



Editorial

Most people looking for a holiday retreat generally specify that the location must be unspoilt. Travelling around Europe it is a delight to see Italian towns looking the way that they have done for centuries. The skyline of Florence is not marred by hideous modern glass and concrete blocks reaching up into the sky. French market towns whose 13th century origins are preserved to offer delight in the surroundings - without being defaced by intrusive cameras, painted lines on the roads and a surfeit of warning signs. Even in this country there are still villages like Chilham, near Canterbury that is almost as it was centuries ago. The planners in towns like Rochester have ensured that the streets are lined with small businesses, privately owned, individual in their appeal and a joy to visit. These places enrich our lives.

Yet there are those who want to carpet the countryside with hideous commercial "sheds" and un-necessary dreary housing estates, claiming that if towns and villages don't allow development they will die. Why? Over the past thirty years Ramsey has 'developed' with industrial estates and hundreds of houses - yet during those years the number of retail outlets in the town has dwindled to the present low point.

Upwood and The Raveleys are no different than anywhere else in this country - we are faced with planning applications that are out of character with the environment and a threat to the very nature of the villages. We must resist.

This is serious.....

There have been several reports recently of a young man exposing himself in the vicinity of the Childrens' Play area at the top of Bentley Close. This incident occurred when he appeared in a back garden in clear view of the occupants. The police were called immediately although the perpetrator had moved on. The play area, the adjacent spinney and the footpath through to the High Street are all used by children of all ages. Everyone should be vigilant and report any further incidents. Thanks go to several residents for bringing this to our attention.

Flyers

No - not bugs or aeroplanes - the advertising inserts that may be included in your newsletter from time to time. They are advertising. Their inclusion in the newsletter is not to be taken as an endorsement of the service.

UPWOOD QUILTING GROUP

Dates for 2008

The current programme is:-

<i>25th March</i>	<i>Suffolk puffs</i>
<i>29th April</i>	<i>Bag</i>
<i>27th May</i>	<i>Trip to Lucy Boston 's</i>
<i>24th June</i>	<i>House Block (2nd half of fees due)</i>
<i>28th June</i>	<i>Saturday - Village Fete</i>
<i>29th July</i>	<i>Quilt Block</i>
<i>26th August</i>	<i>How are you going to use your House Block?</i>
<i>30th September</i>	<i>Angel or doll</i>
<i>5th October</i>	<i>Sunday – Patchwork Quilting and Needlework Show – Village Hall – cream tea afternoon</i>
<i>28th October</i>	<i>UFO</i>
<i>18th November</i>	<i>finish off any work before the Christmas Fair.</i>
<i>22nd November</i>	<i>Saturday – Craft Fair in Village Hall 10-4</i>
<i>2nd December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch at the Cross Keys</i>

We meet on the last Tuesday in the month at Upwood Village Hall 7-9 pm.

Membership costs just £33.00 per year. So if you like sewing and would like to join us you will be most welcome. You will need to bring your sewing kit and machine with you to the meetings. If you would like to come along as a visitor (cost £4.00) to one of our meetings you would be most welcome.

If you are interested in joining or would like more details please contact Deana Hudson on 01487 711221, Margaret Jones on 01487 814031 or Janet Philipp on 01487 711462.

LADIES GET TOGETHER (HOME TO HOME)

LGT is a long established village "club" which meets once a month, usually in the Village Hall on the last Monday. Events vary from fashion shows, speakers and film shows to demonstrations. The AGM is held in July, followed by a buffet supper. Membership costs £8 per year, visitors to events pay £1 to include light refreshments. New members are very welcome as are visitors.

On 28th April Caroline Murray will bring her dogs Max and Dexter to talk about working with "sniffer-dogs" and on 19th May there will be a talk, demonstration, and plant sale, entitled "Spring Planting" by Jim Day, 8pm in the Village Hall.



OPEN DAY AT UPWOOD MEADOWS

The Wildlife Trust Huntingdon Area Group are holding an Open Day at Upwood Meadows on Sunday 18 May as part of their Magic Meadows Summer Season.

The car park on Meadow Lane will be extended and Wildlife Trust volunteers will be on hand from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. to explain about the history, management and rarity of this National Nature Reserve.

Guided Walks will begin at 11.30 a.m., 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to visit Little Bentley and Great Bentley Meadows to see the stunning displays of cowslips, with appearances by green-winged orchids and adders-tongue fern amongst many others. See the ridge and furrows formed by oxen-drawn ploughs in the 17th century and the old ant hills of the yellow meadow ant, showing the land has not been disturbed for many years.

Upwood resident, Terry Wells, warden of Upwood Meadows and a noted naturalist, will be able to answer questions on the meadows and their fauna and flora.

There will also be opportunities to visit the nearby **Lady's Wood**, a fine example of the now too rare woodland in Cambridgeshire. Managed by the Wildlife Trust since its purchase in 1971, Terry Wells was its first warden.

Entry to the reserve is **Free** at all times but a donation of £2.00 for adults (free for children) is requested for the guided walks. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits will also be provided free of charge. For further information, please contact Pat Doody on 01480 392706 or email jp.doody@ntlworld.com

Web site "<http://www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk>"

Meet & Munch

Are you an Upwood & Raveley resident, aged 55 and over? Why not come along for tea and chat with our friendly group on the following dates at 3.00pm in Upwood Village Hall.

Please contact Mags Dudley 812424 or Jean Place 813742 for further information.

5th April 2008, 3rd May 2008, 7th June 2008, 5th July 2008,

2nd August 2008, 6th September 2008

PARISH COUNCILLORS - Names and Telephone numbers

Colin Racey.....812380	David Paine.....814350	Terry Bell.....813799
Andrew Perkins..812826	Keith Sisman.....710552	Nigel Gowler...812742
James Rignall.....813371	Jo Paxton.....812138	Fiona Hopkins..710045
Terry Bell.....813799	David McCreadie..812831	

Table Tennis Club

The Upwood Table Tennis club are up and running every Tuesday night from 8-10pm and would welcome any new members whatever their standard. We can guarantee a fun evening where ability takes second place to enjoyment of the game.

There is a really nice bunch of players who ensure a good time is had by all. Looking forward to seeing you soon. Phone 812923 for more details

LOVING NEW HOME WANTED

Reluctantly it is time for me to bid farewell to my Aubergine 850 Volvo Estate and I seek a new home for her. She is very a responsive, well looked after, smart car. If you would be interested in her then please call Deana Hudson on 01487 711221 for further details

Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network

Exhibition

**The NW Cambs Archive Groups invite you to an exhibition
of archive photos from this area.**

Date: Saturday, 31 May

Time: 11.00 - 16.00

**Place: British Legion Hall, Cricketfield Lane,
Ramsey**

***Groups participating include: Huntingdon, Ramsey, Sawtry, Stilton, Upwood
and Yaxley.***

Upwood & The Raveleys Village Fete

The fete this year will be in the "Cross Keys" paddock between 1 and 5 pm on Saturday 28th June. The Fete Committee are hard at work planning this year's event and there promises to be even more stalls, exhibits and games than ever before. Make a note of it in your diary so that you don't miss it. If you would like to have a stall, or game or take part in any way please get in touch. Maybe you know someone who has a hobby or a craft such as spinning or wood turning and think that they may be interested? Stall are now available. We are always looking for new demonstrators and craft workers, as well as helpers on the day.

Don't forget to note the date and if you would like more information please contact Frances Ashfield on 711411

Upwood and the Raveleys Archive Group

Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN): The network was set up as a web based project to preserve the heritage of Cambridgeshire's towns and villages. Each time someone dies their memories are lost; their photos may well be destroyed. The aim is to capture in pictures and spoken word a flavour of Cambridgeshire life at a local level and preserve it for the future. The photos are personal records of events that have been scanned onto the website. The extent of this record depends on the photos and memories people are willing to share.

Upwood: The Upwood Community Archive Group started in November 2006 and has slowly been adding photos to the CCAN website; there are now about 8000 photos on the site. The site covers nearly 50 villages and towns across the county; stretching from Stilton in the West to Woodditton in the East and from Wisbech in the North to Meldreth in the South. The aspiration at the start was to spread the archive across the county and beyond; it has already extended into Norfolk with other counties hoping to follow.

Project: The project was set up with Heritage Lottery fund money but this is now coming to an end; CCAN is about to run as a voluntary organisation and to stand on its own feet without official County Council support. In the future CCAN will become a sub-group of Cambridgeshire Association of Local History in order to give it the expertise needed for historical information and training and to help the project role out still further.

Can you help?: If you have photos of Upwood or the Raveleys that you think would be of interest to a wider audience please contact the Upwood Group. The photos are only scanned and will be returned to you in original condition. Do have a look at the website; there are now groups all over the county so you may have pictures other groups would be interested in. Last, but not least, would you like to help? If you can spare the time we can show you how. We would love someone to record memories; if you would like to chat about the past and have a recorder going at the same time let us know.

Can we help?: If you don't have a computer but would like to see the website; maybe put some of your photos on or just talk to us we can arrange to meet you at the community access computer in the Cross Keys and show you the website.

Website: "<http://www.ccan.co.uk>" (then find Upwood on the group list)

Email: "<mailto:ccanupwood@yahoo.com>" or Phone: Judith - 710219

Ramsey & District Horticultural Society

The society held its March meeting at the Rainbow Centre, which is an improvement on the previous location, with more comfortable seating and easier parking. The subject of the meeting was Modern Day Vegetable and Fruit Growing which gave members some new ideas as well as encouragement. After the meeting there was an opportunity to socialise with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit - for only twenty pence.

The Society has also been fortunate to receive an invitation to visit Prince Charles' gardens at Highgrove. The twenty five available seats were soon snapped up as this is a very popular venue. The Programme Organiser is arranging a coach trip to the RHS gardens at Wisley, Surrey, in September. This is a very popular trip and always well supported.

The meeting on Monday 21st April has as its subject a talk on "How to Cheat in the Garden" The meeting on Monday 19th May has as its subject "The Fragrant Garden" Both these meetings will be at the Rainbow Centre starting at 7.30 pm. Visitors are welcome. If you want more information call Ian Gaunt on 710702

Upwood & The Raveleys History Group

The group held its Annual General Meeting on 19th March. The attendance was very good and some changes made to the committee. Ian Gaunt takes over as Chairman. Judith Harvey assumes the role of Treasurer and Freda Fotheringham continues as Secretary.

It was agreed at the meeting that the 'Archive Group' and the 'History Group' should merge. There was also discussion on the matter of liability insurance.

After the AGM Frances Ashfield gave a very interesting talk on "The History of Pottery" while making a model cottage of clay.

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 21st May when Liz Carter will give a talk on either "Family History" or "Victorian Inventions" - both subjects were suggested.

If you would like to join the History Group, or would like more information, please contact Ian Gaunt on 710702.

That's life

An elderly couple went to the doctor for a check up because they were having problems remembering things. The doctor examined them and said that they were both in good health but it might help if they wrote things down that they needed to remember.

Later that evening, while watching TV the old man got up and asked his wife if she wanted anything. "Yes" she said "I'd like a bowl of ice cream" Her husband said "OK". His wife said "don't you think you should write it down. "No" he said, "I can remember that." His wife said "I'd like some strawberries on top too, maybe you should write that down". "No" her husband said "I can remember that easily". His wife then added "oh - and I'd like some whipped cream on it, you really should write this down". Her husband, by now very irritated said "For god sake - I can remember that. He went into the kitchen and returned five minutes later with a plate of bacon, egg and tomatoes. His wife stared at it and then said "Where's my toast?"

YOUR VILLAGE HALL



Upwood Village Hall

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 17th April

7.30pm

The village hall is a vital and increasingly popular venue for community activities. We would welcome new members onto the management committee so if you would like to become more involved in your local community please come along to the AGM or contact Steve Howes (813074)

Upwood & the Raveleys Website – www.upwood.org

This has now been updated to include a short Photo Tour of the villages as well as a Parish Council webpage where you can download minutes of previous meetings. This newsletter can also be downloaded from the website. A History section will be added shortly with a selection of old photos and links to related sites. If you have ideas for further improvements please contact the webmaster: webmaster@upwood.org

UPWOOD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Want to join? Simple, the only criteria is that you run a business from your home.

The date for this year's Christmas Lunch is Wednesday 10th December 2008. So put a note in your diary. If you would like further information contact Deana Hudson on 01487 711221.

Parish Council matters

The problem of dogs fouling the footpaths in the parish was raised again. Evidence, preferably photographic and certainly witnessed would result in prosecution. The poor condition of some roads in the parish was raised again. Grass cutting is now in the hands of LT Gray General Builders. Hedging and ditching alongside the road by Farm Close is the subject of negotiations with the appropriate authorities. Apart from this there were the usual planning applications to be considered as well as other matters that had been raised. The Council was reminded that the April meeting is after the annual Parish Meeting.

The Council meets in the Village Hall on the first Monday of each month, unless that is a bank holiday, in which case the meeting is a week later. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm

Parish Meeting

Every year, on the first Monday in April a Parish Meeting is held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Representatives of the various groups in the villages report on the activities of their group, and the programme for the coming year. Sometimes the meetings are attended by as many as 50 residents, sometimes only a few turn up. This is an opportunity for resident, and especially newcomers, to hear what is happening in the villages and maybe encourage them to join in. We are very fortunate to have so many different groups catering for a variety of special interests. Come along and listen. You can even ask questions if you wish. After this meeting closes there is a short break before the Parish Council holds its regular meeting. You could stay and see what goes on there.

UPWOOD ART GROUP

Upwood Art Group meets every Saturday morning at the Village Hall at 10am. Sessions last for two hours and cost £2. This includes tuition where necessary and light refreshments. New members and visitors are most welcome and materials are always available for newcomers to try, so no need to buy any. It's an informal group, friendly and sociable and subject matter to paint or draw is varied and interesting.

On the 5th and 12th of April there will be a professional model who will sit for us. If you have never tried life drawing why not come along and "have a go"?

During the summer, when the weather is fine, we work outdoors and transport to venues can be provided. There is a visit to the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy, a visit to the Fitzwilliam and the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge and the group co-hosts the Art Exhibition at the Ramsey Rural Museum. There are also the occasional Open Days at the Village Hall, when members of the public are welcome to come and watch the painters at work. We finish the year with lunch at the Cross Keys Pub in December.

If you are interested or would like more information call Frances on 01487 711411, new members of any ability are always welcome.

Diary Date - St Peter's Barbecue

This year's barbecue will be held after the Team Service, at lunchtime on Sunday 29th June at The Granary Barn, Little Raveley. More details later, but if you want any information in the meantime please email val@gingells.plus.com

COMPOST

As a long term member of the Soil Association and believer in recycling we've always composted garden and kitchen waste. This year our three compost heaps and one bin were filled to overflowing but not rotting down as quickly as usual. The weather I guess. As I don't dig, but mulch each Spring with two or three inches of compost, I knew that we would have a shortage and decided to get some from the Council's recycling centre as there is a special offer in the local paper. At £1 a bag it seems very reasonable. I called the centre and was assured that the bags aren't huge and if 50 or more were ordered there would be no delivery charge. The chap was persuasive and assured me that the quality was good. Our garden is fairly large so.....

If anyone needs some compost for the Spring please feel free to contact me and have one or two of the large bags blocking my garden path. They are big!

Call me - please - on 01487 711411 - Frances Ashfield.

Upwood Youth Club

We are still looking for volunteers to join the committee and/or help out on a rota basis at Youth Club. For more information please contact Dee Smith, 711735 or Judith Marshall on 812471.



COFFEE MORNING



In aid of

ST PETER'S CHURCH, UPWOOD

Friday 11th April 2008
10.30 – 12.00

8 High Street
Upwood

Raffle £1.00 Bring & Buy

Cambridgeshire Advanced Drivers Group

... undertakes free Advanced Driving and Riding lessons for bikers and car drivers. Manuals and the Advanced Test has to be paid for, plus, if doing the full course a ten pound registration is required. The test, recognised as one of the hardest in the world, though enjoyable, is conducted by a Police Advanced Driver or Rider to standards set by the DSA, the same people who oversee the standard driving test. The Test can be used for a CV or accreditation with BTEC. This is ideal training for young drivers, or the not so young. One in every 180 people will die in a vehicle collision, Advanced Drivers (or Riders) are far less likely to be involved in crashes and can get cheaper insurance and expect longer vehicle life with lower fuel costs! Anyone interested can contact Keith Sisman on 01487-710552 for further details. "<http://www.cadg.org.uk>" Keith Sisman

Upwood & Community Extended Care and Education Project

The Governors of Upwood Community Primary School, with Upwood & The Raveleys Pre-School Playgroup and Upwood's Out After School Child Care Club are working on a project that will vastly improve the facilities available to our community.

They are planning a purpose built, eco-friendly building at Upwood School and are looking for support at the planning, funding and development stages.

If you would like to join this exciting project contact either Liz Edwards, Angie Dean of the Playgroup or Sharon Whitelaw, Head of Upwood School. Her telephone number is 813510.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday	5 April	Meet and Munch	
		Art Group	with professional model
Monday	7 April	Parish Council Meeting	and Annual Parish Meeting
Friday	11 April	St. Peter's Church	Coffee morning @ 8 High Street
Saturday	12 April	Art Group	
Thursday	17 April	Village Hall AGM	
Monday	21 April	Horticultural Society	"Cheat in the garden"
Monday	28 April	Ladies Get Together	Drug Sniffer Dogs Demonstration
Saturday	3 May	Meet and Munch	
Monday	12 May	Parish Council Meeting	
Sunday	18 May	The Wildlife Trust	Open day at Upwood Meadows
Monday	19 May	Ladies Get Together	Spring Planting and Plant Sale
		Horticultural Society	"The Fragrant Garden"
Wed.	21 May	History Group meeting	Liz Carter giving a talk.
Sunday	25 May	Ramsey Rural Museum	Plant sale
Saturday	31 May	Cambs. Community Archive	Photographic exhibition
Monday	2 June	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday	7 June	Meet and Munch	
Monday	16 June	Horticultural Society	Visit Abbot's Ripton Hall
Saturday	28 June	Village Fete	
Sunday	29 June	St Peter's Church Barbecue	
Monday	30 June	Ladies Get Together	Summer Outing - Details later.
Monday	7 July	Parish Council Meeting	
Saturday	12 July	Ramsey Rural Museum	Art Exhibition
Sunday	13 July	Ramsey Rural Museum	Art Exhibition
Saturday	19 July	Horticultural Society	Annual Show at Rural Museum

Who is who in the Villages

Contact

Telephone

Parish Council inc. Allotments	Jane Haggar	711129
District Councillor	Terry Bell	813799
County Councillor	Victor Lucas	822812
Horticultural Society	Ian Gaunt	710702
History Group	John Taylor	813955
55+	Chris Bruce	812327
Cricket Club	Pat Tuffin	812785
St. Peter's Church	Tony Place	813742
Ladies Get Together	Jean Place	813742
Upwood School PTA	Jane Day	710362
Upwood School Playgroup	Angie Dean	830373
Upwood's Out (after school club)	Debbie Ayres	711118
Embroidery Group	Jane Slinn	815951
Brownies	Louise Jackson	814844
Toddler's Group	Emma Smith	812525
Meet and Munch	Mags Dudley	812424
Upwood Youth Club	Denise Smith	711735
Art Group	Frances Ashfield	711411
Cross Keys Golf Society	Malcolm Hudson	711221
Upwood Pantomime Society	Fiona Bennett	719847
Community Bus Co-ordinator	Ivan Youds	814645
Village Hall Hire	Bob Child	815475
Village Fete Committee	Frances Ashfield	711411
Upwood Business Association	Deana Hudson	711221
Sunday Club	Ann-Marie Cracknell	812195
Table Tennis Club	David Williams	812923
Ramsey Bridge Club	B & A Quinton	813349
Ramsey Choral Society	June Green	813562
Upwood Quilters	Deana Hudson	711221
Upwood Road Safety Group	Graham Hillman	711407
Upwood and the Raveleys Community Archive	Margaret Jones	814031

Note: Deadline for the June issue is the 21 May.

The Editor is very diligent but regrets that he cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions.

Editor: David Paine 17 Meadow Road, Upwood Tel: 814350
e-mail: david.paine176@btinternet.com

Deputy Editor: Deana Hudson Tel: 711221