

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	Ian Gaunt	710702
55+	Chris Bruce	812327
Cricket Club	Pat Tuffin	812785
St. Peter's Church	Tony Place	813742
Home to Home	Josie Gaunt	710702
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	Catherine Tuffin	812924
Meet and Munch	Mags Dudley	812424
Upwood Youth Club	Denice Smith	711735
Art Group	Frances Ashfield	711411
Cross Keys Golf Society	Malcolm Hudson	711221
Upwood Pantomime Society	Doug Mcleod	814114
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 and the Raveleys Community Archive	Trevor Brown	711541
W.E.A	Liz Carter	813008
St. Peter's Handbells	Margaret Jones	814031
Speed Watch	Keith Sisman	711221
Ramsey Rural Museum	Michael Latchem	01354 694241

Note: Deadline for the February 2010 issue is the 19th January.

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

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Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter December 2009 Number 45

Editorial

You all know Ramsey, the only market town in Cambridgeshire that uses its High Street as a car park. For the first time since the demise of the old Gaiety theatre, Ramsey is to have a new community centre on Stocking Fen Road, which is due to open in December 2009.

There are those in the villages who remember the paperwork and the hassle and the problems that came with the Lottery funded improvements to our own Village Hall. These are but nothing compared to the effort required to getting a new build in Ramsey. Local volunteers raised £30,000 over almost ten years - then, as part of the approval for Tesco to build a new store, a new community centre could be built on land donated by a local landowner. Huntingdonshire District Council contributed generously towards ancillary costs. Now at long last, the centre nears completion. It will not conflict with the facility in Upwood, or Bury, as most hiring requests are 'new' to both existing facilities. It is good to see Ramsey at last getting the community centre that it deserves.

Have a great Christmas and hope that 2010 is a great year for you all.

Parish Council Matters

The Council approved a grant to the Village Hall at the November meeting. It also discussed the future of the Victorian funeral cart which is presently stored in far from perfect surroundings. The Council initiated negotiations with Swearers Funeral Directors for a long term lease agreement so that the cart can be restored and then displayed publicly. Following a two hour visit by two workmen and a Council truck to repair a couple of feet of crumbling tarmac at the Meadow Road cemetery entrance, the Parish Council has written to Cambridgeshire CC asking for the whole length of the footpath in Meadow Road to be made good. The condition of several allotments was discussed and attempts will be made to find new tenants. The state of the wiggley road between Great Raveley and Wistow was raised and Councillor Lucas advised that the County Council had inspected it and decided to leave it until 2010 to 'see if it settles down'! Wonders will never cease.

Nigel Gowler is now recovering from major surgery. His absence from Parish Council meetings has been noticed, and his contribution to its working missed.

Full minutes of Parish Council meetings are published on the three village notice boards and on the village website

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
Terry Bell.....813799	David McCreadie..812831
David Oldale	Graham Hillman 711407

The Clerk to the Council is Jane Haggard, Tel: 711129

New Year, New Challenge!

An ideal Christmas present?

Abbey College will be running the following classes from 13th January

2010. Belly Dancing	Ballroom	Salsa
Body Conditioning	Pilates	Meditation
Stained Glass	Flower Arranging	Pottery
Star Watching	Birdwatching	Painting/Drawing
Furniture restoration	Curtain making	Soft Furnishing
Healthy Cooking beginners	Indian Cookery	Spanish-
Spanish- Improvers	ESOL	ECDL
Computing-improvers	Intro. to Finance	Everyday Law

Adult and Childrens Arts and Crafts and many more

For more information, or to enrol, contact the office at Abbey College on 01487 811338, 811313 or e-mail acl@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

The office is open Monday-Thursday 10 am - 2pm.

Carollers Calling

Yes, Christmas will soon be here and on Tuesday 8th December a group of villagers will be singing Christmas carols around Upwood. This year we will be raising money for mens cancer services in this area (having raised over £1700 over the past 6 years for cancer care). The carol singers will stop at intervals and knock on your door to let you know that they are there. They will sing a carol and then give you an opportunity to make a donation. If you would like to join the carollers please ring Mags Dudley on 812424 because she needs singers and collectors.

Rotary Club of Ramsey

Ramsey Rotary Club's Christmas float will be in the village on Friday 4th December and on Farm Close on 5th December. Collections go to local and international charities

UPWOOD QUILTERS

2010 will be our 6th year as a group and we would welcome new members. Please don't be put off by the thought of sewing, if you haven't done any before, no problem; we are a self-help group so there is always someone to help. We are a friendly group whose numbers are rising, so why not come along and give us the 'once over' you never know you might even get a cup of tea!!!

We meet on the last Tuesday in the month at Upwood Village Hall 1.30 - 4pm.

We are already planning our exciting new programme for 2010.

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.

Ramsey Choral Society

Ramsey Choral Society Christmas Concert - "Sing Hallelujah" - will be on Saturday 12th December at 7.15 pm in St. Thomas a'Becket with pupils from Ramsey Junior and Upwood Primary schools. Tickets are £8, or £6 for concessions. You are cordially invited to go along and join in the singing.

Advance Notice

Macmillan Cancer Care and Ramsey Choral Society are working together to stage an open air music concert on Saturday 17th July 2010 in the grounds of Abbey College. Gates will open at 5pm for picnics and music starts at 6pm. Sounds great

Upwood Pantomime Society

Beauty and the Beast

Wednesday 27th January at 7.30pm

Thursday 28th January at 7.30pm

Friday 29th January at 7.30pm

Saturday 30th January at 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £8 Children £6

Box Office: 01487 814114

Book early to avoid disappointment

Meet & Munch

We meet at 1 pm for lunch in Upwood Village Hall on the following dates: 5th December, 6th February 2010. There is no meeting in January because the Village Pantomime is in the hall. If you are an Upwood & The Raveleys resident aged 65 or over why not come along and join us. Please contact Mags Dudley 812424 or Jean Place 813742 for information.

Upwood and The Raveleys History Group

Meetings are held every two months at 7.45 pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the Upwood Village Hall. The meeting in September was a highly informative talk on "Pickwick's Fen" by Mike Petty,

The next meeting will be on November 18th, when David Cozens will talk on "Local History"

Visitors are welcome to our meetings which are informal and friendly. If you would like to join the group (Annual subscription £10) then please come along to one of our meetings. If you require any further information, please contact Ian Gaunt (01487 710702).

FUN FRIENDSHIP AND FOOD

These three words sum up the Upwood 55Plus meetings. The FUN has recently been provided by Doug McLeod, John Pilbeam, John Smith and Frances Ashfield. The children from the Upwood School Choir always melt our hearts and the ladies from the Ramsey WI Drama Group always leave us with smiles on our faces! We have two outings a year, one short afternoon trip including a stop for tea, and one all day trip. This year we visited the National Arboretum Memorial in Staffordshire on a wonderful summer's day.

The FRIENDSHIP is present at every meeting. If you don't know everyone when you arrive you will by the time you leave!

The FOOD is afternoon tea at all meetings. We also provide a Harvest Lunch in the Village hall, and a Christmas Lunch, the full works, at the "Cross Keys". All this for only £8 annual subscription. Please come along, you will be made most welcome and there is a lot to look forward to in 2010. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month except January when the hall is reserved for the Panto. For more information ring Chris Bruce on 812327.

The Village Website

Doug McLeod has done lots of work on the history pages of the village website. Direct links to CCAN pages are now being added. You will be able to find more information and pictures by following these links from the village website www.upwood.org

St. Peter's Church, Upwood - Services and Events

Christmas Tree Festival in St. Peter's Church, Upwood on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th December.

If you love decorating Christmas trees there is still time to do one for the festival. All you have to do is exhibit it for a few days and have it back in time for your own festive celebrations. There is a six foot height limit and artificial trees are acceptable. You can be as imaginative as you like and name your tree. There will be a "Best Tree" prize at the end of the festival. You can bring your tree after 10am on Saturday 12th December and collect your tree and take it home after 4pm on Sunday 13th December. More info from Anne Marie or Joyce on 813955 Did you know that the church is open every day for everyone who wants to come in?

Sunday Club

We meet every month during school term and are encouraging the young to participate at special services.

We will be helping to decorate the Church with our Christmas trees on Saturday 12th December and we hope many will come and see that.

The Nativity play is Sunday 20th December at 9.30 am in the Church. This year the Sunday Club will be part of the nativity play with some of us in the congregation and we wish to invite any children who would like to be involved. After the Christmas holidays we will meet on Sunday 10th January at 10.45 am after the church service and we will stay in the church because the pantomime is in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Want to know more? Contact Anne Marie on 8128195 or e-mail her on annemarie.upwood@virgin.net

St Peter's Church Services

Sunday	6 th December	Morning Prayer	9.30 am
	13 th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
	20 th	All Praise at 9.30 with the nativity play	
		Carol Service	6.30 pm
Thurs	24 th	Visit the Red House	
		Midnight Service & Holy Communion	11.30pm
Friday	25 th	Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church	10.00 am
Sunday	27 th	Holy Communion	9.30 am

HOME TO HOME

After the summer break Upwood's 'Home to Home' are about to start our new club year. New members are always welcome so do come along and meet us

Monday 14th December - Christmas Party

Monday 25th January - "Out and About" pasrt 4, at **Townsend Farm,11, High Street Upwood**

Monday 22nd February - Hopi-Ear Candling, a demonstration by Uma Mistry

Monday 29th March - Learning to spin - a demonstration by Carol Lovell

Monday 26th April - Gardeners' Question Time with local experts.

All meetings start in the Village Hall at 8 pm.

Membership for the year is £10.00. Or, if you'd like to come along to any of our open meetings during 2009/10, the entrance fee is £2.00, which includes refreshments.

More info from Josie Gaunt on 710712

Upwood and the Raveleys History Group.

Special Price £3 - a bargain Christmas present

There are still some **Red Books** entitled "Upwood & Raveley Village memories 1900-2000 for sale available from Ian Gaunt (Tel: 710702).

Table Tennis News.

The Upwood Table Tennis Club now sport their own blue polo shirts emblazoned with the club name for use at the club and for any promotional events. A fancy dress Christmas Party is planned for Tuesday 22nd December (table tennis as normal) and early in 2010 the club will have its first annual dinner at "The Cross Keys" public bhouse. "Singles" nights have started and continue every second Monday in the month. It is hoped that those attending will benefit from the more intense activity of singles play. Halloween was celebrated on Tuesday 29th October with some ghostly/ghastly apparitions purporting to play table tennis! A terrifying event was enjoyed by all.

The club is pleased to announce its first wedding. John Furniss and Angela Newton are tying the knot on 21st December at St. Peter's Church. Congratulations to both of them. For more information please contact David Williams on 01487 812923

A Terpsichoreal Treat

Do you like dancing? There will be a New Years Eve Dance at Ramsey's new Community Centre (opposite the Co-Op store in Stocking Fen Road) on Thursday 31st December. Good music, and a licensed bar. Would you like tickets? Call Marlene Barringer on 814603, Caroline Lloyd on 813455, Janet Cook on 8112351 or Angie Curtis on 814492 - but do it soon - as the limit is for 100 people.

The proposal to modify and improve St. Peter's Church

The editorial in the October edition of the newsletter was intended to cause reaction - and it worked. Six residents telephoned, all traditionalists, wanting the church to remain as it is. Several residents stopped the Editor as he went about his daily routine - again generally against the proposal. To be fair, not all these people are regular church-goers.

However, Judith Harvey e-mailed a letter to the Editor, which pleased him because he doesn't get many (or even any).

Judith wrote:

"I was totally puzzled by the editor's comments. Over time St Peter's has undergone many changes. None of the first wooden church still exists; only the central area of this, second, church is original, the rest is made up of additions (changes).

Heating: Isn't it funny that when comfort is involved then changes are fine? I'm all in favour of heating!

Pews: Churches with dates comparable to St Peter's were built in a similar style to current Orthodox churches, i.e *sans* seats. The pews were a change.

Seats: Like or dislike no doubt everyone will sit on the more comfortable chairs at the back.

Adaptable? Surely that means an opportunity for different styles of worship? An opportunity for balance between 'traditional' and 'modern'.

Kitchen and WC: Maybe relieving oneself against gravestones was once acceptable but not now. Why even think that the proposed new facilities will compete with the Village Hall? Surely the aim is to allow St.Peter's to be used, as now, for coffee, for church activities, etc..

Piping: Advice for laying the piping must come from professionals.

Village Hall v St.Peter's: If St. Peter's can't change and therefore eventually can't meet H&S and other requirements, the church as a useable building will have to close. Upwood will have an historic building and nowhere to worship. The editor mentions the 'adaptable' village hall. Is this advocating services in the village hall?

Judith Harvey

Thank you Judith for your letter which gives the other side of the discussion. . Editor

Salvation and Preservation

For some time members of the Parish Council have been concerned about the condition of the Funeral Cart which was retired from use carrying coffins from St Peter's Church to the cemetery in Meadow Road and last used 46 years ago.

The four wheeled Burial Cart or Hand Hearse was bought by the parish in the 1930s.

The village coffin maker originally was William Thompson, Mrs. Shaw senior's father. The Murfin family took the business over, and the two sons, Ailwin and Alec, followed their father into the business. In those pre-war days the cost of hiring the Hand Hearse was two shillings - roughly equivalent to more than £5 today.

The last funeral using the Burial Cart was that of George Edwards, Verne Edwards father, who died in December 1963. The cart was pulled by Mr Murfin and there were bearers who walked alongside.

So much for the history. What for its future. The directors of Swearers funeral directors inspected the Cart and expressed an interest in restoring it and displaying it in the new showroom being built in Blenheim Road Ramsey. The Parish Councillors welcomed this offer and will arrange for the Cart to be loaned to Swearers.

If any resident can fill in details of the Burial Cart's past, the information would be most helpful. Memories, distant recollections, maybe even photographs would be welcome. Please contact the Editor if you can help. Contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

Lost Property

A number of jackets, coats, umbrellas etc. have been left on the coat pegs in the village hall. As they have been there for a considerable time these items have now been removed and will be kept until Christmas. Any items not claimed will then be disposed of. Please contact the hall bookings secretary if you think one of these items might be yours.

Contact Bob Child: 01487 815475

I have had a lot of exercise over the past few years - just getting over the hill

Fen Song Upwood Village Hall - Saturday 7th November

Fen Song turned out to be a spell-binding evening of excellent musicianship and poetry from Penni McLaren-Walker, Bryan Causton and Clare Crossman. Penni's evocative songs, beautifully enhanced by Bryan's sympathetic mandolin and bouzouki playing, complemented Clare's well-crafted poems about fenland life. The audience was also treated to the first performance of Celtic Heart - a lively mixture of traditional Irish and Scottish tunes and songs mixed with some more of Clare's poems. The event was organised in association with Arts in Cambs on Tour a scheme which is designed to bring professional artistes into rural communities.

What type of event would you like us to look out for next - blues, jazz, folk, drama, comedy, kids' show? It would be good to know your opinions. Contact: **doug@clanmcleod.fsnet.co.uk**

We would also welcome volunteers who can help with stage and seating set up for these shows - we're not getting any younger!!

Upwood & The Raveleys Village Website Information

The "Local Links" section of the villages website is going to be revised shortly to include basic contact information about useful local services and businesses. If you would like your business or service to be included please send the following information to: **webmaster@upwood.org** :-

Name of business/ service

Type of business / service (e.g. plumber / builder / hairdresser etc)

Contact phone number / email

Website address (where appropriate)

Some new files have also been added to the "Churches and Chapels" page in the History section. These are surname indexed lists of graves, including plot number plans, of all three graveyards and cemeteries in Upwood. These can be of particular interest to people doing family history research. *These updated lists have been prepared by members of the Upwood Community Archive Group.*

www.upwood.org

www.upwood.org

www.upwood.org

Fantastic FREE offers -

Quantity of barbeque fuel available - free to collector - ring 711411

Artists studio easel, elderly but top quality, free to loving home - ring 711411

A tribute to Joan Hempstead

Joan was a most kind and considerate person. Her contribution to the fun and relaxed atmosphere at the Upwood Art Group meetings every Saturday can't be exaggerated. Joan really enjoyed drawing but was less confident about painting until she exhibited at the Ramsey Rural Museum's Art Show and hers was the first painting to sell. Pretty impressive, especially as it was the first picture that she had ever exhibited.

She always had new drawings in her sketch book for us to see every Saturday morning and welcomed members comments and suggestions. Her enthusiasm for painting and drawing was obvious and her enjoyment of the sessions made it a pleasure to have her in the group. We will miss her quiet sense of humour and her commitment to the Upwood Art Group
Upwood Art Group Members

Upwood Art Group Open Day

On Saturday 24th October the Art Group held an Open Day. Members would like to thank the twenty or so visitors who dropped in to see them "at work". Several stayed to have lunch and talk pictures. It really was a nice event. Thanks too to Kev, our model for the day, who has the patience of a saint. Christmas lunch will be in the "Cross Keys" after the session on Saturday 12th December. Call 711411 if you have been unable to come to Group recently, but would like to meet up at the lunch party. We would love to see old members again.

That will be the last meeting before Christmas, but the hall will be available in January, so we will meet again on Saturday 9th January 2010 at 10.am as usual. New members are always welcome so why not start the New Year with a new hobby? It's a great group of people, art is fun, relaxing and therapeutic. There are lots of paints and papers to try at no cost and everyone, yes, EVERYONE can draw and paint with a little encouragement and help. Look forward to seeing you there!!

Merry Christmas from Frances and the Upwood Art Group.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 4 th & Sat. 5 th December	Rotary Club Christmas float
Saturday 5 th December	Meet and Munch in Village Hall
Monday 7 th December	Parish Council meets in Village Hall
Tuesday 8 th December	Carol singers coming round. Upwood 55PLUS meeting in Village Hall
Saturday 12 th December	Choral Society concert . Christmas Tree Festival in St. Peter's.
Monday 14 th December	Home to Home Christmas Party
Sunday 20 th December	Nativity Play in St. Peter's Church
Tuesday 22 nd December	Table Tennis Club Fancy dress evening
Thursday 24 th December	Midnight Service in St.Peter's Church
Thursday 31 st December	Dance at Ramsey Community Centre
Saturday 9 th January	Art Group's first meeting in 2010
Wednesday 13 th January	Classes start at Abbey College
Monday 25 th January	Home to Home at Townsend Farm
Wednesday 27 th January	Beauty and the Beast Premier Village Hall
Saturday 6 th February	Meet and Munch in the Village Hall
Tuesday 9 th February	Upwood 55PLUS meeting in Village Hall
Monday 22 nd February	Home to Home - candle making

Home to Home

Kevin James from Huntingdon Fire Service, visited Upwood in October and spoke about fire safety in the home. With Guy Fawkes Night and Christmas not far off, and the danger from fires increasing at this time of the year, Mr. James pointed out the many risky things that we all do in our homes. Simple things like not fully unrolling extension leads to drying tea towels on the oven door. His talk was informative and entertaining. We learned a lot and he gave us all something to think about. Expect the local sales of LED Christmas lights to soar!! Our thanks to him and the Fire Service.

On Monday 30th November we went crackers.....sorry, MADE crackers.

Congratulations to Kevin and Jane at the "Cross Keys"

They won the Huntingdonshire Business Award for being nominated "Best Pub of the Year 2009" Well done.. And....it's Steak and Kidney Pudding Night on 2nd December. Fish and Chips are still available for take-away.