



Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2022 Issue 114



YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS

YOUR VIEWS

Please help by completing the enclosed short survey (either paper or online).

Online details included on the paper survey.

The newsletter committee is asking its readers for their views about the newsletter to help guide their decisions about its future. Enclosed with each edition is a paper copy of the survey and on page 11 there are details of the online survey link.

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DIARY OF EVENTS FEBRUARY 2022 / MARCH 2022

Date	Day	Event	Time	Place / Contact
Weekly	Sun	Church Services: venue, time and type of service varies	Varies	See Church notice board
Weekly	Tues & Fri	Seated Exercise	9.30am	UVH: info@oakactivities.com
Weekly	Tues & Wed	Upwood Table Tennis Club	7.30pm 2.30pm	UVH: Jack 711511
Weekly	Thurs	Morning Prayer – not starting just yet – see noticeboard for update	8.30 – 8.50am	UVH: Jean 813742
Weekly (term-time only)	Fri	Great Fen: Little Bugs @ the Countryside Centre, Ramsey Heights	10.30 – 12 noon	GF: www.wildlifebcn.org/events or call 710420
February				
6 th	Sun	Holy Communion: Rev Val Kilner	9.30am	St Peter's: Jean 813742
7 th	Mon	Parish Council meeting	7pm	Carol Bilverstone: 07835 939547: parishclerk@upwood.org
13 th	Sun	Morning Prayer	9.30pm	St Peter's: Jean 813742
16 th	Wed	The wonders of wetland wildlife: Countryside Classroom, R Heights	10-3pm	www.wildlifebcn.org/events or call 710420
20 th	Sun	Holy Communion: Rev Iain Osborne	9.30am	St Peter's: Jean 813742
21 st	Mon	RG: Nick Bailey, Gardener's World	7.30pm	RCC: Ian 710702
22 nd	Tues	Craft & Chat	2pm	UVH: Heather: 814432
27 th	Sun	Morning Prayer	9.30am	St Peter's: Jean 813742
28 th	Mon	Home to Home: Pete Brindley: Blood Runners	7.30pm	UVH: Pauline: 814114
March				
6 th	Sun	Holy Communion	9.30am	St Peter's: Jean 813742
7 th	Mon	Parish Council meeting	7pm	Carol Bilverstone: 07835 939547: parishclerk@upwood.org
13 th	Sun	Morning Prayer	9.30am	St Peter's: Jean 813742
16 th	Wed	History Group AGM	7.30pm	UVH: Ian: 710702
20 th	Sun	Holy Communion	9.30am	St Peter's: Jean 813742
27 th	Sun	Morning Prayer: Mothering Sunday	9.30am	St Peter's: Jean 813742
28 th	Mon	Home to Home: Trevor Dyer: Potter	7.30pm	UVH: Pauline: 814114
29 th	Tues	Craft & Chat	2pm	UVH: Heather 814432
Forthcoming Events				
2 nd April	Sat	Ramsey Rural Museum reopens	2-5pm	RRM: Ian: 710702
3 rd April	Sun	Ramsey Heritage Day: RRM	2-5pm	RRM: Ian: 710702
22 nd April	Fri	Upwood Golf Society Golf Day		Howard: 07770847953
15 th May	Sun	Ramsey Fen Fair in partnership with 1940's group		RRM: Ian 710702

Deadline for the April 2022 Newsletter is 15th March 2022



We had a really good end to 2021 and the committee was delighted that the decision had been taken to restart meetings in September. Our new Van Gogh mugs are proving to be a hit

with the members and having a hot drink as people arrive also seems to be a change that members have embraced.

Our November meeting saw Darren Williams (Pet Havens & The Informer) and Jed Clancy speaking to us about the inception and monthly publication of the Informer, our local paper which is kindly delivered by volunteers in the parish who give their “fee” to this newsletter. The first edition of the Informer came through our letterboxes in July 2014 and 75 issues later is going from strength to strength. It was an interesting and enlightening talk.

In December we couldn’t have our usual ‘bring and share’ meal but we still managed to have a very enjoyable time, with cakes supplied by Tom’s Cakes, Somersham, and non-alcoholic fizz supplied by the committee. Amanda supplied the scrumptious German biscuits! The evening passed very quickly with members taking part in a variety of quizzes as well as exchanging festive jokes, favourites and readings.

As I write, our AGM is fast approaching on 31st January. Hopefully we will have sorted out quite a few admin issues (mainly brought about by Covid) as well as succeeded with a puzzle challenge. Our 2022 programme is very nearly confirmed and our speaker on 28th February will be Pete Brindley, who will be telling us about his volunteer role as a Blood Runner. Pete has promised to come dressed in his leathers and bring his motor bike into the hall with him – the mind boggles! In March (28th) we have Trevor Dyer, a potter based in Godmanchester, coming to show us a few tricks with clay.

Home to Home is a very friendly ladies group that usually meets on the last Monday of the month in the village hall. If you would like to find out more, please ring me on **814114**, or just come along to one of our meetings. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Pauline McLeod

CRAFT AND CHAT

After a break in December (for some reason members weren’t able to commit to a meeting on the last Tuesday of December!) the club met again on Tuesday 25th January. Our meetings now start at 2pm and everyone happily helps with the setting up and putting away of the tables and chairs. Any and every craft can be completed and our leader, Heather, is on hand to help. If you like to have a natter as you craft why not come along on Tuesday 22nd February and join this small friendly group?

Local Wildlife Trust Woodlands Update:
Huntingdonshire Woodlands: Lady's Wood, Raveley Wood, Wistow Wood,
Brampton Wood, Gamsey Wood



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

During lockdown, our nature reserves received a large increase in visitors, and numbers have remained higher than usual. Climate change means winters

have been getting warmer and wetter in recent times, and last winter was the wettest for many years. Our ancient woodland reserves in the Cambridgeshire area are on impermeable clay soils and get especially muddy. When large numbers of people walk on waterlogged paths, they become churned, and it can take years for them to recover. People also naturally try to walk around muddy areas, significantly increasing the width of the path, damaging sensitive plants on the edges, and compacting the soil. The wider rides and glades are an excellent habitat in themselves and are part of what makes the woods special.

A large proportion of damage to our woodland happens in the winter. Our changing climate is already responsible for extra damage, and over the last few years we have seen trampled areas on paths get wider, and more vegetation lost. As time goes by, this is likely to get worse. We have also seen increasing problems during bluebell season when people and dogs stray off the paths. Winter is the time when woodland management is carried out.

Our primary concerns are protecting precious places for wildlife and engaging people with nature safely. We have a legal and moral responsibility to maintain these ancient woodlands in a safe, favourable, and improving condition for present and future generations.

In order to ensure these Woods remain special, the Trust will be restricting access to some of our Woods during the winter and bluebell season. Guided bluebell walks will be run in April (with a discount for Wildlife Trust BCN members). At Lady's Wood, parking will be made available via the Upwood Meadows car park for these organised events, however Lady's Wood is now closed to visitors and will be re-opened later in the year.

We would like to thank everyone in advance for your understanding as we carry out this vital work and ensure our beautiful, and vitally important ancient woodlands are protected.

You can find out more about winter closures on our website **www.wildlifebcn.org** and look for our 'Know Before You Go' information Reserve updates | **Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants (wildlifebcn.org)**

E-mail: **Cambridge@wildlifebcn.org**, BCN Facebook/Twitter: **@wildlifebcn**

Huntingdonshire Local Group **Huntingdonshire Local Group | Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants (wildlifebcn.org)**

Matt Hamilton

A message from Upwood High Street resident Christine Ellington:

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent me 80th birthday greetings, which was on Christmas Day.

PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council has just started discussing plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the end of May 2022.

The councillors are looking for volunteers to serve on a steering committee.

If you are interested in helping to plan this exciting event, please contact:

Councillor Jan Burgess:

janiceburgess.counsel@gmail.com

Councillor David Awit: **david.awit@upwood.org**

ST. PETER'S CHURCH



Well, here we are at the beginning of a New Year and, it seems, yet again we are facing services wearing masks, sanitising our hands and socially distancing!

However, I do think that, although we have been observing all these regulations the spirit of worship remains as strong as ever. We have been delighted to have our organist,

Kathryn back with us. Even though we have had a variety of amazing recorded accompaniments, with or without choirs, to have our own organ and organist back again has been wonderful.

Our Churchwardens have, as ever, worked hard to ensure that the weekly services continue. St Peter's Annual Carol Service took place, although obviously many people understandably stayed away, for those who attended it was a joyful evening.

Thanks to the Rev. Fred Kilner St Peter's was able to hold its Midnight Communion service and, again, although the congregation was smaller than usual, the service was so very special for those of us who were able to attend.



We have been very sad, here at St Peters that Vicki Latter who has looked after us so tirelessly throughout the Pandemic has, for health reasons, been unable to continue to take our services. She is awaiting a hospital appointment and until this takes place she needs to remain safely at home to ensure that she can attend when it comes through. Vicki and her husband Joe remain very much in our thoughts and prayers.

So, all in all not a great deal of news from St Peter's! But, like the wonderful people who live in Upwood, we are so very fortunate to have the village hall with the table tennis and exercise classes amongst other activities, the Pub is open again, the Garage is open for our car repairs, and where would we be without our wonderful Farm Shop? St Peters remains open and available for private prayer and public worship. Roll on the summer when we can enjoy watching the Cricket Club in action again!

Jo Paxton

A New Year and a new start!



Happy New Year to you all! As we welcome in the start of a new year, I wonder whether you have made a resolution to develop green fingers and learn new skills? Perhaps you've decided to shed the Christmas pounds for good by developing a healthier lifestyle with a change in diet and an increase in exercise. After Storm Arwen in late November, there followed an incredibly mild, wet and dull December with very little sunshine. January so far has produced cooler temperatures both during the day and at night but we are still experiencing higher than average temperatures than would be the norm. A result of climate change, no doubt.

Perhaps as a result of the lockdowns and the pandemic, more people have decided to take on an allotment this year. There are no plots available for rent at the moment. Many thanks to Liz as usual for doing such a sterling job to encourage prospective tenants to 'adopt a plot!'

Many occupied plots have been treated to a good covering of organic manure, which lies on the surface. Other soil improvers have been added to increase bulk and texture, in preparation for planting seedlings later on. Somehow, I never seem to predict weather changes very well, and as a fair-weather gardener, often fail to clear my plot of decaying material in time for seasonal change. I really should take a leaf out of more hardened allotment holders and resolve to tackle my plot in good time and in earnest whilst the weather is reasonably good. Now of course, my wellies would sink into the soil after so much rainfall. Yesterday as I wandered along the plots, dark grey clouds hung in the air. There was a steady drizzle which developed into rain and everywhere looked dank, and rather dismal. I noticed some sprouts, leeks and squash but many of the plots have been covered with membrane and held down with pallets to restrict weed growth.

Near the top of the allotments, cardoons are growing and their seed heads drooping. Having accessed Google, I discovered that the cardoon, *Cynara Cardunculus*, also called the artichoke thistle, is found growing wild along the Mediterranean. It tastes like a bitter version of a giant artichoke, with small prickly flower heads, but unlike the artichoke, you eat the stems, not the flower buds.

The now famous 'scarecrow' on one of the plots has had many changes of costume. Every time I see it, my face broadens into a smile. Now the All Hallows 'Een skeleton, still with its ghoulish face and alarming gnashers, is dressed in a Father Christmas jacket, but still wears the green surgery trousers, so familiar in the pandemic. My thanks to the person who must brighten everyone's mood as they pass by!

Lesley Owen

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ACROSS THE PARISH DECEMBER 2021

Photos courtesy of Kym Bannister, Jim King, Doug McLeod, Esther Rowley & Chris Shaw





A Happy New Year to you all from the Great Fen! Winter walkers of our nature reserves have enjoyed the sight of Chinese water deer, barn owls, kingfishers, siskins and stonechats, to name a few. Our fantastic volunteers have been hard at work clearing



ponds at Ramsey Heights to make more suitable habitats for our special great crested newts. Ideas of what to do with 29 tyres appreciated! We are looking for new volunteers for our education and community events, so if you have some free time during the week, please get in touch by emailing **info@greatfen.org.uk**. We're now looking forward to the half-term holiday and celebrating wetland wildlife with local families. And there's

still time to get tickets to spend an evening with the fascinating Mike Dilger or being a Dancing Queen with ABBA Chique at The Burgess Hall in St Ives. We hope to see you there!

The Wonders of Wetland Wildlife

A family fun day at the Countryside Centre. Follow our trail around the nature reserve, enjoy lots of nature-based activities and fun crafts to make and take home.

- Wednesday 16th February, 10am-3pm.

- £5 Wildlife Trust BCN members, £7.50 non-members. Accompanying adults and under 3s free.

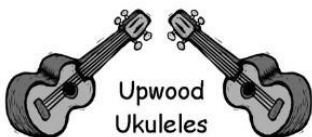
Please remember that pre-booking is essential. Visit **www.wildlifebcn.org/events** or call **710420** for more information.

Danielle Page

SEATED EXERCISE

This popular exercise class, organised and run by Oak Activities, has resumed after the Christmas break but it now meets every Tuesday and Friday morning (not Monday any more). The sessions start at 9.30am and last an hour. Each class costs £4 which is paid on the day.

So, if you keep promising yourself that you are going to get fit why not start by attending these friendly classes? There is no need to book, you can just turn up and join in the fun and laughter. If you would like more information, please contact Tom Milner at **info@oakactivities.com**



Our planned Christmas concerts in the village hall had to be cancelled at the last minute, for which we humbly apologise. However, we were extremely grateful to our supporters who nevertheless donated their ticket money to our designated charity, Magpas

Air Ambulance. With other donations and performance fees for gigs during December we were still able to send a cheque for over £1600 to Magpas. Thank you very much to all those who contributed. Our current overall fund-raising total is £48,766.27.

In November we were delighted to receive a grant from the Ramsey Windfarm Community Fund. Covid19 has meant that we needed to 'socially distance' and sharing microphones and stands was no longer possible and the grant had meant that all members can now perform safely.

Andrew Bilverstone, one of our founder members, died from motor neurone disease on 30th December. He will be sadly missed. We have recorded a video version of a tune called "Doddie's Dream" in his honour. This will be available to view on our YouTube channel and Facebook page from the beginning of February.

We are hoping that 2022 allows us more freedom in being able to perform in the local area and beyond. We do not charge a performance fee or travel expenses but request a suitable donation to Magpas Air Ambulance in lieu of this. Please contact: **pndmcleod@btinternet / 07709930398** for further information. *Doug McLeod*



Despite all the grey, very damp weather we have been experiencing, the Upwood Golf Society committee is looking forward to better conditions for playing golf and is currently busy planning the next golf day.

Put the date **Friday 22nd April** in your diaries and there will be more details in the next edition of this newsletter as to how you can register your interest. If you can't wait, please contact

Howard on **07770847953** or email **hjnsuk@btinternet.com**

NEWSLETTER SURVEY



The Upwood & The Raveleys newsletter's survey can be found online at **<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CH2YVZV>**. An A4 paper copy of the survey accompanies this edition of the newsletter.



The museum will reopen to the public on Saturday 2nd April and this year we are planning to open on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 2.00 to 5.00pm each day.

Work is ongoing to refresh more of the displays. All of the artefacts have been removed from the barn annex so that the building can be cleaned and treated against woodworm which is a problem in old wooden buildings. The displays will be reinstated and improved.

The first event will be on 3rd April which is Ramsey Heritage Day. The theme for the day for all of the heritage sites is 'The Crown' and we are planning to have crown making for children. We will also have a Food and Craft Fair operating in the courtyard.



On May 15th we will be running the Ramsey Fen Fair in partnership with the Ramsey 1940's group. This will include up to 200 classic vehicles, a traders' market, a food area, music, games and competitions as well as fairground attractions.

July will be a busy month with the museum open for the Fire and Miniature Steam Show on 2nd /3rd July, the Ramsey Carnival – scheduled for

9th July and the Garden Club Show booked in for 23rd July.

An unusual event this year is the National Vintage Cycle meeting on 2nd and 3rd September whilst our traditional Plough Day will be on 25th September. Other events are being planned so watch the museum website (ramseyruralmuseum.co.uk).

All of these plans mean that we really need more volunteers, especially to help when the museum is open to the public. This help could include staffing reception and the tea room or greeting visitors and explaining what is available at the museum. Training will be given as needed. You can give as little or much time as you feel able. If you would like to help and join our friendly group, please contact Ian Gaunt **710702; ian.gaunt@care4free.net**

There are other volunteering opportunities and we can use almost any skills. If you think that you can help, please contact me as above.

Ian Gaunt

Support is available for people looking after family members or friends

Do you care for someone who would find it difficult to cope without that support? This could be looking after a family member, partner or friend because of their illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction. If this sounds like your situation, then your role means you are recognised as a carer.

Caring Together are a local charity which last year supported more than 17,000 carers of all ages and their families across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk. Carers can be any age and have a wide range of situations.

Whether you are new to your caring role, have seen your role evolve as the person you care for has needed more support over time, or have lost a loved one you cared for, Caring Together is there to help you. It can offer a range of advice, information and support, and help you, and the person you care for, access services that are helpful to you.

Its services include:

- a dedicated carers telephone where trained advisors can give you information and advice that will support you in your caring role, such as carers assessments, emergency planning and welfare benefits;
- homecare services, where a care worker looks after the person you care for, including to enable you to have a break;
- face-to-face and online carers hubs, where you can meet other carers in a similar situation;
- a monthly newsletter to keep you informed and updated.

To find out more call **0345 241 0954** or email **hello@caringtogether.org**.

You can also visit the website: **www.caringtogether.org.uk**

Jeanette Threadgold

Communications officer – engagement

email: jeanette.threadgold@caringtogether.org Mobile: 07843 327573

UPWOOD BOOK EXCHANGE

The Book Exchange operates out of the old telephone box in the middle of Upwood Village. Everyone is welcome to borrow the books; donations of your superfluous books are also very welcome. Please always leave the Book Exchange neat and tidy.



RAMSEY AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB



We thought that we were getting back to normal with two well attended meetings at the end of 2021. However, due to the current high level of Covid19 infection we cancelled the January meeting with the celebrity speaker.

This talk by Nick Bailey from Gardener's World has been delayed to February (21st) hoping that such meetings will be possible by then. The talk will be 'How to breathe life, style and good health back into a tired garden'.

The meeting is free to our members but visitors are welcome to attend this talk at a cost of £5. Since we need to control numbers to ensure safety booking is vital. This can be done by contacting Wendy Hopkins or Gina Randall;

Wendy Hopkins:-wahopkins@aol.com or **711760**

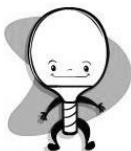
Gina Randall:-ginarandall@gmail.com or **711079**

Our regular meetings with talks and demonstrations are held at the Ramsey Community Centre at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month. If the Covid19 restrictions allow we will have garden visits during the year and one of these will be to a Royal Horticultural Society Garden.

The Annual Show is planned for 23rd July at the Ramsey Rural Museum. This is open to entries from the whole community and is not confined to the Club members. Schedules will soon be available and we hope that you will join in to make it a good community experience after two years when shows have not been possible.

For further information about the club contact Ian Gaunt: ian.gaunt@care4free.net **710702**

UPWOOD TABLE TENNIS CLUB



The Upwood Table Tennis Club would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

If one of your New Year resolutions was to lose weight or to get fitter, then please come and join us for a game of table tennis. We meet Tuesday evenings between 7:30pm and 9:00pm and Wednesday afternoons between 2:30pm and 4:00pm.

For further details please contact Ann – ann56dea@gmail.com

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 Councillor	Graham Bull	graham.bull@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
HACT: Community Bus		01480 411114
History Group	Ian Gaunt	710702
Home to Home	Pauline McLeod	814114
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
Village Hall Hire	Bob Child	815475

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

Editorial Team: Lesley Gee 815816; Judith Harvey 710219; Pauline McLeod 814114:

NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESS

upwoodnl@hotmail.co.uk

Deadline for next issue: 15th March 2022

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

UPWOOD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Three Beds Full!! Our “Raised Beds” project is now shaping up, thanks to the Ramsey Wind Farm Community Fund. The raised beds were delivered in December and, with the help of Peter and Ian, we had them assembled before Christmas. Madingley Mulch made our delivery of ‘Denise’s Delight’ their first call of 2022 - at 7.45 am on a cold, frosty morning! Unfortunately, they sent the large lorry rather than the requested smaller one, so the huge bags of compost were placed outside the entrance to the allotment site on Meadow Road. Somewhat daunted by the task, the volunteers valiantly started barrowing the ‘Delight’ to the empty beds, until a helpful passer-by commented that what we needed was a forklift to move the bags ... Enter our hero in shining yellow armour (aka Jason with his forklift). It was a delight to watch him winging our hefty bags on their way to the Orchard hedgerow – and a great relief. By midday we had filled the three beds, found an ingenious way to tamp them down (see photo) and cleared up. Our sincere thanks to Alison, Anne, Jason, Lesley and Mike for all their invaluable effort. Once the compost has settled and been topped up a couple of times over the next month, we will be planting these beds with a selection of hardy perennials, but more on that next time.



Meanwhile, by the time you read this, I will have attended a short course on Fruit Tree Pruning and hope to share my learning with a small team of

volunteers to tackle the winter pruning in the Orchard. Having noticed some gaps in the bottom hedgerow, we plan to underplant with more hedging bushes thus allowing some of the rowan and silver birch trees to grow unhindered.

If you would like to become involved with the Community Orchard, either to help with the raised beds, or looking after a tree, do get in touch with me, Liz Carter, on **813008** or email **busylizzie399@gmail.com** The Upwood Community Orchard is run entirely by volunteers and funded through donations and fund-raising events.