



Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter

February 2013 Issue 64

Upwood Panto Season 30th Jan-2nd Feb



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DIARY FEBRUARY / MARCH

DIARY OF EVENTS

Date	Day	Event	Time	Place / Contact
27th Jan	Sun	Panto Dress rehearsal	2.30pm	Doug 814114
27 th Jan	Sun	Cross Keys – Quiz Night	7.00pm	Cross Keys 813384
30 th Jan	Wed	Panto Performances start	7.30pm	Doug 814114
4 Feb	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Village Hall -Claire (07955 707 134)
4 Feb	Mon	Quilters AGM	1.30pm	Village Hall - Margaret 814031
6 Feb	Wed	Remember the 60's – WEA Course with Lawrence Staig	10am	Liz 813008
13 Feb	Wed	Presentation -Rocking along the Norfolk Coasts (Dr Francis Dipper)	7.30pm	Brampton Memorial Hall
14/15 Feb	Thu/Fri	Cross Keys - Valentines Meal	-	Cross Keys 813384
16 Feb	Sat	Spend time with Bob Elvis	10:30am	Meeting Room – Ramsey Library (bob.elvis@hotmail.co.uk)
16 Feb	Sat	Lent Lunches begin	12.45pm	Village Hall
18 Feb	Mon	Ramsey Garden Club – Angela Whiting- Alpines & Containers	7.30pm	Ramsey Community Centre Ian - 710702
19 Feb	Tue	Evening Book Club	7.30pm	Cross Keys - Julia Evans
20 Feb	Wed	Morning Book Club	10.30am	Cross Keys - Maria Jackson
22 Feb	Fri	Upwood Performing Arts -Chris & Kellie While	7.45pm	Village Hall (Doug 814114)
22 Feb	Fri	Cross Keys -Fish & Chip Supper	5.30pm	Cross Keys 813384
25 Feb	Mon	Home to Home – Charity Talk	8.00pm	Frances 711411
26 Feb	Tue	Quilters – Foundation Piecing	1.30pm	Village Hall - Margaret 814031
4 Mar	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Village Hall - Claire (07955 707 134)
8 Mar	Fri	Dragonflies by Henry Curry	7.30pm	Countryside Classroom (Contact - 01487 710420)
10 Mar	Sun	Cross Keys –Mothering Sunday Meal	-	Cross Keys 813384
13 Mar	Wed	Walk – Signs of early Bird Migration – 4 miles – meet @ Jackson's Bridge	10.00am	Contact Adrian on 07983 850886
18 Mar	Mon	Ramsey Garden Club – Margaret Waddy - Herbs (History & Use)	7.30pm	Ramsey Community Centre Ian - 710702
20 Mar	Wed	History Group – Stuart Orme	7.45pm	Ian - 710702
25 Mar	Mon	Home to Home – Card Making Demo	8.00pm	Frances 711411
Future Events				
19 Apr	Fri	Upwood Performing Arts – Mervyn Stutter	7.45pm	Village Hall (Doug McLeod 814114)
29 Apr	Mon	Home to Home – Slide Show	8.00pm	Frances 711411
15 May	Wed	History Group – Alan Bowley – The Rothschild Family	7.45pm	Village Hall Ian - 710702

Deadline for the April Issue is the 15th March, 2013

PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PLAN

WHAT IS A PARISH PLAN? A Parish Plan (also called Community Led Plan) is the product of local ideas developed by the people of a parish to describe the vision of the community in five to ten years' time. It will define the programmes of work needed to deliver this vision and how it will be achieved.

WHAT DOES THIS VISION OF THE FUTURE INCLUDE? It should include the appearance of the village(s), the amenities provided for recreation and the children's play areas, playing fields and sports facilities, allotments, cemetery, common land and footpaths. It should include the relationship with the school, the church and other Parish organisations. Local roads and pathways and the issue of traffic management including speeding and parking in the parish should also be covered. The Parish owns a considerable amount of land in the area and the Plan should also express the collective view on how this should be used in the future.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A PARISH PLAN? The Parish Plan should also serve as a reference document when developers wish to build on land in the Parish. The new Planning Laws give more power in the future to land owners and without a Parish Policy for house building and development the developer could potentially push through a building project against local wishes. Where there is a published Parish Plan the power of the developer is much better controlled. The Parish Plan should describe the attitudes and preferences of residents for affordable housing, in-fill developments and more extensive housing development in the Parish. It is also advisable for residents to express their views (for or against) in the Plan on contentious issues such as wind turbines and gypsy and traveller sites. Should the local authorities wish to make such developments in future then the local position will already be known.

WHO IS TO DRAW UP AND ORGANISE THIS PARISH PLAN? We have been advised that the work should NOT be done entirely by the Parish Council but that other local residents should be recruited for the duration of the project. We are asking for volunteers to become members of a working group of between 9 and 12 members.

WHAT WILL BE THE AGENDA? The group will initially develop the outline and objectives of the plan and draw up a detailed questionnaire to enable all residents to express their views. Upon completion of this research the group will develop the document to describe the vision of Upwood and the Raveleys we would like to inhabit in the future.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS GROUP? We would like volunteers from every community and every age group (16+). In particular we would welcome volunteers from Fairmead, Farm Close and the Raveley Villages. If you have the time and energy to participate please get in touch with the Chairman, Robin Howe at robin.howe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or call on 01487 814393 or 07778593606

PARISH COUNCIL cont:

A Happy New Year to everyone in the parish of Upwood and the Raveleys

VACANCY FOR COUNCILLOR: The Council is sorry to announce that Jane Kirkby has stepped down and would like to thank her for her much valued contribution to the Council. This means there is now a vacancy for a new Councillor. If you are interested in applying for the position please contact Robin Howe or Claire Tunnicliffe at upwoodraveleyclerk@yahoo.co.uk)

FOULING OF PAVEMENTS: The Council would like to thank all the responsible dog owners who clear up the deposits left by their dogs. However it has been brought to our attention that not every dog owner is aware of their responsibility. Dog faeces can carry the eggs of a parasite (toxacara canis) that can cause blindness in humans. In the winter, snow can cover the mess and then ice can make pavements hazardous. No-one would like to slip over and land in the mess left by a dog whose thoughtless owners have failed to pick up the mess. There are bins placed around the village where plastic bags containing the faeces can be put

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP UPWOOD'S PAVEMENTS CLEAN!

NEXT MEETINGS: Monday 4th February and Monday 4th March at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. ALL ARE WELCOME!

UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS HISTORY GROUP

The history group will begin the 2013 programme on 20th March at 7.45pm in the Upwood Village Hall. This meeting will be a talk by Stuart Orme of the Peterborough Museum. The title will be 'Not Just Old Stuff in Glass Cases'. This talk will be followed on 10th April (7.00pm) by a visit to the museum that has undergone a big redevelopment. The talk on 15th May (7.45pm in the Village Hall) will be of local interest. Alan Bowley from Natural England will be talking on 'The Rothschild Family, Conservation and the Early Years of Woodwalton Fen'.

The History Group are hoping to participate in a county wide WW1 project to look at people, events and the effects of WW1 in our villages. Amanda O'Donoghue from Cambs CC will hopefully be coming to talk about the idea behind the project and give some advice – date to be confirmed. If you are interested, whether a member of the History Group or not, let Ian know and he will pass further information on. It will also be on the village website.

The cost for a membership is £10 (due in March) but visitors are welcome to individual meetings at a cost of £3. For further information on any of the above contact Ian Gaunt (710702, ian.gaunt@care4free.net).

UPWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Fayre: We hosted our annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8th December. The school hall was filled with many Christmas activities and stalls. The PTA Committee would like to thank all pupils, parents/carers, grandparents, staff, family and friends who helped to make the Christmas Fayre a resounding success. We raised an amazing amount - in excess of £840.00.

Christmas Performances: During the evenings of the 12th and 13th December, all pupils participated in the Upwood Primary School Christmas Performance. The play this year was entitled 'Launching Christmas,' with the story focusing on a group of astronauts who crashed their spaceship on Christmas Eve! The performances were of a very high standard and we were extremely proud of the children's efforts. Thanks to all members of the school community for their kind donations collected at the end of each performance.

Christmas Service: The whole school walked to St Peters Church for a Christmas Service on Monday 17th December. The service was lead by Mrs Jean Place, with each class contributing a carol or poem. Pupils in Year 4 performed a piece of music on their recorders. After the service some members of Years 4, 5 and 6 walked to Manor House to sing some carols for the residents.

Upwood Primary School wishes all members of our local community a wonderful New Year

MEET & MUNCH

A reminder for all Meet & Munch members that as the Village Hall is unavailable no meetings will take place in January or February 2013.
Further details from Mags 812424 or Jean 813742.

CHANGES TO BUS TIMETABLES

New: 07:40 'A' journey between St Ives Park & Ride and Cambridge rail station (Monday to Friday when schools open).

New: 17:20 'B' journey between Cambridge, Drummer Street bus station and St Ives bus station (Monday to Friday).

Change: Existing 07:50 and 08:05 'A' journeys between St Ives, Hill Rise and Cambridge rail station will now operate Monday to Friday (currently Monday to Friday when schools open).
Contact Stagecoach on 01480 453159

WEA UPWOOD BRANCH



The Spring Term course 'Do You Remember the 60's?' starts Wednesday 6th February with tutor Lawrence Staig. Seven sessions, 2 hours with a refreshment break in the middle, starting at 10 am prompt in the Village Hall. Course fee £42.00

Lawrence will take us on a journey through the 1960s comparing his memories with ours which should make for an exciting and lively course. We shall be using film, literature, art and music to revive our memories of the 1960s. We all claim we remember the era, but do we really? To ensure you get a seat in this popular course, contact Ian Gaunt on Ian.Gaunt@Care4free.net or the branch secretary Liz@backtracks.biz

HOME TO HOME

In past years members have enjoyed a Christmas "sit-down" three course meal in the Village Hall, however, this year the committee decided to have a buffet supper, with a variety of nibbles, desserts and wine. And games! I'm pretty sure that neighbours some distance away would have heard the laughter and noise when we played the silliest pencil and paper games. Thanks to the ladies who helped to provide food and to the kind volunteers who helped clear up afterwards. A fun event and a lively opener to the Christmas celebrations!

There is no meeting in January. 25th February - Charity Talk, 25th March - Card Making Demo and hands on session and 29th April - Slide Show. It's a very friendly group of ladies and newcomers are always made very welcome. Visitors pay £2 which includes refreshments. Call Frances on 711411 for more details.

55+

In December we assembled at the Cross Keys for our traditional lunch and were served with a wonderful meal cooked by Kevin and Jane, who looked after us very well. All the members were presented with a gift from the Club and all left in a happy state of mind. Chris very kindly opened her home again on Tuesday 12th January for afternoon tea provided by the Committee, something they do throughout the year. Everyone caught up with their Christmas and New Year news.

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th February when Mrs Stevens will be talking to us about chocolate, a favourite subject of many of us! If you need any more information please contact Chris on 812327 or Caroline on 813455.

UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS ARCHIVE GROUP

The archive group has been inactive over the past year whilst deliberations over the future of its webhost have gone on. Discussions have now been resolved and the entire Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN) website will be transferring to a new webhost this month.

The changes have been negotiated by Cambridgeshire County Council and CCAN will retain its links with them. As before each archive group has to be entirely self-funding which is why the group was so grateful to receive funding towards their annual site fee from the fete committee.

For January and early February the site will be 'read only' as data is transferred. One or two minor errors seem to have appeared but once it becomes live again in February these will be resolved. In format the new site will look and work in a similar way to the village website so hopefully will be easier to use. Although the new site looks different it will have the same information plus the opportunity for much more, including videos and audio.

It is hoped that in the future the site can be used as a living archive to show life in our 21st century village.

THE CROSS KEYS

As previously reported by the Newsletter we have been at the Cross Keys for ten enjoyable but hard-working years. Our family has grown up and are leading their own lives so we feel it is time for us to do the same. The pub is currently for sale as leasehold and we very much hope to find a buyer who values village life as much as we do. Thank you all for your continuing support. *Jane & Kevin Kirkby*

Sunday 27th Jan Quiz Night 7pm doors open @ 6pm nibbles & raffle £2.50 per person entry, teams of 4 please, proceeds to Jenny Novice World Challenge Fundraising

Thursday 14th & Friday 15th February Valentine's Day Special Menu - £30 per couple for a three course dinner & wine.

Friday 22nd February Fish & Chip Supper Night - two courses for £10. Special deal for ACT ticket holders only available from 5.30pm.

Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday £20 for three courses & coffee - book early to avoid disappointment.

Our Christmas Quiz raised £300 for Macmillan Cancer Care - thanks for the great support!! - We are happy to donate our monthly quiz proceeds to any local charity or cause close to home.
Jane & Kevin Kirkby

ST PETER'S CHURCH

3rd Feb	Morning Prayer Service 9.30am	Alpha Course in Village Hall 7pm
10th Feb	Holy Communion or Service of the Word 9.30am	
17th Feb	"Open the Book" 9.30am	
24th Feb	Holy Communion 9.30am	
3rd March	Morning Prayer 9.30am	
10th March	Holy Communion or Service of the Word 9.30am	
17th March	"Open the Book" Family Service 9.30am	
24th March	Holy Communion 9.30am	
31st March	Service of the Word 9.30am	



Christmas Tree and Craft Festival

All the trees were decorated to a very high standard by the groups. Visitors voted for the tree they thought was the best decorated which made the whole experience more exciting. In the children's category, the clear winner was the Lighthouse group. The children will enjoy their prize (chocolate biscuits and a certificate at the Tea Bar Café in Ramsey) next time they meet in the village hall after the panto season. In the adult category, the winners were the Quilters although the Handbells were very close runners up. Thank you for all who helped to make that Saturday special.

Upwood St Peter's Flower Festival and Open Gardens

Our Flower Festival will take place in the Church on Saturday 15th June and gardens will be open on Sunday 16th June (refreshments available). If you want to open your garden that day, please contact Josie on 710702. If you want to participate in the Flower Festival and create a flower display please contact Anne-Marie 812195

Coffee Morning – 8th February

This is in support of the flower festival/ open gardens. Please come and support. It will be at Josie's home (74 High Street Upwood) 10.30-12am on Friday 8th February. Tickets will cost £1, available from the Church, Jose or Anne-Marie.

Playing field

A thought! In the eventuality of a good snowfall, wouldn't it be wonderful to challenge anyone to create a crowd of snow creatures in the playing field. If that happens, photos will be taken and we could even crown the best creation "king of snow". BRING ON THE SNOW!

Lent Lunches

The Lent dates this year are: Saturdays 16th, 23rd February and 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March. We offer light lunches in the Village Hall consisting of a wonderful variety of delicious home-made soup, bread and cheese with tea or coffee. It takes place at 12.45pm, after art club has finished. Everyone is welcome – wonderful food in a friendly atmosphere.

BENTLEY CLOSE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



It was an Autumnal night of 2005 in the Cross Keys in Upwood when two neighbours from Bentley Close made a gentleman's bet. "I bet I can get more lights on my house this Christmas than you did last year...." And so the birth of the Bentley Illuminations began.

For anyone in the local area who has not driven down Bentley Close at Christmas time, this article will not mean much. However, rest assured that next to the Great Wall of China, the street is visible from outer space! And why does this happen? Community and a sense of fun are the foundations of our street. So when my husband and I told the neighbours our plan to have a party at our house followed by a Christmas light competition, everyone was game. The undertone of course was an excuse to have a party, for which no one needed any encouragement!

In 2012, 18 houses put Christmas lights up ready for the switch on at the beginning of December. This includes 3 six foot inflatables, 6 illuminated reindeer, 3 Merry Christmas signs, a handmade wooden sleigh, and tens of thousands lights. We meet all wrapped up in our garage with our hot mulled wine and walk round and watch as each house is "switched on". And everyone receives a cheer as the name of the game really is "it's the taking part that counts". We then continue the celebrations at our house with party food contributed by everyone in the street.

The event has grown year on year, with over 60 people for the Bentley Illuminations 2012 consuming 25 litres of mulled wine! And over the last few years, the Rotary club float have even co-ordinated their float round to coincide with the switch on which adds to the magic. The children will always remember these special nights where we celebrate both the Christmas and Community spirit. It all sounds corny...but trust those of us that take part, it is a fantastic night.

Ali Gaillard

UPWOOD CAROL SINGING

On 11th December 2012, despite a very chilly evening, "brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel" for the carollers to sing and collect their way round the village. The last port of call was the Cross Keys Pub where Jane and Kevin invited us to sing. Then it was on to the warmth of Judith and Mervyn's home for mulled wine and refreshments. Donations amounting to £384.00 have been forwarded to Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge to support "The Pink Rose Appeal, celebrating life, beating breast cancer".

A huge thank you to everyone for their generous support.

Mags Dudley

UPWOOD ART GROUP

The new "term" begins on February 9th in the Village Hall at 10am. Visitors are welcome to come along and see the group at work. There are always materials to try (no charge) and members will happily provide tea or coffee and a chat about their work and the club's activities.

Hopefully this year we'll be able to paint outdoors more than in 2012, it can't possibly rain quite as much, surely? There will be a variety of projects and things to paint and draw, a professional model will "sit" two or three times and there'll be the usual outings to exhibitions, including the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. The annual trip to Norfolk for a week of painting in May is now a regular event.

UAG is a friendly, talented group of folk who enjoy their art and welcome new members whether experienced or absolute beginners. Membership fees are minimal. If you want a new hobby drop in one Saturday, it may be just what you're looking for! For more details about the group visit <http://www.upwood-art.co.uk/> or call Frances on 711411

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES

Volunteering - There are volunteering opportunities for people who wish to volunteer on a regular basis or just now and then. Contact Penny Litchfield 814897 penny.litchfield@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Grey Tabby Cat – Over the past year David & Kate Paine and their neighbours have 'acquired' a grey tabby cat (possibly lost or stray). Although he is calm and peaceful their own cat is not happy with the extra visitor! If anyone knows anything about their mysterious 'lodger' please contact them on 814350.

Brownies

Are you aged 7-10?

Are you free on a Wednesday evening during term time?

Then why not come & join the fun with Upwood Brownies?

We meet at Upwood Village Hall 6-7.30pm, for more details please contact Louise on 07921197850



CONNECTING CAMBRIDGESHIRE – UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Connecting Cambridgeshire campaign to bring superfast broadband to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Close to 24,000 people across the county have registered their demand. This campaign success has been achieved with the fantastic support of 100 Broadband Champions, local Councillors and organisations such as Cambridgeshire ACRE, who have encouraged their communities to register.

What happens next? - The next stage of the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme will be to award the contract to a supplier in February 2013 to roll-out better broadband for all over the next three years. Regular updates will be posted on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website to keep you informed and Cambridgeshire ACRE will provide links to these via its regular monthly e-News Digest.

UPWOOD QUILTERS

The Quilting Group met on the 4th December for a Christmas get together, which was well attended. We met again on the 22nd January for our Christmas lunch at the Cross Keys. On the 4th February we are holding our A.G.M. and the next meeting will be on the 26th February, where we shall start with a demonstration on Foundation Piecing. For Info contact Margaret on 814031

Upwood Village Hall Performing Arts Events – New Year Season 2013
presents

Chris & Kellie While

Friday 22nd February at 7.45pm

Great songs & harmonies from mother & daughter folk favourites

Tickets £9.50 (£8.50 concessions)

** Special Pre-Show Meal Deal at the Cross Keys for ticket holders **

**Fish & Chip Supper + dessert £9.00 - Available from 5.30pm to 6.45pm **

Mervyn Stutter

Friday 19th April at 7.45pm

Comedian, raconteur & comic songwriter back for his third visit to UVH

Tickets £9.50 (no concessions)

Box Office: 01487 814114 / dougmcleod@hotmail.co.uk

RAMSEY AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

We have started the new year programme. The Club meets in the Ramsey Community Centre at 7.30 on the third Monday of the month with a variety of talks and demonstrations.

The meeting on 18th February will be a talk by Angela Whiting of D'Arcy Everest nursery at Pidley. They specialise in alpine plants and containers and regularly display at the Chelsea Flower Show. The talk will be entitled 'Alpines and containers'. We have had a talk by Angela previously and know that she is a very good speaker and particularly knowledgeable. On 18th March Margaret Waddy will talk on 'Herbs-their history and use'. Again we know her to be a good and knowledgeable speaker.

In addition to the talks we will be arranging two visits during the year, one to Royal Horticultural Society garden at Hyde Hall in Essex and one to Kew gardens.

Annual membership costs £10 and visitors are welcome to individual meetings at £2. For further information please contact Ian Gaunt (01487 710702; ian.gaunt@care4free.net).

SPEND SOME TIME WITH BOB ELVIS – LOCAL WRITER



On Saturday 16th Feb from 10:30 to 11:45 local writer and Upwood resident **Bob Elvis** will be reading from a selection of his works and others at the Meeting Room, Ramsey Library. Admission is free. Refreshments and Publications will be on sale. Contact Bob Elvis for further information (bob.elvis@hotmail.co.uk)

UPWOOD SMALL TO TALL - EVERY WEEKDAY TERM TIME

Breakfast Club, Pre-School Sessions & After School Club

A fun learning environment with experienced staff and a positive Ofsted report

PLEASE CALL Angie Dean/Sue Sykes on 01487 802086 or EMAIL

manager@upwoodsmalltotall.co.uk

Website: **www.upwoodsmalltotall.co.uk**

UPWOOD & RAVELEYS COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



TRY OUT THE 'GREEN GYM' – take up an allotment and get the double benefit of healthy exercise and home-grown fruit and veggies. We have some vacant plots available to rent this Spring and can offer some starter plots and half-plots.

We will offer plenty of support and advice to any new plot holder and have a seed-scheme in place. Plots will be cleared and ready for your immediate use – all you have to do is turn up with ideas and energy! We also plan to start a Community Orchard with fruit trees on the allotment site. This will be an ongoing project and if you are interested in being involved do contact us.

Contacts: The Parish Clerk: Claire on upwoodraveleyclerk@yahoo.co.uk or the URCAA Chairperson Ali Miles amiles@gotadsl.co.uk tel. 710548; Treasurer Carl Dowdell or Secretary Liz Carter – liz@backtracks.biz tel. 813008

UPWOOD BOOK LOVERS' GROUP



We currently have two groups. The Morning Group meets at 10.30 am and the Evening Group at 7.30 pm. Both meet at the Cross Keys pub – about every 6 weeks. We pay £2 a session which covers the coffee/tea.

The two groups are independent, choosing their own books, but members can change groups if they want – it is very easy-going. We read the book at home and then discuss the storyline/plot and style and end up giving a score out of ten for the book. The rest of the session is spent chatting about book-related subjects such as new books, best reads or talks by well-known authors. Sessions last about 1 ½ hours and the Evening group usually indulge themselves with a treat from the desert menu.

Evening Group: next meeting 19th Feb 7.30 pm book to be discussed: 'Human Croquet' by Kate Atkinson. Contact Julia Evans on Julia.Evans@BarfieldHouse.net

Morning Group: next meeting – Wednesday 20th Feb 10.30 am – book to be discussed 'The Book Thief' by Marcus Zusak. Contact Maria Jackson on johnandmaria@live.com

UPWOOD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LUNCH

On 12th December members of the Upwood Business Association attended the annual meeting, which was held at the Cross Keys. We actually only meet once a year and that is for a Christmas Lunch. The Association was started some years ago by a group of people who live in the village and work from home. We felt hard done by because when there was talk of Christmas parties we did not have one to go to. It was then decided to get together for Christmas Lunch at the local pub; we had heard that the food was very good! Jane and Kevin do us proud and we would like to give them a big thank you for accommodating us.

If you work from home and would like to join us for our next meeting on 11th December 2013 please contact me Jean Place 813742.

UPWOOD PANTOMIME SOCIETY – ALADDIN – 30th JAN TO 2nd FEB

Even with the addition of an extra performance, all tickets for this year's show sold out in record time although everyone who contacted the box office during the first week managed to get all the tickets they requested.

This year's panto stars Jen Hickman in the title role, with Chris Richter as the evil Abanazar, April Glasby as Wishee Washee and Dee Smith as Widow Twankey. There is a cast of over 25 people and an equal number of people helping with various aspects of production, making it a real community project. If you are one of the lucky ones to get hold of a ticket we hope you will enjoy/enjoy/have enjoyed the show!!!



This is what some of the Upwood members of our talented chorus have to say:-

Elanor Brook: *I enjoy taking part because we are a very close community and we all have fun. It is very important to everyone and we all motivate each other.*

Isobel Hopkins: *I joined last year along with Tawney after watching it for a long time. As a member of the chorus I love how we take part in everything.*

Tawney Evans: *When I came along last year I wasn't quite sure what I was letting myself in for, but now I really enjoy being part of the chorus.*

Orla Simpson: *This is my third year now. I have made lots of good friends through this and it is very exciting when we are all on stage together.*

Isabelle Peck: *This is also my third Upwood panto and I am really excited about having my first named part. I love being part of the "Panto Family" and all the fun dances.*

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS @ UVH

The **Opera Dudes'** show in November was yet another sell-out. Neil Allen and Tim Lole entertained the packed hall with excellent singing and musicianship presented with a wicked sense of humour and wonderful rapport with the audience. Classical music concerts will never be quite the same again! Definitely an act worthy of a return visit to UVH.



Chris & Kellie While will be appearing on **Friday 22nd February @ 7.45pm**. Chris While is widely recognised as one of the finest singers on the acoustic music circuit, both in the UK and around the world. Chris' daughter, Kellie, tours annually with the Albion Christmas Band and has provided guest vocals for some of the most respected names in folk music.



We also have the welcome return of comedian and raconteur extraordinaire, **Mervyn Stutter**, on **Friday 19th April**. Tickets (£9.50 / no concessions) for this show can now be reserved by contacting the box office.

RAMSEY & DISTRICT U3A

We had a most interesting and entertaining speaker at our first meeting of the New Year when Mr Bill Allen of Bury regaled us with tales of his experiences as a Volunteer and Games Maker during the Olympic Games. He was the driver of one of the fleet of official cars that were provided to carry competitors and officials between the various venues and accommodation locations and he revealed many amusing instances that arose while he was carrying out these duties. His wife Ann was also a volunteer and she was employed as a "Meeter and Greeter", although the details of her experiences were not revealed to us, and must wait for another time, perhaps!

If you would like to know more about what we get up to at Ramsey & District U3A, you would be very welcome to come along to our next meeting on 12th February at the Community Centre, Stocking Fen Road in Ramsey at 2.00pm. It'll cost you only one pound as a visitor and you can listen to the speaker (the subject this month is "Singing for Fun"), join us in a tea and biccys, pick up a newsletter and chat to the members. If you would like to know more you could ring Membership Secretary Nina Akehurst on 711265.

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGES

Organisation	Contact	Telephone
Art Group	Frances Ashfield	711411
Book Lovers Group	Liz Carter	813008
Brownies	Louise Jackson	079211 97850
Community Bus Co-ordinator	Dave Blandford	711330
County Councillor	Victor Lucas	822812
Cricket Club	David Drage	07796 352200
Cross Keys Golf Society	Malcolm Hudson	01840 779425
District Councillor (Chair of Parish Council)	Robin Howe	814393
55+	Chris Bruce Caroline Lloyd	812327 813455
History Group	Ian Gaunt	710702
Home to Home	Frances Ashfield	711411
Horticultural Society	Ian Gaunt	710702
Meet and Munch	Mags Dudley	812424
Parish Clk (inc Allotments)	Claire Tunnicliffe	07955 707134
Ramsey Bridge Club	B & A Quinton	813349
Ramsey Choral Society	June Green	813562
Ramsey Rural Museum	Michael Latchem	01354 694241
Small to Tall (Upwood School Clubs)	Angie Dean	802086
Speed Watch	Keith Sisman	710552
St Peter's Church Matters	Gordon Slinn	815951
St Peter's Handbells	Ann-Marie Cracknell	812195
Table Tennis Club	David Williams	812923
U3A	John Austin	01733 844474
Upwood Business Association	Frances Ashfield	711411
Upwood Quilters	Margaret Jones	814031
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Upwood Pantomime Society	Doug McLeod	814114
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Village Hall Hire	Bob Child	815475
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