



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Upwood and the Raveleys Annual Parish Meeting
at 8:00pm on Tuesday 04 May
via "Zoom Meetings"

Present: Councillors: G. Bonnett Kolakowska, J. Edwards, R. Howe (Chairman), N. Maddocks, R. Mashford, A. Perkins.

In Attendance: Mrs. C. Bilverstone (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Minutes

1. Welcome by Councillor Robin Howe (Chairman, Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council).

Councillor Howe welcomed councillors and a member of the public to this meeting which enables registered electors to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions thereon. This meeting is also an opportunity for the parish council; higher tiers of local government; and community group leaders to share news of their activities over the last year.

2. Apologies

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Councillor J. Burgess (Holiday); Councillor G. Bonnett-Kolakowska (Family Commitment)

Councillor G. Bull, Huntingdonshire District Council (Family Commitment).

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting. 13 May 2019.

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2019.

The minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2019 had been circulated in advance following the informal approval of the chairman. The chairman proposed that the minutes be approved. Councillor Edwards seconded the proposal. All who had been present at the meeting were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

4. Report from the 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.

A report was presented by Mr. Trevor Brown, Chairman of Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association and Upwood Community Orchard.

Representatives of the following community groups had offered apologies and forwarded reports which had been shared with councillors ahead of the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

- The Art Group. Gill Shelford confirmed that the art group folded prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Home to Home, prepared by Pauline McLeod, Chairman.
- Meet and Munch: Jan Howe, Coordinator confirmed that all activity was suspended at the beginning of 2020. The group has tentative plans to resume in September/October depending upon circumstances.
- St. Peter's Church prepared by Jean Place.
- Upwood Cricket Club prepared by Neil Tuffin.
- Upwood and the Raveleys Archive, Prepared by Judith Harvey.

- Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association and Upwood Community Orchard, prepared by Trevor Brown.
- Upwood and the Raveleys Newsletter, prepared by Pauline McLeod, Co-Editor.
- Upwood Patchwork and Quilting Group: Heather Wakefield, Chairman confirmed that the group have not met since March 2020, but they hope to reconvene in September 2021.
- Upwood Primary Academy, prepared by Miss L. Clarke, Deputy Headteacher.
- Upwood Ukuleles, prepared by Doug McLeod, Chairman.
- Upwood Village Hall Management Committee, prepared by Stephen Howes, Chairman.

The chairman expressed his appreciation to all who had taken the time to submit reports. He noted that these are a reflection of the great activities on offer to residents in this parish, although many have been suppressed or forced to remain dormant throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. He added his hopes for all of these activities to resume in the near future.

7. **To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.** There were no matters arising.
8. **Questions for county and district councillors.** No district or county councillors were present.
9. **Chairman's closing remarks.**

The chairman concluded the meeting by reflecting on what has been a horrible year for everyone.

He reminded members of the sterling work of the Covid-Help group in the early days and months of the pandemic and the informal, neighbourly support mechanisms put in place to hold this community together.

He thanked councillors for their stoic support and tremendous work throughout these difficult times and he thanked the clerk for doing an unfailingly good job on behalf of the parish council and residents.

The chairman, having been re-elected at the Annual General Parish Council Meeting earlier, confirmed that he looked forward to working with councillors, the clerk and residents in what we would all hope to be a better new council year.

Close of Meeting: 8:15pm

The parish council would like to take this opportunity to remind you of The Ramsey Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund which provides £40,000 every year for community projects. Applications are invited for grants between £250 and £20,000 for projects located within Ramsey, Bury and Upwood and the Raveleys. 20% (£8,000) is designated specifically for projects in Upwood and the Raveleys. The fund is open to any community project which is for the benefit of residents of the local area, and it can provide both capital and revenue grants. For further information and to make an application please see: <https://www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/ramseywindfarmcbf/> The closing date for 2021 applications is 11 August.



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting. 04 May 2021

Chairman's Report

The Parish Council has continued to function during the Covid pandemic with the help of Zoom conferences and socially distanced informal meetings.

Zoom attendance has been very good by parish, district and county councillors, although disappointingly few residents have chosen to join the meetings.

The council comprises the clerk and eight elected or co-opted councillors, of whom five have joined during the last two years and one post remains vacant.

The work of the council is guided by a Community Led Plan first completed in 2015 and updated annually. The annual budget process and three-year forecast is further explained in the financial report prepared by the Clerk, but the annual precept received from the District Council is around £26000 and with other income like burial fees, total income is around £30000. The precept has been increased by £1,000 (4%) for 2021/2022 and is expected to increase by a similar amount in following years to provide funds to pay for our growing population and increasing level of services.

Total planned expenditure this year is just over £39,000; with half of this going in staff costs (Clerk Carol Silverstone and Cemetery Officer Clive Edwards), admin and training. Grounds maintenance, mainly grass and hedges is the second biggest expense item at 25% of the budget and community services such as the parish newsletter accounts for 6%. A one-time cost of £6500 has been budgeted for the Great Raveley traffic calming project and that contributes to the budget deficit of £9,000, which will be funded from reserves. These will reduce to just over £54,000 at the end of the financial year which comes close to our financial safety margin of 1.5 times annual expenditure. Parish reserves will therefore be insufficient to fund large longer-term projects, such as extension to the graveyard and improvements to the children's play area and we will need to apply for grant funding for these and any new capital projects. Speaking of which, £8,000 is available each year from the Ramsey Wind Farm Trust for Upwood and the Raveleys parish-based projects and the closing deadline for this year's applications is in August. So, any club, association or group with a need for funding should be getting their application together at the moment.

The annual financial report and audit confirm that parish finances and operating practices are in excellent shape and this is largely due to the work of the Clerk whose high standards ensure the Gold award status of the council is upheld.

The council recently considered whether we should renew or refresh the Community Led Plan, which provides a more strategic framework for all parish development plans as defined by our residents over five years ahead. Such a process requires much face-to-face contact and group meetings in the village hall, so it was agreed that until the Covid crisis is behind us we will simply identify the key priority areas and the councillors with those portfolios will take responsibility for improvement plans and their delivery programmes.

There are a number of key priorities for council funds and resources:

Residents expect their villages and surroundings to look well-kept and tidy and the regular maintenance and upkeep of the grassed areas and hedgerows is a priority. Councillors Perkins and Edwards have responsibility for grounds maintenance in the parish and supervise the grass and hedge cutting contractors as well as ensuring the parish trees are safe and healthy. They have continued to make Charters Spinney more accessible to walkers by clearing shrubs and undergrowth and the planting of spring flowers and they ensure the graveyards remain clear and accessible for visitors. Residents should assist by keeping their own private hedges and grassed areas tended and everyone has a responsibility to pick up litter, waste objects and dog mess. Sadly, this does not always happen and the environment for everyone is blighted as a result. Surveillance, enforcement systems and levels of fines are being increased and public awareness of social responsibility is being heightened; with increased litter picking being organised by individuals and groups. The PC will join the "The Great British Spring Clean" between 28 May & 13 June 2021.

The second priority for the council is safety on our local roads. A new strategy to reduce speeding has been launched by the council this year under Cllr Bonnett-Kolakowska. This includes the deployment of speed indication devices for all four main roads in the parish; Huntingdon and Longholme roads, Great Raveley and Little Raveley and speed warning reminder signs have been placed on lampposts and waste bins. The first stage of a traffic calming system in Great Raveley has been completed, with the rest of the scheme only when new funding comes available. A campaign is underway to reduce the speed limit on Huntingdon Road to 30mph and thereby enabling

traffic calming to be installed (not allowed in 40mph zones). A quarter of all vehicles exceed the speed limits at the moment and traffic levels will increase sharply with the building of new houses in the coming years.

Vice Chair Jan Burgess has portfolio responsibility for housing and planning, and she is working with the parishes of Ramsey and Bury to form the Ramsey, Upwood and Bury (RUB) Alliance to lobby developers and the district and county councils on the need to match housing growth with appropriate transport infrastructure. All three parishes are deeply concerned about the impact on our roads of 1500 new houses in the RUB area and are calling for plans to upgrade local infrastructure using well-coordinated and consistent digital traffic planning models. The RUB Alliance is meeting Evera Homes the developers of RAF Upwood housing with County and District council officers for the first meeting in May and will argue a case to delay the development until new infrastructure and speed reduction plans are agreed.

The third priority for the parish council is the health and well-being of school age children and the PC under Councillors Mashford and Maddocks are liaising with the school and the cricket club to ensure children have a full programme of after-school and holiday activities. A survey of our play areas is being carried out which should help form plans for the development or expansion of play equipment and facilities in the parish. This will include an improvement plan for Bentley Close, a discussion on the plans for the basketball court in Farm Close with the residents and their association and with Evera Homes to ensure play facilities for Fairmead children are included in their housing development plans. The PC has reviewed the demand for a regular youth club service in the village hall in the last year; but the business case was weak due to lack of demand and therefore funding.

Councillor Chattaway has portfolio responsibility for our social media and communication strategy, and we expect increasing coverage of parish activities through our website, Facebook, Next Door and other social media platforms and we will continue to fund the excellent parish newsletter; because we believe this parish is a wonderful place to live and despite the pressures from funding and over-development, we think residents are proud to belong to Upwood and the Raveleys parish.

Robin Howe
Chairman
04 May 2021



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting. 04 May 2021

Financial Report from the Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

In 2019/2020 the parish council worked with a budget of £50,862.75, £25,000 of which was raised through the precept. At the end of the year receipts totalled £31,719.91 and payments £36,968.47. The balance carried forward on 31 March 2020 was £53,547 (a decrease of £5,158 on the previous year).

In 2020/2021 the parish council worked with a budget of £39,167.11, £25,000 of which was raised through the precept. At the end of the year receipts totalled £29,200.79 and payments £34,040.45. The balance carried forward on 31 March 2021 was £48,617 (a decrease of £4,840 on the previous year).

Although the bank balance remains healthy, only £24,535 is held as a general reserve. £6,000 is reserved for a future cemetery extension and £9,000 is reserved for repair/replacement of play equipment. Also included in the year end bank balance is the remaining £9,082 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This may only be spent on infrastructure and this will be carried forward into the next financial year.

The parish council has made a conscious decision to utilise some of its reserves rather than to make significant increases to the precept.

Comparing the forecasted budget with actual expenditure in 2019/2020 there are four notable variances:

- Purchase of a defibrillator cabinet costing £770 (to house a defibrillator which was donated by the Cross Keys public house).
- Repair of the path in St. Peter's Churchyard (£875).
- Legal fees to register land in Bentley Close (the play area) and the cemetery resulted in an "overspend" of £390.
- Active Lives children's activities during the summer of 2019 costing £620.36 (2 additional sessions were sponsored by a resident).

Comparing the forecasted budget with actual expenditure in 2020/2021 there are five notable variances:

- The introduction of Employer National Insurance Contributions totalling £679.31.
- A subscription for Adobe Acrobat at £15.17/month and the provision of a mobile phone for the clerk at £7.50/month.
- Broadening the scope and improving the quality of parish maintenance resulted in an "overspend" of £1,346.40.
- £439.10 was spent on traffic calming strategies (signage).
- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in savings of £550 for meeting room hire and £130 for travel.

Other notable expenses and achievements in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 include:

- Purchase of three Speed Indicator Devices (funded through CIL and the Local Highway Improvement Initiative).
- Continued financial support to the parish newsletter and the village hall.
- Ongoing support for continued professional development for the clerk and for councillors.

The parish council remains fully compliant in all areas of governance and financial management. In March 2020, the parish council adopted its Website Accessibility Statement and this was updated in September 2020 in line with changes to The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018. In July 2020 the parish council reviewed and updated its data protection policies and adopted its Data Protection Manual. All policies and procedures are reviewed and readopted at the Annual General Parish Council Meeting in May.

The parish council prides itself on its transparency and a significant amount of information relating to the business of the parish council is readily available on the parish website. The Facebook page provides an additional communication channel.

The annual internal audits carried out in 2019 and 2020 were 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.

In conclusion, the parish council continues to uphold the standards required to qualify for "Local Council Award Scheme's Quality Gold Award". This council is one of three councils in Cambridgeshire to have achieved this award and one of only fifty-three in England and Wales. The parish council should consider re-applying after the elections and expiry of the award in 2022.

Carol Bilverstone
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
04 May 2021



Report for Annual Parish Meeting May 2021

2020-2021 has been a very strange year for Home to Home, along with every other organisation in the country! Our 2019/2020 programme was progressing really well, even holding the AGM in February, a month later than usual, wasn't a problem but we certainly weren't expecting our March meeting and the rest of the year's programme to have to be cancelled due to Covid -19. This put paid to our planned 40th year celebrations (Home to Home started in September 1980) but we did still manage to sponsor a rose hedge for the Parish Orchard, as a lasting memento to the club, before lockdown.

Taken a bit by surprise the committee didn't have any plans as to how the group would stay connected, we didn't realise that a year later we still would be unable to meet. However, a monthly email has kept us in contact with one another. No-one suggested having an on-line meeting using a platform such as Zoom so we haven't! We are hopeful that we will be able to get together for an informal chat in July and there are plans to hold a belated 40th anniversary meeting in September 2021 but none of our plans are set in stone – we are just waiting with our fingers tightly crossed that we will be able to resume our friendly ladies group later in the year.

Pauline McLeod,

Chairman

St Peter's Church (Parish Council Report)

For much of this last year the church has been closed due to the pandemic and this has been noted 3 times in the church register.

This year after one service at the very beginning, we closed the church for services and reopened on Easter Sunday.

We have been following government guidelines and are socially distanced, wear masks and there is no singing during the services. As Churchwardens, we worked out we could sit approximately 30 people socially distanced, which would normally cover the number that attend our Sunday services.

As the first lockdown came in last year we went into an interregnum (No Rector) but I am pleased to say that by July we had a new Rector for the Benefice and he has been living in Ramsey since August.

Breakfast Club after Morning Prayer on a Wednesday has had to go on hold because the Village Hall closed and when it was open we could not use the kitchen, we hope to resume this when we can fully use the Village Hall

As Churchwardens, Robin and I have managed to keep in touch with the congregation, Robin telephoning and I have been producing a 'Pew slip' which I have sent out by email each week. I am continuing to do this and so if you or any one you know would like to receive it could you please let me know. I include the Collect and Readings for the Sunday of the week and a prayer plus some of what I call my ramblings. We hope to continue with our services on a Sunday and as restrictions ease, we hope to have the church open more often and finally to go back to it being open during daylight hours every day, but that is something for the future

As a mainly elderly congregation we would like it noted that we have been thankful for the help and support we have had from people in the village and we give thanks to God for this.

Jean Place Church warden

Upwood and Raveleys Archive Group

The Archive Group was handed over to the Rural museum a couple of years ago. Although out of the villages it is a better option for keeping it going. The web pages were viewed but there were very few additional contributions and no income to pay membership of Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network or associated website fees. On the plus side the museum has an archivist and holds several Upwood and Raveleys physical artefacts. Other internet options were not realistic as a fairly complex date, subject and names search system is needed.

Sadly, the concept that the buildings, events and general life of today are tomorrow's history does not seem to spark imagination.

The Archive Group in its old form has been wound up but current information is still available on:

<https://www.communityarchives.org.uk/content/organisation/upwood-and-the-raveleys-community-archive>

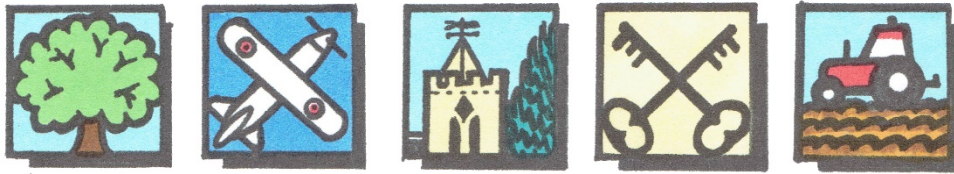
The above link takes you to a new and updated website.

Judith Harvey

UPWOOD AND RAVELEYS COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (URCAA)

The URCAA currently has 43 members managing 50 plots on 2 sites, one in Upwood and the other in Great Raveley. The aim of association is to grow vegetables and flowers while interacting with other like minded people. Managing an allotment has proved to be a popular activity, especially with the Covid restrictions and lockdowns, to the point where all plots are occupied and there is even a small waiting list. Although all the plots are currently occupied, we are always welcoming new faces and looking for volunteers to help to sustain this valuable parish facility. There is also a community orchard planted and maintained for the benefit of the parish and also to encourage wildlife. A bench has been provided to enable visitors to the orchard to relax and take in the view. The committee can be contacted if you wish to know more.

Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter report for the Annual Parish Meeting



As with all other organisations 2020 was a challenging year. The April edition had been prepared and was being printed ready for distribution when the first lockdown was announced, and the delivery had to be collected. Pam Dowdell very kindly agreed to 'house' the boxes of newsletters in her garage until such time as they could safely be delivered. As I already had the newsletter's computer it was agreed between the editors that she should keep it until such time as they could get together and re-organise – that time is still to come, so the computer still resides with me!

Another newsletter was issued in June 2020, with most contributors still being positive about their chances of keeping things going as usual and featuring the announcement of a new Mixology Dance Class to be held in the village hall on Thursday evenings. The April newsletter was distributed at the same time – many thanks go to our team of deliverers who were happy to carry on their voluntary work.

Unfortunately, the optimism of the June contributors was not to be, and most clubs and societies remained closed. However, it was decided to print another newsletter in November concentrating on what the village hall and church were doing regarding Covid precautions, what the parish council had been up to (via Zoom) plus a few reports from local groups. This edition also featured an idea from Upwood resident Josie Gaunt re fund-raising for extra seating in the parish to accommodate all the extra walkers.

The only other newsletter printed during the Covid-19 pandemic is the latest edition, due to be delivered at the beginning of May. This is not a usual month for the newsletter, but it was felt that it would be a good idea to keep the parish up to date with the happenings over the past few months, and future hopes and expectations of the groups and societies. An exploratory email to contributors resulted in a lot of positive responses, so the idea became reality and in fact the edition has 20 pages instead of the usual 16.

We are hoping that the editors will be able to get together again soon (outdoors if necessary) and re-start the process involving all three of us. It would also be good to be able to have an AGM since we have missed the 2020 and 2021 meetings through the pandemic. Fingers are tightly crossed (making typing this very difficult!) that 2021 will be a much better year for receiving regular newsletters through parish doors than 2020 was.

Pauline McLeod, co-editor, Upwood & The Raveleys newsletter

The Future of UCC

Accreditation of ECB safe hands management system - ECB Clubmark was an accreditation scheme for cricket clubs to show that a club is sustainable, well run and provides the right environment for its members especially young people.

Upwood Cricket Club was first awarded the ECB Clubmark Accreditation on 9th September 2009 then re-gaining accreditation in 2019.

The ECB Clubmark has now been phased out and has been replaced by the Safe Hands Management System.

Upwood Cricket Club are working with the ECB to ensure we are compliant with the new system when it starts in July 2021.

Pavilion Upgrade - to accommodate our ever-growing membership number and in particular our female section we would like to make this a community lead facility that could be used for various local functions and clubs whenever possible. We are aiming to improve our changing facilities in the next two years for male and female players plus officials as well ensuring we have large enough social areas.

Nurse Ground – This is our current major focus and we hope to play the first junior game in July 2021. However, as we use it more, we are looking at constructing some junior changing facilities including amenities.

Parking – As the ground usage and our profile within the county has enhanced car parking remains an issue for the club and some local residents; including from a safety aspect. The club is working with Aggreserve and GBK on a potential solution.

Junior members - we have taken our youth section from 20 to 60 over the past four seasons and with many new families moving to area we would like to be able to increase this to 100 by 2024.

Senior membership (Male and Female) – this has been taken from 25 members to 60 over the past 3 seasons. With the local population likely to increase by several 1000 over the next 3 to 4 years, the club would like to be in a position where we have a structure that can continue to welcome new members.

Ladies female team – this would be a significant achievement but we aim to have a Ladies team in place for 2022. This will be the 1st in local area, with the nearest team currently being just outside of Cambridge.

Pond and wildlife – we are very conscious that we have expanded both the playing area and amenities we use and to counterbalance this we are spending a lot of time and effort in making the old agricultural pond and surrounding area a place where we can encourage wildlife and be an attractive focal point. We are very proud of the picturesque nature of the ground that we are caretakers of and wish to maintain this and even improve upon it with the planting of wildlife friendly species. Our junior teams are nicknamed from the wonderful bird species we are home to.

Working in partnership with the parish

The club would really like to work with the Upwood Parish as to how the club and community can become more and more integrated in the future - we must have more Upwood “villagers” as players involved now than ever before. Any suggestion or support is always welcome.

Upwood Cricket Club

Juniors

It gives me and the other coaches a real buzz to see many of the juniors that have attended Upwood enjoy the game and hone their skills. We continue to produce youngsters that can challenge for places in the county squads and it is wonderful to see their continued development. We will have 15 juniors representing the county in 2021 – a really marvellous achievement! With our three Level 2 ECB coaches we will continue to deliver the best coaching we can to ensure that the juniors continue to improve whatever level they are at in a fun and progressive way.

For 2021 we are putting in the following teams:

- Two Under 9 six-a-side softball
- Two Under 11 eight-a-side hardball
- One Under 13 eight-a-side hardball
- One Under 13 eleven-a-side hardball
- One Under 15 eleven-a-side hardball

Summer training will continue on Monday nights from 5-00 to 6-15pm for Under 11's (school year 6 and below) and 6-30 to 8pm Under 12's and older.

We are looking forward to making use of the new nursery ground for our junior games in June/July which will reduce the "wear and tear" on the main pitch but still providing a quality cricketing experience in a wonderful setting

Seniors

It looks like we will have record number of adult players this year and will be putting out the following teams throughout the season:

Saturday 1st Team competing in the Hunts League Division 1

Saturday 2nd Team competing in the Hunts League Division 3

Sunday 1st Team competing in the Rutland League Division 4 West

Mid-Week T20 team competing in the Peterborough Mid-Week League Division 3

There will also be Friendly XI games and games for our Development XI; a mixture of youth and experience.

Adult Training will be on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 PM.

Facility Improvements

As part of our continued drive to improve the facilities we have carried out some ground work since the end of the season. We are developing an area of previously rough grass to be used primarily for junior games and this is planned to be used from July 2021. The main square has also had some thorough Autumn restorative work and it looks magnificent and plays beautifully. The hedging around the ground has had a bit of a trim. We have received some grant money for a new mower and to house this and other equipment a new shed is been built to augment the old one which was really too small and low for machinery. Lastly, we are improving the flooring in the gents toilets.

The club would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in getting involved in anyway; we are always looking for new members, players, officials or supporters of any age or experience and we have a number of differing priced sponsorship options for local businesses. Please contact Neil at npe.tuffin@gmail.com or on 07968771138 or visit www.upwood.play-cricket.com for more information.

Good luck all for season 2021

Neil Tuffin

Annual Parish Meeting

2020 - 21 Report

Over the past academic year, Upwood Primary Academy, along with every educational establishment nationally, has experienced a very challenging twelve months, with long periods educating some of our children remotely, whilst continuing to maintain school life for vulnerable children and those from keyworker families. Upwood Primary Academy staff have worked tirelessly to provide children with fantastic learning experiences both at home and at school.

Additionally, during this period, we said goodbye to Mrs Sharon Whitelaw, our headteacher of seventeen years. All members of the school community were very sad to say farewell to Mrs Whitelaw in July 2020. She remains a much missed member of staff and we are so grateful for all her hard work, throughout her years of dedicated service. We also said farewell, to long standing member of the Governing Body/Academy Committee, Mr Ben Conway, who has served as our Chair for several years. Staff and parents will always be extremely grateful to Mr Conway, for his enthusiasm and commitment to Upwood Primary Academy. We welcomed our new Principal, Miss Amy Warboys, in September 2020, who has continued to build on our strong foundations.

Upwood Primary Academy celebrated its 60th Birthday in March 2021. All children wore sparkly clothes to school, for the special occasion and we celebrated with small class parties, with food and drink provided by our PTA. Children were asked to design decorations and birthday cards for the special occasion. Later in the Summer term, we will be having a sporting event, '60K for 60 Years' and we will be re-creating dances from each of the decades of Upwood Primary's opening.

Because of the pandemic, many of our usual events and celebrations have been postponed. We have however, continued to support charitable causes and in the last twelve months, we have raised money for the British Legion, through the annual Poppy Appeal; we have donated to the Ramsey Food Bank and during the month of May we will be supporting a local cancer charity: The Malcolm Whales Foundation.

Lastly...a Thank You

As another academic year begins to draw to a close, we would like to thank all those residents of Upwood Village who support us in our endeavours.



Miss Lindsey Clarke
Deputy Headteacher



Report for Annual Parish Meeting – May 2021

During the last year members of Upwood Ukuleles have met to rehearse every Thursday via Zoom and outside, when permitted during the summer. Because of the pandemic all of our gigs since March 2020 have been cancelled and will not resume until July 2021 at the earliest. However, a group of 6 of us did manage to do some outdoor “carol singing” for the residents of Manor House, Upwood, on one very cold December morning just before Christmas.

Through our gigs we have been able to raise over £44,000 for Magpas Air Ambulance but this important fund-raising element has been severely curtailed due to coronavirus restrictions, with only a small amount being received through sales of our Christmas CD as well as individual donations.

With the lifting of some restrictions we hope to be meeting outside again from May 17th 2021 but wait to see how and when we might be able to get back to performing in public.

Doug McLeod
Chairman
Upwood Ukuleles



UVH Performing Arts Events

Report for Annual Parish Meeting – May 2021

Due to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic there have been no concerts held in Upwood Village Hall since February 2020. A programme of concerts starting in September 2021 has been organised in the hope that restrictions will have eased sufficiently for these to be staged.

Doug McLeod

Organiser



UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

April 2021

Unfortunately, due to the COVID Pandemic there is very little to report this year.

The Village Hall was forced to close its doors in March 2020 once lockdown began but did manage to reopen for a few weeks over the summer for the odd meeting and exercise class before the autumn and winter lockdown.

We have been fortunate, along with many other village halls and community centres to secure a government grant and this has allowed us to cover all our operating expenses for the last year.

In preparation for reopening we have been taking advice from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). They have provided us with a great deal of guidance and support to allow us to get the necessary policies, procedures and plans in place to allow us to reopen safely and in accordance with government guidance once the restrictions for indoor events are lifted in May.

I expect that the first time many people will be back in the hall will be for the local elections and hopefully it will give people an opportunity to see that the village hall is clean, tidy and ready to welcome everyone back.

In the meantime, if any groups that use the hall have any questions or concerns about returning and running events safely then please speak to a committee member and we would be happy to assist.

Stephen Howes
Chairman,
Upwood Village Hall Management Committee