



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 08 May 2017. 8:00pm
Upwood Village Hall, High Street, Upwood, PE26 2QE

Minutes

Present: Councillors: J. Edwards, J. Noble, H. Nel, J. Paxton, A. Perkins, G. Slater, H. Smith, M. Tew & 1 parishioner.

In Attendance: Mrs. C. Bilverstone (Clerk)

1. Welcome by Councillor Michael Tew, Vice Chairman. Councillor Tew welcomed one parishioner to the meeting.

2. Apologies. Councillor Howe: District Council Commitments.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting. 09 May 2016.

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 09 May 2016:

Copies of the minutes and the reports of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 09 May 2016 had been circulated in advance following their informal approval by the chairman. Councillor Slater proposed acceptance of the minutes. Councillor Nel seconded the proposal. All who had been present were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. The chairman signed the minutes after the meeting.

4. Report from the Vice Chairman of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council. Please find attached.

5. Financial report from the clerk to the council. Please find attached.

6. To invite community representatives to address the meeting.

Representatives of the following community groups had offered apologies (representatives were present from: the Cross Keys, Upwood Golf Society, St. Peter's Church and Upwood Ukuleles) and forwarded reports which were presented by the clerk:

Cross Keys, Upwood Golf Society, prepared by Howard Smith.

Home to Home, prepared by Pauline McLeod, Chairman.

Meet and Munch, prepared by Jan Howe, Coordinator.

St. Peter's Church, prepared by Anne-Marie Cracknell, Churchwarden.

St. Peter's Handbell Ringers, prepared by Vernon Cracknell.

Upwood Cricket Club. Prepared by Neil Tuffin.

Upwood Table Tennis Club, prepared by David Williams.

Upwood Branch WEA. Prepared by Liz Carter.

Upwood and the Raveleys Archive. Prepared by Judith Harvey.

Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association and Upwood Community Orchard prepared by URCAA.

Upwood and the Raveleys Local History Group, prepared by Andrew Bilverstone, Chairman.

Upwood and the Raveleys Newsletter, prepared by Doug McLeod, Chairman.

Upwood and the Raveleys Website & Facebook page, prepared by Doug McLeod & Stephen Howes, Webmasters.

Upwood Primary School, prepared by Mrs S. Whitelaw, Head teacher.

Upwood Primary School PTA, presented by Rebekah Cornthwaite.

Upwood Quilters, prepared by Margaret Jones.

Upwood Ukuleles, prepared by Doug & Pauline McLeod.

Upwood Village Hall Management Committee, prepared by Stephen Howes, Chairman.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Howes'.

7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.

There was no public participation.

8. Questions for county and district councillors.

Please find attached a report from Councillor Howe, District Councillor.

Councillors discussed the development of the former RAF Upwood site (which is within Bury parish) and their ongoing concerns for the increased volume of traffic which will ensue. Councillor Tew suggested that it was vital that this parish is represented on Bury Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Slater had volunteered for this at a previous meeting. Councillor Tew suggested that a temporary speed limit may be imposed along Ramsey Road whilst this site is under construction. It is thought that the demolition process may take approximately one year. Installation of infrastructure for drainage and highways will follow prior to the building of new homes.

The vice chairman confirmed that leadership of the combined authority will comprise the leader of each district council plus two local enterprise partnerships all of whom will be overseen by Councillor James Palmer who has been elected as mayor. As funding is released from central government functions from the district and county councils will be devolved to the combined authority.

9. Vice Chairman's closing remarks

The vice chairman reflected on the reports that had been received. He thanked those who had taken the time to prepare them and added that "this is an amazing parish with good community support and lots happening". He noted that from the viewpoint of his previous role as county councillor, this had been one of the best parishes in his ward and added that it is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to represent and serve this parish now as its vice chairman.

Councillor Tew offered his thanks and respect to the outgoing vice chairman, Councillor Slater; to the clerk, Mrs Bilverstone; and to the chairman, Councillor Howe for their outstanding leadership of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council and ongoing commitment and dedication to this community.

Close of meeting: 8:35pm

Please visit www.upwood.org to view the reports.

Upwood and the Raveleys

Vice-Chairman's report to the Annual Meeting

I consider the year 2016-17 has been a successful year for the Parish Council.

On the all important financial front we have succeeded in coming in under the council's finance group's budget figure by nearly £5,000. However given the financial constraints imposed by central government I see difficult times ahead with our finances in the coming years but I am sure with the measures we now have in place we will be able to ensure our accounts stay healthy.

Our continued improvements to governance and financial management resulted in the Council being awarded the Local Council Award Scheme at "Quality" level - one below "Gold", which is the highest. Our parish was the first in Cambridgeshire to achieve this award at "quality" level and one of only 38 out of 10,000 parish councils in the country to do so. This took two years of hard work by our amazing Clerk, Carol Bilverstone, mostly by studying and attaining various levels of competence required to gain this award. In addition Carol has steered our council through the sometimes complex systems of governance and I have been particularly grateful for her sound advice on many occasions. I am sure Council will agree with me that we owe Carol, as well as our chairman Robin Howe, a big thank you for restoring our council's reputation and confidence in ourselves.

I hope residents of our villages will feel that we have kept our parish in a state in which they are happy to live. We now have more comprehensive regimes in place to ensure the grass is cut, hedges trimmed and the villages public areas kept tidy and welcoming. We are constantly trying to ensure that anti social problems such as fly tipping and dog fouling are kept to a minimum, unfortunately, so far, with only mixed results.

Council membership has changed in the year with the departure last October of Jane Singleton and I am sure council will want me to thank her for the contributions made whilst she was with us. In November we welcomed the appointment of Michael Tew to the parish council. Michael has been well known to us as the representative of Cambridgeshire County Council for our ward and I am certain he will help us improve our governance with his considerable experience in local affairs.

Whilst sections of the Community Led Plan, such as Communications, have continued to make improvements in the areas highlighted, other sections need more impetus to implement the concerns raised by the plan. I am therefore very pleased that Michael Tew has agreed to use his knowledge of social affairs to move the plan forward and he will be instigating the procedures needed to do so.

After many years of concern by residents and councillors regarding the unrestricted section of road between Bury and Upwood I am pleased that our submission, in conjunction with Bury Parish Council, to the Local Highways Initiative to make improvements and speed restrictions has been successful. Meetings are due to take place with the County Council Highways department shortly and I hope the improvements and a speed restriction of 50mph will be in place by the end of the year.

The state of our roads in the parish and the increased usage continue to cause our council considerable concerns. The estate planned at the former USAAF clinic in Bury will shortly be recommenced and agreement to build a further 160 house is at an advanced stage. This will exacerbate the flow of traffic on our roads. It has been 18 years since the USAAF left RAF Upwood and its subsequent closure and only now has agreement been reached to demolish the buildings which have been derelict and a source of antisocial behaviour.

In closing I would say that I feel the council is well able to pursue the various tasks which will occur during the coming year and beyond to ensure that the parish of Upwood and the Raveleys continue to be a pleasant and vibrant place to live. Also I would like to thank all the unsung volunteers in the many and varied clubs and activities which thrive in the Parish due to the work they selflessly do.

And finally my thanks to you all on the council for your hard work in ensuring our parish continues to be a place where people enjoy residing.

Garth Slater

Vice Chairman, Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

May 2017



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting. 08 May 2017

Financial Report from the clerk to the parish council

In 2016/2017 the parish council worked with a budget of £23,950. At the end of the year receipts totalled £24,534 and payments £22,147. The balance brought forward on 31 March 2017 was £39,278 (an increase of almost £2,400 on the previous year). Comparing the forecasted budget with actual expenditure in 2016/2017, there are six notable variances:

- Grants: Two grant payments of £1,000 were made to Upwood Village Hall. The first was a late payment from the previous financial year.
- Cemetery: It was deemed prudent to carry out unbudgeted repairs costing £250 to the roof of the chapel of rest in the old cemetery.
- Parish Maintenance: Investment in pavement stencils and spray paint in an attempt to eliminate the ongoing issue of dog-fouling, together with unplanned refurbishment of the village sign; and a donation to the Rotary Club of Ramsey in support of its "Purple4Polio" campaign was off-set by savings in grass cutting costs as only 11 of the planned 12-14 cuts were carried out.
- £500 remained untouched in the budget heading for legal and professional fees.
- The parish council continues to earmark £2,000 (increased to £2,500 in 2017/2018) for the inevitable replacement of the matting in the Bentley Close play area.
- Renewal of the council's insurance policy with another provider has resulted in a more comprehensive cover at almost half the cost (saving approximately £400 per annum over the next three years).

Other notable expenses and achievements include continued financial support to the parish newsletter, the parish website and the village hall; ongoing support for continued professional development for the clerk and for councillors; and further investment in the upkeep and maintenance of parish grass, trees and hedges, particularly in the churchyard.

The parish council is fully compliant with the new pension's regulations and it continues to exceed the minimum requirements of the Smaller Authorities Transparency Code. A significant amount of information relating the business of the parish council is readily available on the parish website. The parish council also has its own Facebook page which is growing in popularity and provides an additional communication channel.

The 2015/2016 Audit was extremely positive and despite significant effort the internal auditor failed to find any areas of the parish council's financial administration or governance in need of attention. The 2016/2017 audit has yet to take place but once again I look forward to challenging the auditor to find anything untoward.

In conclusion, the parish council has been successful in its endeavours to achieve the "Quality Award" of the Local Council Award Scheme. This achievement is tangible evidence of the huge strides this council has made over the last few years. If councillors are prepared to rise to the challenge, there is scope in the budget for 2017/2018 for the parish council to apply for the ultimate recognition of "Quality Gold" status within the next twelve months.

Carol Silverstone
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council
08 May 2017

The Cross Keys Upwood Golf Society

We are pleased to report that the society is enjoying good support for its bi annual events, the Spring and Autumn Opens. The last two opens had a field of 32 players both men and women from the village. There is plenty of room for more players and all are welcome.

We are sad to report the untimely death of Dave Murray on 1st May - he was one of the founding members of the society 20 years ago jointly organising and running every golf day over that time. We can reveal he was also a member of the 'secret handicap committee'. Dave only stepped back and handed over the reins last year. He played in the golf day held on 21st April and was a member of the winning team. He will be greatly missed by all.

Our next event is on Friday 29th September at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley and will include both team and individual competitions followed by a dinner and prize giving at the Cross Keys. Any golfers in the village who would like to play please sign up on the sheet that will be posted in the Cross Keys or for further information please email Howard Smith at hjs@brma-uk.com

Home to Home

Report for Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 8th May by Pauline McLeod (chairman)

The Upwood ladies group 'Home to Home' has now been in existence for over 30 years. It originally started when a group of young mums wanted the chance to meet together and be 'human beings in their own right not just so and so's mum' but felt that they needed an alternative to the rather formal (at least in those days) WI. And so Home to Home was formed. Originally we met in each other's homes but as the group grew and the demands on the 'hostess' increased it was decided to move to the village hall, where we still meet on the last Monday of the month, unless there is a clash with a bank holiday when we meet a week earlier.

The 2016 programme was very varied, including a games evening organised by the committee, a fashion show where guests could buy up-to-the-minute clothes at rock-bottom prices, an informative talk about the suffragettes, home-made chocolates (with lots of opportunity for tasting!), a cake-making demonstration, a talk about knitting which started off referring to the head lice which made us all wonder if the speaker knew what we were expecting to hear about and a visit to the Great Fen classroom complete with a cream tea. Many thanks go to the committee for giving us such an interesting and imaginative programme.

At the AGM in January 2017 a new committee was elected:

Officers:

Pauline McLeod chairman, Jo Paxton secretary, Anne-Marie Cracknell treasurer,

Members:

Margaret Carrington, Josie Gaunt, Karen Seabridge

Following a lively discussion it was agreed that Home to Home would continue to meet monthly but alternate meetings would be 'in-house' members' evenings with the 'entertainment' being organised by the committee, aided by club members. So far we have had 2 members' evenings and 1 speaker evening and all three have been successful. We are hoping to continue to provide Home to Home members with a good reason to come out on the last Monday of the month. However we are hopeful that more residents of the parish will come along and join us, as membership is waning and costs rising.

Home to Home is a very friendly group of ladies who enjoy each other's company, having a good chat and listening to speakers educate us on a wide range of topics. Visitors are always very welcome. The 2017 programme can be found on the parish website and meetings are always advertised in the parish newsletter and the Informer. If you or someone you know, has never been to a meeting, why not encourage them to come along – they might find that they actually enjoy Home to Home!

Meet and Munch is an organisation run by a group of 11 volunteers who, each month, serve teas in Spring and Summer and lunches in Autumn and Winter to the older members of the Upwood community. In all, the group holds about 10 events a year.

The helpers are greatly appreciated as they provide a tasty two course lunch or a tea of delicious sandwiches and cakes. We ask for a minimum donation of £3 to cover costs. We hold a small raffle which also helps raise funds to cover the cost of meals.

The group currently has 19 members but we would encourage anyone over 55 to join us as it is a welcoming group and provides a delicious meal, good company and an opportunity to make new friends.

Each year we arrange a special party. This year the lunch is on July 1st and our theme, once again inspired by the Queen, is Blue Sapphire celebrations.

We would welcome volunteers to come and help us. We prepare simple but good wholesome food so the role is not onerous and the members are appreciative of our efforts.

Jan Howe

Co-ordinator for Meet and Munch

ST PETERS'S CHURCH REPORT

Around 20 people regularly meet on Sundays and we have an electoral roll of 44. Morning Prayer is now said at St Peters on Wednesday mornings, then we go to the Cross Keys for coffee and a chat afterwards, supporting our local pub.

4 funerals, 3 baptisms and a wedding blessing have been done this year. We have a strong link with Upwood Primary school and we offer "open the book" weekly.

We support the food bank by being a collection point and through providing volunteers, as well as supporting Kings Ripton Lodge and EACH charities.

The fabric of the church is satisfactory. The old noticeboard has been replaced by the newly re-decorated one donated by the village hall which will be informing the parishioners on what is happening in church in a much better way.

We thank the Parish Council for carrying out their work in St Peter's Churchyard.

We have had many events this year, of which the community has supported, like the Christmas Tree Festival and the Pancake Coffee Morning.

We wish to reach the needs of the young and the old alike and giving everyone the possibility to come to church, which is open daily.

Anne-Marie Cracknell

(St Peter's Churchwarden)

St Peter's Handbell Ringers Report 2017

St Peter's Handbell Ringers meet every Monday evening in St. Peter's Church, Upwood. We are a small team of 7 people from Upwood and the surrounding villages and are always willing to recruit and train new musicians.

In December 2016, we played at the Methodist Carol Service and at St Peter's Christmas tree festival. We will be playing at the St Peter's Flower Festival in June.

To increase ringing more challenging music with fewer musicians, we have started to play from tables and hope to start playing-out this way next year.

Vernon Cracknell

Upwood Cricket Club Report to Parish Council 2017

Junior Cricket

2016 was a very successful year for Upwood Juniors building on the fine progress of the previous year. The under 9 and under 11 training sessions continued to be well attended and all fixtures were fulfilled except for a couple due to bad weather. Both the under 9 and under 11 registered excellent wins and even in defeat showed some great team spirit. Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers we could not put an under 13 team out last year. However, recognising this we are now entering a joint under 13 team with Whittlesey for the 2017 season.

It gives me and the other coaches a real buzz to see many of the juniors that have attended Upwood enjoy the game and continue to show progress. We put a number of players forward for county trials; these include two under 10 boys (a year early) and four under 11 girls. Of these we now have representing Huntingdonshire: Sophie Lawrence, Abbey Smith and Annabelle Woodward. Tom Milner our Lead Coach will be taking them under his wing as he is now the Girls under 11 coach. Ellie Smith has now moved onto Ramsey as there is more cricket for her age group being played there; something I am very keen to emulate at Upwood. She has been a pleasure to coach and has really matured as a cricketer and the coaches wish her all the best; hopefully however she will still play a few games for our seconds this year!

We are putting in two new teams into the leagues this year. Firstly, a joint Under 13 team with Whittlesey following on from the successful winter coaching at their sports hall and also a 2nd under 9 team. This will be a challenge but one I am confident we will be able to fulfil as we have a good number of juniors now on our "books". Another new initiative is the ECB All Stars programme which we have signed up for which focuses on delivering some high quality fun coaching for 5 to 8 year olds.

Now that the weather is warm enough and the evenings light enough we are training outside with the juniors. Sessions are always fun and we have a good number of coaches to children to ensure that each child can get some individual advice and guidance on how to improve their game. Currently, we have 4 qualified ECB coaches and 1 young adult helper but are always looking for other helpers particularly parents.

We hope to have started on Monday April 24th providing the weather and ground conditions were suitable. Times are as follows:

- Novices (including All Stars Squad) 5-30 PM to 6-15 PM
- Development Squad (more experienced Under 10s) 5-30 PM to 6-30 PM
- Senior Squad (School Year Group 6 to 10 Hard Ball) 6-30PM to 7-30PM

Junior membership is just £15 per child for the whole summer plus £2 a game. Games are guaranteed for those aged 7 years old and upwards.

Adult Cricket

We are running to adult teams this year. The first team compete in the Hunts League Division 3 on Saturdays and the seconds play in Hunts League Division 5 on Sundays. There are also a few friendly

games including some evening games planned. Home games are played at the picturesque ground on Huntingdon Road as you go through the village.

We are always looking for people to play, experienced or otherwise, and are very happy to accommodate those who can only play once in a while. Adult membership for the year is just £35.

New Facilities for 2017

We have been lucky enough to receive a donation from Mr and Mrs N Purllant who have recently moved out of Providence Place on the Huntingdon Road near the ground. This large sum of money has allowed us to replace the sightscreen which after many years of service has finally succumbed to the weather. This hopefully will be in-situ by the beginning of May. As well as this generous donation Parallel UK (based in Spalding) have again sponsored the club with some a substantial sum of money to purchase the latest covers which should ensure that more games are played. As well as replacing the old sightscreen and the far end of the ground we have been lucky enough to be granted a £1210 grant from Sport England to buy a one for the pond/pavilion end. The club will now have two substantial screens to allow the batsman to see the ball better thus improving the quality of the game and boosting safety. We hope that these new items will encourage more young players to stay with and join Upwood.

The club is very grateful for all these funds which will make a big difference on our Huntingdon Road ground.

Parish Clerk

From: David Williams <hollyhouse.upwood@tiscali.co.uk>
Sent: 12 April 2017 15:16
To: Parish Clerk
Subject: Re: Annual Parish Meeting. 08 May 2017

On 12/04/2017 10:00, Parish Clerk wrote:

To all the Organisations, Groups and Societies of Upwood and the Raveleys:

Hi Carol

Upwood TT Club

This past year the club have grown larger with total membership at 50 mainly due to the success of a second daytime session on a Wednesday.

The social side of the club is very popular with outings in Winter to Pidley Tenpin Bowling and in Summer to Bletchley Park.

This year was our 10th Anniversary and we celebrated with a wonderful night of entertainment in the village hall attended by 35 members and guests.

TT is an ideal way of keeping fit whatever your age, with our oldest member being 87 and going strong!

Long may it flourish in Upwood

Regards

David Williams

Please find attached the press release and agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held at 8:00pm on 08 May 2017, together with the draft minutes of the last meeting.

It would be helpful if you could forward a written report via e-mail prior to the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please forward a report which I will be happy to read on your behalf.

Best wishes,

Carol

Carol Silverstone
Parish Clerk, Upwood & the Raveleys Parish Council
Kilimanjaro
9 Meadow Road
Upwood
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE26 2QJ

01487 812447

WEA UPWOOD BRANCH



The Upwood WEA branch had a full year with two 9-week courses and two Study Days.

In the autumn our local tutor, Liz Carter, presented 'Victorian Crime and Punishment' covering a wide range of topics ranging from the growth of the Victorian police force and the Victorian prisons to children and crime, transportation and the business of the various Victorian law courts. Examples were taken from local case studies where possible.

In the spring we had two study days. The first, very popular one, was a survey of the role of the Royal Air Force in East Anglia in WW2 (Wings over East Anglia) by Ian McLachlan. This was a detailed consideration of the bases, the personnel and the activities of the RAF in the east of England.

The second study day was 'Ancients Climates' given by Dr. Wendy Hartnell. This was a return visit by Dr. Hartnell who last year had told us about current climate change; this study day investigated the changes that had occurred over history and the ways that the data to support those changes were collected. There was an excellent turn-out for this course with several people travelling from out of county to hear this well-known speaker.

At the present time we are running a course by Fiona Lucraft on 'The Self Portrait'. This examines the various meanings of a self-portrait including paintings, literature, diaries and even architecture. Again, a popular course with over 20 students attending from Upwood and surrounding villages.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 7th June at Upwood Village Hall.

The current officers of the group are:

- Chair – Ian Gaunt
- Secretary – Liz Carter
- Treasurer – Roger Peckover.

We have a full schedule of courses lined up for 2017-18 and continue to draw in new students from both the village and neighbouring communities.

UPWOOD AND RAVELEYS ARCHIVE GROUP

The archive group is linked, together with 30 other community archive groups, into the Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN) and is also a member of Community Archive and Heritage Group the community side of the professional archivists representative body for UK and Ireland. With county record and archive offices across the country struggling to remain open community archives, supported by volunteers, are becoming important for retaining information about local history and heritage.

In Upwood the archive group struggles to get new material on the website. Recording the present gives a record for the future. It's not all about recording the distant past. In our electronic communication world there will be no letters and printed photos for future generations to pour over. Sadly although Facebook is well used it is not searchable so items uploaded will not be found after a few months.

The archive group is in dire need of new participants and funding for its site fees. It would be lovely to see the various village groups sending in pictures of things they do or just village views in 2017.

Upwood and Raveley Community Allotment Association (URCAA) and Upwood Community Orchard

Report to The Parish Council, 8th May 2017

Both the Allotments and Upwood Orchard have had a good year and we continue to develop the sites for the benefit of the Parish.

Following a successful recruitment drive (special thanks go to our Secretary, Liz Carter), we are pleased to announce that we now have 12 new tenants at the Upwood **Allotment** site. The Allotment Association has been working hard to create a range of plot sizes so that the allotments can be enjoyed by people with an interest in growing fruit and vegetables, whether they have only a couple of hours or several evenings to spare. As a result the Upwood site is now divided into 38 plots of varying sizes, appealing to a wider range of allotmenters (31 tenants). Although, perhaps not so welcome at times, we also seem to have attracted a wider range of wildlife with the fantastic *smorgasbord* on offer!

In 2017, we hope to use this model of varying plot size to improve (human) uptake at the Great Raveley site.

The Upwood **Orchard** now has 29 trees of varying sorts, the majority of which have been sponsored by members of the Parish. All tree cages have had an annual maintenance check and velcro tabs used to allow for ease of access for future weeding. The grass area is cut regularly throughout the summer season. We are really pleased with how the area is developing and hope that more and more Parishioners and their friends will take time to enjoy the space.

In the Autumn we held a fantastically supported fund-raising quiz and raised around £450 to put towards further development and maintenance. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes, came along and joined the quiz, and particularly to Julia and Liz for making all those wonderful puddings. Plans for this year include a new mini-flower bed to be planted up with a selection of grasses, replacement of the existing flower displays and improving the pond area.

We will open the Upwood site for the Open Gardens, including a few scarecrow entries, so hopefully visitors can also see the improvements – please come along and say hello.

Many thanks to all the Parish Council, and members of the Parish, who have supported the Allotments and the Orchard.

Upwood and Raveleys Community Allotment Association

Upwood & The Raveleys Local History Group – Annual Report 2016/17

2016/17 year has again been a very period for the History Group as the seasons passed in rural Cambridgeshire.

The dedicated programme committee provided us with interesting presenters including an introduction to Shakespeare the writer. We learnt about the relatively recent history of the Whittlesey Straw Bear and his growing impact on the town and the evolving event that brings visitors from across the country to dance like the English should. Boadicea sadly did not drive her chariot through the village hall in July but she will return this year but we did learn about the extensive history and national impact of the WI in September. At the beginning of this year we learnt about the cinema in Ramsey from its birth to its closure including its secret room upstairs during the war. We also held our annual lunch again at Ramsey Golf Club – thankfully this time I managed to eat my own meal this year.

We organised a visit to the Great Fen project where we thought the Fen would fill up while we were there as the rain poured down all day. We also organised a trip to the Woolsthorpe Manor in June to visit the birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton. Plenty of tea and cake was on offer at this National Trust country house, where informative films and displays. There was also a gravitational pull to a nearby pub for a meal. Each visit was engaging and informative, but without efforts from willing volunteers, these visits cannot organise themselves.

As we look forward to 2017/18, there are issues and tasks we have to take on. While publicly I give my personal thanks to the dedicated volunteers who have all done so well this year, we need volunteers to run the small posts within the group. The average age of the group is not getting any younger and there is a need to encourage some younger members of the village to keep us moving forward.

There is also a need to finance the electronic village archive. This is currently held within the Cambridge Community Archives Network and holds over a 1000 images and documents from the village. This network incurs an annual cost which is not the History Group responsibility however it is required in maintaining Upwood history for the future generations. To do this we will need to request a grant to cover the costs to the Upwood community.