will be pleased to confirm if he has your money or not. We will be reviewing the insurance situation before the summer.

There are 40 tee times booked for September but more may be available, also there is room at the Ale House for lots of guests with good social distancing (if it is required by then) so please let us know if you would like to join in a really fun village day out.

Howard, Jon and Neil hjnsuk@btinternet.com; 07770847953

HOME TO HOME



September 2020 should have seen Home to Home celebrating 40 years since being formed. This ladies' group was formed when Audrey and I decided that it would be really good to have a group in the village, less formal than the WI, where ladies could get together for an evening to chat and maybe learn a new skill or find out about a local charity or similar organisation.

The inaugural meeting was held at Jean's house. Unfortunately, I can't remember (and the original minutes book has been lost!) how many attended but there was certainly enough interest to see that a club should be created, and so a committee was formed to create a programme for the coming year. It was during this meeting that it was decided to hold the meetings in members' homes and thus the name 'Home to Home' evolved. For this meeting everyone brought along a favourite recipe for one another to taste and these turned into the first of several Home to Home recipe books, the most recent being produced last year to commemorate our 40 years.

Over the years members have enjoyed a wide variety of evenings involving learning new crafts such as quilling, beading and recycling magazines into useful household objects. We have also listened to some amazing talks on topics as varied as fire safety in the home to how a young man overcame his deafness to create a successful business making and selling wooden items, mainly for the garden. Membership numbers have varied over the years and are currently very strong with almost 30 ladies meeting on the last Monday of the month to enjoy a chat and be entertained/educated. Amazingly, 3 of our current members originally joined in 1980.

Our monthly meeting in April should have seen us madly throwing dice and drawing Easter bunnies in our popular Easter Bunny Drive but Covid put a stop to that (for this year!) However, we are planning to meet outside for a general get-together in July followed by our belated 40 birthday party on September 27th when Doug and Geoff will treat us to a murder mystery evening.

Everyone is welcome – we also welcome gentlemen although not many attend our monthly meetings just the 'special open evenings' – so if you want to know more about this long-enduring, very friendly club please contact me on **814114** or email **pndmcleod@btinternet.com** and I'll be delighted to tell you.

Pauline McLeod, Chairman

SMILES ALL ROUND AT UPWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Upwood Primary Academy turns 60



On the 21st March at exactly 11:15, Upwood Primary Academy turned 60 years old, on its current site!

To commemorate the special occasion, we chose to have a 'Sparkle like a diamond' day where pupils came dressed to school wearing a sparkly item of their choice.

After such a challenging year, it was great to celebrate just how far Upwood Primary Academy has come. On the day, we transformed our classrooms with decorations pupils made at home during the school closure and they looked great! We also couldn't resist having a party, complete with party food and sparkly items – it really was a wonderful event for both our staff and pupils.



Back when the school opened on the Huntingdon Road site on 21st March in 1961, Elvis Presley was at number 1 with 'Wooden Heart', a house in Upwood could be bought for £2,400, the average annual salary was £560, and you could buy a loaf of bread for just 5p.

The return to the classroom

Also, this term, we welcomed back our pupils after almost eight long weeks of lockdown learning. To mark the return to school, our Year 6 pupils took part in some team building activities. One was to work with a partner to create 'something' out of lollypop sticks. Year 4 participated in an Easter craft day and created Rapunzel, the Easter bunny, and even got the chance to weave paper palm leaves.

We were delighted to welcome our pupils back into school this term following the Covid-19 restrictions, and it was amazing to see so many smiling faces back at Upwood Primary Academy.



We would like to thank our wonderful parents, staff and community for the support they have shown which helped make the transition back to school as safe and as smooth as possible. We have overcome these challenges together and we could not be more pleased. To find out more about Upwood Primary Academy, visit: <https://www.upa.education>

Thomas Evans, Account Executive

ST PETER'S CHURCH

St Peters has been closed and locked up for probably the longest time in its history! It was with great sadness that the decision was made, in order to ensure the safety of both the clergy (some of whom have to travel some distance) and the congregation, to close the door after the service on January 3rd and not to reopen for worship until Easter Sunday.

What an Easter Sunday it was – a glorious sunny day. The church, beautifully cleaned by Helen, who has kept it from the worst the bats could do, looked wonderful and our amazing churchwardens, Jean and Robin have regularly checked to ensure that all was well. The red and white tape has been positioned to ensure suitable social distancing, hand sanitiser is available and a record book in place. The heating system, which was installed last year, has also made an enormous difference. The brass and silverware gleamed and lovely spring flowers brightened up the chancel, but best of all we had a full church made up of all ages who had come to welcome the Risen Christ. The Rev. Val Kilner brought her Magic Music Machine and, although singing is not actually encouraged and everyone wore masks there was certainly audible (if slightly muffled) singing along to the well-known Easter hymns coming from behind a number of masks. An altogether delightful occasion

I have frequently said how incredibly well-served St Peters church is. Our thanks must go first of all to all those who, throughout the dark cold days when we were all shivering at home, continued to ensure that the church was cared for. Firstly, our thanks must go to our two hardworking churchwardens, Jean and Robin who, both separately and together have remained in touch with members of the congregation, St Thomas a Becket and the Diocese of Ely; for some of us these telephone calls have been a real lifeline, particularly when we have been shielding at home. Secondly, our thanks to the Parish Council contractors who have mowed the grass and trimmed the trees and shrubs and made the area round the church look so welcoming. Thirdly to those who have, over a number of years, ably assisted by Mother Nature, planted and nurtured many different bulbs, trees and wild flowers in the area between the church path and the wall along the High Street. The primroses round the older gravestones are a real joy as well. Peter Haddon has again excelled himself! The beautiful tub of narcissus and hyacinth beside the gate gave off a wonderful scent and the planted tubs lining the church path are just amazing, perfectly matched and they were at their very best to welcome the worshippers on Easter Sunday, as well as all those who pause on their walks to look. Without these flowers, and those beside the door the church would not make the impact that it does.

But this church, in common with so many others, is not just there to express triumph and glory. It is also there to bring comfort and support in times of sadness. The news of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, although not a great surprise was a great

shock. For all of us this horrible pandemic has brought many dark days, tears and sadness. Most of us understand the pain of losing a loved one only too well and our hearts will go out to Her Majesty the Queen and all the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as to their wider family. The Bishop of Ely sent through suggestions for a service giving thanks for the life of Prince Philip, which was presented at Morning Prayer on Sunday April 11th by Robin, with intercessions by Jean.

The APCM (Annual Meeting) will take place after the Holy Communion Service on May 16th. Everyone is welcome.

We are looking forward to the end of lockdown, and, hopefully, the return of weekly services and the freedom we used to take for granted. Those of us who are fortunate enough (and old enough!) to have had both our Covid injections have cause to be everlastingly grateful to those AMAZING scientists who produced a series of vaccines and the SUPERB NHS staff who delivered it, and to the ARMY of volunteers, of all ages, who facilitated the process cheerfully with both humour and compassion. I could probably fill the whole newsletter with thanks but actually, thanks must go to each and every one of you who has brightened somebody's day with a smile, a wave or a kind word. This is what will have been the saving grace of these years and the Joy of Living in Upwood & The Raveleys.

Jo Paxton

PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT TO RECORD OUR PARISH IN 2021

(this article was originally published in Nov 2020 but is still very relevant)



Census day was Sunday 21st March 2021 and the 1919 census will be released later in 2021. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to produce a bite-sized picture record, accompanied by a short narrative, showing examples of the buildings, amenities, infrastructure, farmland and woodland in the parish and surrounding areas that make-up our parish in this census year. This project is creating 'living history for now', a context for those looking at the 1919 census and, in 100 years' time, a real picture of the 2021 census year. Photographs will be taken, with the relevant permission, and

will be shown on the history group pages of the parish website.

Although this project is sponsored and managed by the History Group Committee everyone in the parish is welcome to join in. The intention is that the completed work will be available on the parish website and will be recorded in the County Archive. It is planned to hold a Zoom meeting to explain, explore and discuss details with everyone who is interested in contributing to this exciting project. If you would like to contribute in any way please contact: **Judith Harvey by email at harveyj841@gmail.com or 710219**

Mervyn Harvey

Upwood Village Hall

Performing Arts Events



We are looking forward, albeit with crossed fingers, to an autumn/winter programme brim full of amazing musical talent. The programme is a mixture of re-arranged concerts from last year as well as new bookings and we are looking forward to welcoming our audiences back to the village hall once current restrictions have eased. We continue to be able to attract top musicians from the world of folk, acoustic and Americana who seem to enjoy the intimate ambience which a concert at the hall provides. The level of musicianship on display never ceases to amaze with many acts requested to return for a second, third or even fourth time to entertain.

Autumn / Winter 2021 Programme



Granny's Attic Friday 24th September £14.00

Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne (Melodeon, Anglo Concertina, Vocals), George Sansome (Guitar, Vocals) and Lewis Wood (Violin, Vocals) – play with verve, energy and their own inimitable style. They are all exceptional musicians as well as fine singers and play English traditional and original music.



Salt House Thursday 21st October £14.00

Up and coming trio Salt House are: Ewan MacPherson - vocals, guitars, Jenny Sturgeon - vocals, harmonium, guitar and Lauren MacColl - fiddle, viola, vocals. They play beautifully crafted music inspired by their native Scotland.



Fara Thursday 28th October £17.00

We are delighted to welcome back the force that is Fara! Fiddle players and vocalists Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price from Orkney have now been joined by Rory Matheson on piano. Together they produce a fiery sound which is impossible to resist.



Daoiri Farrell Thursday 11th November £15.00

This is a rearranged concert from March 2020. All tickets bought for the original concert will be honoured (except for refunds). This means that there are only a small number of tickets available on a first come first served basis to see this wonderful Irish singer and bouzouki player.

Box Office: 07709 93039 / uvhperformingarts@upwood.org

UPWOOD CRICKET CLUB



Juniors

It gives me and the other coaches a real buzz to see many of the juniors that have attended the club continuing to enjoy the game and hone their skills as they get older. We continue to produce youngsters that can challenge for places in the county squads and it is wonderful to see their sustained development. We will have 15 juniors representing the county in 2021 – a really marvellous achievement! With our three Level 2 ECB coaches we will continue to deliver the best coaching we can to ensure that the juniors have the opportunity to improve, whatever level they are at, in a fun and progressive way. For 2021 we are putting in the following teams:

- Two Under 9 six-a-side softball
- Two Under 11 eight-a-side hardball
- One Under 13 eight-a-side hardball
- One Under 13 eleven-a-side hardball
- One Under 15 eleven-a-side hardball



Summer training will continue on Monday nights from 5pm to 6.15pm for Under 11's (school year 6 and below) and 6.30pm to 7.15pm for the Under 12's and older. We are looking forward to making use of the new nursery ground for our junior games in June/July which will reduce the "wear and tear" on the main pitch but will still provide a quality cricketing experience in a wonderful setting.

Seniors

It looks like we will have record number of adult players this year and will be putting out the following teams throughout the season:

Saturday 1st Team competing in the Hunts League Division 1

Saturday 2nd Team competing in the Hunts League Division 3

Sunday 1st Team competing in the Rutland League Division 4 West

Mid-Week T20 team competing in the Peterborough Mid-Week League Division 3

There will also be Friendly XI games and games for our Development XI; a mixture of youth and experience.

Adult Training will be on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8pm.

The club would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in getting involved in anyway; we are always looking for new members, players, officials or supporters of any age or experience and we have a number of differing priced sponsorship options for local businesses. Please contact Neil at npe.tuffin@gmail.com or on 07968771138 or visit www.upwood.play-cricket.com for more information.

Good luck all for season 2021

Neil Tuffin

COMMEMORATIVE SEAT

You may remember that in the November 2020 issue of this newsletter Josie Gaunt suggested that, as a lasting memorial to the Year of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the parish should fundraise to provide extra seating for all the extra walkers who are exploring our streets. Josie Gaunt, an Upwood resident for many years, still thinks an extra seat (or three) would be a fantastic addition to the parish, as well as providing a much-needed resting place for people who are perhaps not as fit as they once were!



And Josie certainly has not been sitting back doing nothing about her idea. She has enlisted the help of Upwood Local History Group treasurer Judith Harvey, who has agreed to take on the task of collecting and collating the money raised, plus a few others who are happy to help in any way they can. So, the project is definitely well underway.

When I spoke to Josie about her project she was, as ever, hugely enthusiastic. She said that as we can now see light at the end of the dark tunnel that we have been travelling for the past year it is time to commemorate the pandemic to inform future generations. A seat with a commemorative plaque seems to be a popular idea that could be enjoyed by many people, she continued. The proposed seat will be made from maintenance-free, ecologically friendly recycled plastic and should cost between £500 and £600. £156 has already been collected – either from the plant sales that Josie & Ian held last year or from donations for their apples and vegetables, plus donations from a few people who responded positively to the previous article.



There are already several seats dotted around Upwood village – one at the junction of Huntingdon Road and Longholme road at the end of Charters Spinney facing Farm Close, one by the Book Exchange at the end of Church Lane (pictured on the page opposite) and one in the parish orchard which forms part of the parish allotments on Meadow Road. Adding to these would



certainly make it easier for the more infirm walkers to enjoy their exercise. There might also be places in either of the Raveleys, Farm Close or Fairmead that would benefit from extra seating.

If there is, please contact Josie (**710702 or email josephinegaunt@gmail.com**) and she will be happy to extend her project to include these areas.



There are a few sites around Upwood that Josie thought might be suitable, and photographs of these places can be seen on this page. Having a commemorative seat alongside the war memorial seems to be the most popular at the moment, but no suitable, available space will be ignored. So, if you have another idea as to where the commemorative seat should be placed, please let Josie know. (**710702 or email josephinegaunt@gmail.com**)

How can you help? If you would like to donate a sum, no matter how large or small, to



this very worthwhile project please deliver your cash or cheque (made payable to Upwood and Raveley Local History Group) in a sealed envelope with your name and address on it to **Judith Harvey, 48 High Street Upwood** (opposite the Cross Keys PH). It would be brilliant if we can raise enough money for at least one extra seat, so please donate. Thank you

RAMSEY CHORAL SOCIETY



What have Ramsey Choral Society (RCS) got up to through the Covid-19 Lockdowns? It's been a strange year for everyone, including our RCS Members. We've all certainly missed the benefits of our weekly face-to-face rehearsals and felt very sad as one by one our planned concerts, our collaboration with Huntingdonshire Philharmonic and social get togethers were cancelled.

But we've continued to benefit from the wealth of musical knowledge from Peterborough Cathedrals and our Musical Director, Tansy Castledine. The decision was made that like many groups we would go online via Zoom. We all grappled with the technology, learning to go on and off mute (not all at the same time) and quickly adapting to rehearsing in our living rooms much to our families' amusement. We learnt or revisited many pieces from Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Gloria, Chilcott, Elgar, Bach, Haydn, Rachmaninov, Brahms, along with traditional folk and modern songs. We had our virtual Zoom Christmas Concert having a good old sing song to our favourite carols. Mince pies and wine might have been involved.

Our decision to go online was definitely a bonus, allowing us to keep in touch with many members and still enjoying our singing. We were all initially doubtful but we are about to start our third online term and are looking forward to continuing our musical journey. We're also planning our 30th Anniversary and concert. Fingers crossed and watch this space for future updates.

Lynne Paul – Publicity Officer

THE GREAT FEN, THE WILDLIFE TRUST for BEDS, CAMBS & NORTHANTS

Whilst we have ticked over the last 12 months, seen some staff on furlough, and some working from home, we still managed to keep our reserves open (despite closures due to the extreme wet weather and road closures everywhere it seemed at times) It was evident from the comments and communications that we received that being able to allow socially distanced and very careful visits to the reserves gave people an opportunity to spend some time outside which undoubtedly gave them a better sense of well-being, at a time when we needed it most.

This has also resulted in new memberships from people who really appreciated the work we are doing and wanted to support us, which is appreciated more than ever. We were able to run small scale family visits during the summer and holidays and welcomed others on walks and on-line talks. It's been very different for us, as has been the case for all.

We look forward to welcoming more people as the restrictions open up. We are starting our Little Bugs pre-school Friday groups again and hope to begin our Wildlife Watch monthly Saturday clubs soon. Guided Wednesday Wander walks are starting again and we continue to welcome visitors for just a walk around in the fresh air and open space. We will continue with our on-line talks. The next Celebrity talk will be Adam Frost of BBC Gardeners World on 20th May. Check out our website www.greatfen.org.uk for the latest information. We know we have to be cautious and follow the latest government advice at the time but it will be great to see you as we upscale again. Come and see us!

Mandy and the Great Fen Team

Spring into Nature



This Easter holidays the Countryside Classroom at Ramsey Heights was the venue for a wonderful, activity -filled few hours for our grandchildren. Mandy and Rachel had set everything up according to Covid safety rules, even the toilets and hand basins were coloured coded, so it was with great confidence that we started our first activity – identifying birds' eggs (and in one case a grass snake's egg). Having listened to Rachel telling them a little about each of the eggs Josh and Elsie set about using the clay to create their own versions of the eggs they

had seen and handled. Then it was on to pond dipping which kept them fascinated for ages before we went on an egg -shaped scavenger hunt around the grounds. At each point there was a description of the start of the lifecycle of various local creatures and the children were encouraged to work out which animal or bird was being described. Josh identified 7/8 and was only half wrong with the 8th! Then it was back to the craft table where they were given flower pots to paint before it was time



to have a snack and then set to den building. Both children were given some wildflower seeds to plant in their pots as well as a small stationary set and information leaflets about the Wildlife Trust. They had a fantastic time and want to go back. If you haven't visited the centre, we can certainly recommend it – and not just if you have children. Please check the website for the full update and individual reserve pages for site specific updates before planning a visit to one of the nature reserves at reserve.greatfen.org or www.wildlifetrustbcn

Pauline & Doug



ALLOTMENT NEWS- Spring has sprung!

After such the long dismal lockdown during the pandemic of winter, we are at last welcoming the milder and drier conditions of spring. The gentle breeze and warmth of the sun have ensured that the buds on the trees have at last started to open. There is an air of freshness and renewal.

Walking around the plots, I noted that there has been a fantastic uptake of plots during the last few months. Obviously, the lockdown experience has had an effect and many new allotmenters have taken the opportunity to engage with nature, grow their own produce and enjoy the exercise too. At the moment, all the plots have been taken and there is a waiting list. There may be some plots available during the autumn when tenancies are renewed.

Many plots have already been prepared by being tilled, manure applied and the areas tidied. I noted that some new protective structures have been erected which look very professional. Some mini plots have been fenced off to deter wildlife and other invaders. There is some frost protection covering more tender plants and many plastic bottles have been inverted on canes to deter birds on individual plots. Some areas still have sheeting held down with pallets to keep weeds at bay, but most have now exposed the soil which has been tilled and warmed in readiness for some early planting. Already, some early potatoes, onions, sweet peas, fruit trees and bushes have been planted in raised beds or directly into the ground. However, as usual the allotmenters have had to keep one eye on the changes that spring weather and night time temperatures may bring in the next few weeks.

Pedestrians who pass beside the allotments will have been amused by the giant scarecrow nurse armed with a huge and scary looking syringe ready to help vaccinate the local population! The humorous effort to relieve the boredom and restrictions of the pandemic are very much appreciated and bring some light relief during some very unsettled times.

Please note that the allotments and hayfield are a food growing area and not a public right of way. Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times and not enter into the orchard area. Much of this area has been fenced off and roses planted, kindly sponsored by 'Home to Home.' Already, primroses and cowslips are showing pale shades of yellow flowers in the grassed areas, which look beautiful when contrasted with the unfurling buds of fruit trees.

If you are interested in taking on a plot in the future, please email Liz Carter (**LizCarter 261@btinternet.com**) and she will add you to the waiting list. *Lesley Owen*

UPWOOD UKULELES



Upwood Ukuleles are looking forward to playing again in public as soon as restrictions allow. During the pandemic members have continued to meet on a weekly basis via Zoom and have taken the time to work on a host of new material. Our first booking is scheduled for Wednesday 14th July so we are hoping that this will be able to take place. We will also be appearing at the inaugural St Ives Ukulele Festival at the beginning of October. We have booked the village hall for two evening concerts on 17th and 18th December for our popular Christmas Shindig with the aim of reaching our target of raising £50,000 for Magpas Air Ambulance before the end of their 50th Anniversary Year. Our current total is just over £44,000 so it will be a big ask.

For bookings and other enquiries please contact **Pauline & Doug McLeod: 814114 / pndmcleod@btinternet.com**.

UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL



The village hall will be re-opening on **Monday 17th May**, under the current government rules, until **Monday 21st June**. Thereafter it is hoped that restrictions will be eased sufficiently to allow a return to normal activities.

The hall will also be opening specifically for the local elections on **Thursday 6th May** where Huntingdonshire District Council will be organising all appropriate safety measures.



Our parish will hopefully be joining in the Great British Spring Clean – refer to the PC minutes from the May 4th meeting for details.

UPWOOD COMMUNITY ORCHARD



Here in the Upwood Community Orchard we are all looking forward to Spring and Summer. Despite the mixed bag of weather experienced in 2020, all of our sponsored fruit trees have survived and are now starting to show signs of spring growth. A robust winter prune took place to help keep the trees in good shape and new stakes and ties have been applied to repair any damage after the winter storms.

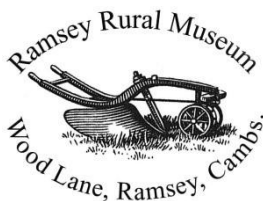
Some new planting has already started with a group of hazel whips planted at the top of the site – these will ultimately be coppiced on a rotation basis – and some willow slips have been placed around the pond area to help mop up some of the excess water and provide some much-needed shade in the summer. These will eventually be pollarded. More hazel and willow will be added shortly. The rose hedge, sponsored by Upwood's 'Home to Home' ladies' group, has been given a spring-clean and gaps will have been filled by the time this goes to print.

The other change that regular visitors will have noticed is the erection of some fencing to help delineate the boundaries and remind visitors that the Community Orchard is a separate entity, apart from the Allotments, and not just a convenient short-cut. A bramble has already been planted to grow over the large piece of fence by the pond and more climbing plants will be added. At the top of the Orchard, a new entrance/exit to the central track through the Community Allotments is being prepared with fencing and a new 'Welcome' sign.

Finally, we are planning to refurbish the existing raised flower beds and add new small beds around the Orchard to augment the existing wild flower areas created over the winter. The grass cutting regime has been amended to allow the grass and wild flowers to flourish, whilst a path will be regularly cut to give access to the seat and a circular walk around the Orchard.

The Community Orchard is a wonderful place to come and relax, meet up with a friend for a chat on the bench, or have a family picnic. The trees will be coming into blossom over the next few weeks, so pop in for a breath of fresh air, sit and listen to the birdsong and escape your everyday cares. Just be aware of the small wildlife pond and remember to keep dogs on leads and take any litter/dog mess away with you (there is a convenient bin at the bottom of Meadow Road).

Liz Carter



RAMSEY RURAL MUSEUM

I have looked at the article that I wrote for this newsletter at this time last year. It started with our planned April opening. That did not happen and, in fact, we were closed to the public for the whole of the 2020 season.

We are now hoping that the museum will open in May, although it is likely that there will be limitations on some access and, we assume, spacing. Plans for the arrangements for opening are being made, and we are remaining positive that we will be able to open the museum this year.

Although the museum has been closed to the public, a small group of volunteers has been attending to maintain the site and buildings. In addition, a lot of work has gone into the displays. The whole of the Stable Block has been cleaned and the displays rearranged. This includes a new display of toys and a room arranged as a Victorian naturalist's study. The reception area and trades room also have been cleaned and the displays rearranged. The Village Stores off the tea room has been changed to Hyde's shop, which has been arranged with the assistance of Richard Hyde. The barn has been prepared for a display 'Treasures of Ramsey Abbey' that is due to open on 3 July and run until September. This exhibition is the conclusion of a three-year archaeological project by the Warboys Archaeological group. In addition, artefacts have been collected from other museums and private collections to give an extensive overview of the Abbey. Depending upon the precautions that might be needed, there may be some hands-on activities for children. So far, we have not arranged any other activities but we are hoping that the miniature steam and fire engine rally will be able to take place also over the weekend of 3/4th July.

Over the lockdown period we have reviewed our volunteer base and identified areas where we need help. If you think that you could help, please consider volunteering. You do not have to attend regularly but only give the time that you have available. We can utilise any skills but have particular needs in the following areas:

- Staffing the reception and tea room especially at weekends (2-5 pm). Training will be given
- Individuals to carry out conservation and restoration of the artefacts both the large implements in the external displays and the smaller items in the internal displays
- Administration, including finance
- Marketing and Public relations
- Maintenance of the displays
- Recording, cataloguing and researching the artefacts

If you would like to help and join our friendly group, please contact Ian Gaunt **710702**; ian.gaunt@care4free.net

CHH Hearing Aid Maintenance (HAM) Centres open for appointments.

If you are an **NHS** hearing aid user, or relative, friend or carer of an NHS hearing aid user, Cambridgeshire Hearing Help is pleased to announce the limited re-opening of its hearing aid re-tubing service. If your **HEARING AID NEEDS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**, we have launched a 'drop-off and pick-up 10 minutes later' service at nine HAM Centres located in **Soham, Ely, Cambourne, Girton, St Ives, Chatteris, Fulbourn and Great Shelford**.

To comply with the social distancing regulations and Covid-19 risk assessments our re-tubing process will take longer and therefore our sessions will be **by appointment only**. Because of these precautions we are only able to offer a 'drop-off and pick-up 10 minutes later' service at present. We ask that your hearing aids are handed to us in a sealed envelope labelled with your **Name, Date of Birth, Postcode and contact phone number**.

To book an appointment, tel. 01223 416141, email enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk, or go to our website <https://www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk/> and book online

Our HAM Centres operate between 10:30am and 3:30pm as follows:

- **St Ives: 2nd and 4th Wednesday** of the month at St Ives Library, 4 Library Row, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BW.
- **Chatteris: 2nd Friday** of the month at Chatteris Library, 2 Furrowfields Road, Chatteris, PE16 6PT.

If you are unable to get to any of our Hearing Aid Maintenance Centres, please contact your original provider, your hospital audiology department or Specsavers.

We CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BATTERIES BY POST. Please telephone us on **01223 416141** or email enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk. We will need to know what size batteries you require. This will be either size 13 Orange, size 312 Brown or size 675 Blue.

You can also pick-up batteries from the **Cambridgeshire Mobile Library**, which visits 85 villages and communities throughout the county:
www.mobilelibraries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Further locations for Hearing Aid Maintenance Centres will be posted as they become available.

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGES

Organisation	Contact	Telephone
Book Lovers Group	Julia Evans	711388
Chairman of Parish Council	Robin Howe	814393
Community Bus Co-ordinator	Dave Blandford	711330
Community Navigators	Beatrice Brown	01480 423065
County Councillor	Terry Rogers	rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Cricket Club	Neil Tuffin	812924
District Councillors	Graham Bull	graham.bull@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
HACT: Community Bus		01480 411114
History Group	Ian Gaunt	710702
Home to Home	Pauline McLeod	814114
Meet and Munch	Jan Howe	814393
Nene Valley Gliding Club	Peter Valentine	8541653
Parish Clerk	Carol Bilverstone	07835 939547: parishclerk@upwood.org
Ramsey Bridge Club	Paddy Slater	812006
Ramsey Camera Club	Trevor Brown	711541
Ramsey Choral Society	Lynne Paul	07738610524. Lynnepaul62@gmail.com .
Ramsey & District Garden Club	Ian Gaunt	710702
Ramsey Rural Museum	Ian Gaunt	710702
Ramsey Tennis Club	Jonny Wicks	07724 152382
Seated Exercise	Tom Milner	info@oakactivities.com
Small to Tall (Upwood School Clubs)	Angie Dean	802086
St Peter's Church Matters	Jean Place	813742
St Peter's Handbells	Anne-Marie Cracknell	812195
Table Tennis Club	Jack Holloway	711551
U3A	Enid Hubbard	tandehubbard@tiscali.co.uk
Upwood Community Orchard	Liz Carter	813008
Upwood Craft & Chat	Heather Wakefield	814432
Upwood Golf Society	Howard Smith	07770847953: hjnsuk@btinternet.com
Upwood & Raveley Community Allotments	Liz Carter	813008
Upwood and Raveley Community Archive	Ramsey Rural Museum	815715; treasurer@ramseyruralmuseum.co.uk
Upwood Academy	Rachel Allerton	Rachel.Allerton@athene-communications.co.uk
UVH Performing Arts Events Shows	Doug McLeod	814114
Village Hall Hire	Bob Child	815475

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

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NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESS

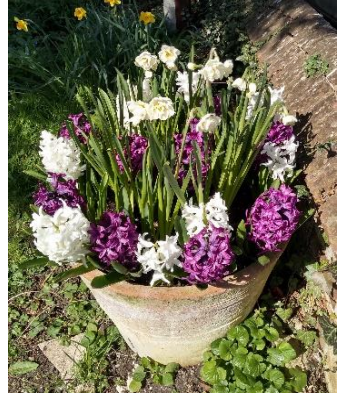
upwoodnl@hotmail.co.uk

Deadline for next issue: contributors will be informed in advance.
The Newsletter can also be viewed and downloaded online: www.upwood.org.

THE PATHWAY TO ST PETER'S CHURCH



If you have been walking around the village of Upwood recently you cannot fail to have noticed the wonderful plant life on display in the grounds of St Peter's Church. Peter Haddon, who lives on the High Street, has taken it



upon himself to provide the lovely floral arrangements leading up to, and either side of, the main door. Peter has been helped by Haydn and Christine Edwards, of Edwards



Farm Shop fame, who have supplied the compost, horse manure and some of the bulbs used free of charge.

Peter bought the matching ecclesiastical-looking pots, which results in the pathway being a riot of colour.



The plants certainly enhance the outside appearance of the church. Thank you, Peter, for all your amazing efforts.

If you haven't seen the display yet do make a special journey to so do – you won't be disappointed.

