

Autumn 2023



Community Magazine

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THE LOCAL ELECTIONS
(PARISHES & COMMUNITIES)
RULES 2006

CASUAL VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ONE casual vacancy has arisen in the office of Councillor for the above Parish Council.

If, within 14 days of the date of this Notice (see note below) a request, in writing, that an election be held to fill the vacancy, signed by ten local government electors for the Parish is given to:-

The Proper Officer
c/o Electoral Services
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
Norfolk PE30 1EX

an election will be held, and Notice of this will be published.

If no such request is received by the Proper Officer, the Parish Council will take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Signed Dated
Clerk to the Parish Council

NOTE: In computing this period, the following days are to be disregarded:-
(a) Saturdays and Sundays (b) Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a Bank Holiday (c) A day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

**Copy date for
Winter Issue 2023
Friday 24th
November**

**Expected delivery
From
Saturday 9th
December**



FROM THE CHAIR

The condition of the verges and riverside railing posts in Upwell have been a recent topic of conversation. Responsibility for the maintenance of the verges and posts has also been debated for many years and in the most part, no one Authority wanted to take ownership. However, Upwell Parish Council felt that we needed to do something, if only to make the area more pleasing on the eye!

And so, thanks must go to Tim Dewdney, and Cllrs. Andrew Harrison and Keith Harrison, for spending their own time and efforts to trim from the top of Pious Drove, down the whole length of Town Street! They also tried where possible to re-site the fallen riverside posts. With Tim returning on Bank Holiday Monday to litter pick the verge. This was no small task and we are now in communication with other agencies to see if this can be supported better in the future.

I think you will agree that these efforts were very worthwhile and there has been grateful positive feedback on the local Facebook pages.

On many occasions, Councillors undertake tidying and maintenance around the Parish without being asked and without fanfare or acknowledgement.

I think in the future, they at least need a mention?

And whilst talking about Council, we do have a couple of casual vacancies so if you think you would like to join the Parish Council and be active in the work that we do, please email our Parish Clerk Melanie in the first instance at upwellpc@gmail.com The Parish Council's War Memorial Group have identified repair works needed to the road-facing wall brickwork and this work will commence shortly as we do not want further deterioration

over the winter months. Similarly, the Hall Group has identified the same problem on the tower road-facing brickwork and this too will be addressed before the winter weather takes hold.

The weather has been unpredictable over the last couple of months and the recent very heavy downpours did result, we understand, in some flooding problems. Unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot help but we can direct you to the Highways department of the Borough Council as flooding falls under their remit. Their details and all other Borough departments can be found online.

The Summer saw the annual Yard Sale which was well supported. Hopefully, those who took part either made some money or picked up some bargains, or both!

The next big seasonal event is the Christmas Craft Fair to be held on the 5th November. Adverts are now on Facebook and to register your interest in having a stall, please email upwellhall@gmail.com for further details.

With Autumn arriving, some may be thinking of Guy Fawkes night. Please can I ask if you do intend having your own back garden fireworks, that you let your neighbours know in advance? This would give them a chance to make sure their pets are indoors and forewarn them about loud noises.

Back in August, we were contacted by a lady called Julie who had some old copies of the Parish Magazine and although we did reply, we have lost contact but would still very much like these please if still available? If anyone has old copies of the magazine and does not want them, we have an archive and we would be delighted if you wanted to donate them. Please email upwellmag@gmail.com or call either me or Councillor Prue Lester. Our contact details are on the back of the magazine.

Christine Aston
Chair UPC

Christmas services

St Peter's Church, Upwell, St Clements Church, Outwell
Why not come along and join us?

Sunday 26th November 4.00pm Christingle Service St Peter's Church

Wednesday 13th December 7.30pm Compline St Peter's Church

Sunday 17th December 2.00pm Carols St Clements, Outwell
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight St Peter's Church

Sunday 24th December 4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass Both St Peter's Church

Christmas Day 10.00am Holy Communion St Clements, Outwell

Please see the church notice board for our usual Sunday morning and midweek services.



REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY

12TH NOVEMBER

THE OPEN-AIR SERVICE WILL BE HELD AND THE ROLL OF HONOUR READ AT THE WAR MEMORIAL AT 10.45 A.M.

THE TWO MINUTES SILENCE AT 11.00 WILL COMMEMORATE THE FALLEN IN BOTH WORLD WARS

THIS CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SERVICE AT THE METHODIST CHURCH



EUGENE FITCH

Saved from death by Hitler's birthday

Many Commonwealth war-time soldiers owe their lives to the courageous actions of a Greek woman, who as a mere teenager, risked her life in helping them to escape from the prison camps of German occupied Greece.

The war-time heroine. Mrs. Eugene (she liked to be known as Jenny) Fitch was an unassuming modest woman who lived at Hall Bridge Road Upwell from the early 1950s to 1974.

She was not the sort of person to dwell on the past but accepted an invitation to appear on an American TV show where the memories of those nerve-shattering war years were renewed. The trip was paid for by the American Broadcasting Company and featured Eugene's sister in "The Girl In My Life," an American version of "This is Your Life."

Eugene appeared on the nationwide show and gave her account of the family's work in the Greek resistance movement. The story gripped the admiration of the nation and was repeated a few weeks later by public demand.

The reluctant heroine later recalled her story to Joan Garner who was a local newspaper reporter almost fifty years ago.

Greek "underground"

As a child she always liked languages and by the time she was in her teens could speak both English and German.

Because of her skill in these languages, Eugene was asked to help with the resistance movement in Salonika, where her family lived.

She became an interpreter, working with the Greek "underground" and played a vital role in helping to set many an escaped soldier in a small sailing boat on his way to freedom. She says, "It was my job to take clothes and false identity cards up to the wire barriers of the prison camp. I was seen once and shot at, I just threw the clothes over the wire and ran like hell."

Hid prisoners

This did not deter the brave Eugene she carried out her role for more than two years. She continues to say, "I would meet an escaped prisoner at a place near the camp and then escort him through the streets pretending I was just a girlfriend".

We used to hide them either at our home or my sister's home and then, early the next morning, put them on a sailing boat bound for the Middle East.

The amazing part of the story is that her sister's home was, at the time, occupied by the Germans. The family was dicing with danger and took the attitude that the Germans would never dream of searching a house that they were already occupying. Little did the hunters realise that they were sleeping on the same floor as an escaped prisoner they had been looking for all day.

Disaster came when a re-captured soldier was searched and found to have kept a diary. This, coupled with a betrayal, had the German Officers looking for the young woman with dark hair and brown eyes.

Finally, the Germans caught some of the members of the resistance including two officers with whom Eugene worked. Eugene's brother was being tried the same day as the officers. His crime was that of having been found in possession of a firearm. His younger sister wanted to know his sentence but was warned by two Greek police officers that the Germans were after her. One of them showed her a bruised shoulder, the price he had paid for not knowing her whereabouts. Eugene went home, packed a few things and fled the town to stay with friends in the country, while she was away, the Germans arrested the remainder of the family saying they would be released on her return.

An innocent Eugene later returned and was immediately arrested and thrown into jail.

Death sentence

She was beaten and starved while her captors relentlessly questioned her about her work and the methods used to help prisoners escape. But she refused to utter a word about her work with the underground and was condemned to death along with the two officers.

Her officer friends were executed and later her brother was shot, having been found, for the second time with a gun in his possession.

Amnesty

Eugene lay in her cell awaiting her turn, but her day of death miraculously coincided with Hitler's birthday and the Nazi leader issued an amnesty for young people who were condemned to death. Eugene was reprieved having spent over a year in prison.

In 1944 when the first liberation troops arrived in Salonika, she met her future husband. The couple left the war behind them and made their future life together in Upwell.

In one room of her Upwell home, Eugene has a certificate signed by Field Marshal Alexander thanking her for her assistance to the Commonwealth troops in occupied Salonika.

Over the fireplace in her living room, there was a photograph of her only son Eric, who tragically drowned when his canoe overturned in the Middle-Level Main Drain at the Pingle a few days before his 15th birthday in 1962.

Eugene's life was filled with tragedy, her big brown Mediterranean eyes hid the sadness she had endured.

William (Bill) Smith

Source: Local archives 1974

Upwell and Outwell Age Concern Lunch Club

Lunch club has enjoyed a very busy summer: it has been lovely to greet several new members and we are now making plans for an even busier end to the year, culminating with our annual charity 'Soup Before Santa' lunch on 19th December.

The season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' seems to be sneaking up on me and before I know it my grandchildren will be collecting conkers and thinking about Halloween and Guy Fawkes night! I love all the seasons for their own beauty and enjoy the changing colours of the leaves and the onset of colder weather so definitely think that autumn isn't a time to hibernate.

Yes, the clocks will go back – but don't sit around and bemoan the fact that it's getting dark by 4pm – come and join us!

If you think you might enjoy a hot two-course lunch and good company for just £5 don't hesitate to get in touch for a chat. There's no obligation! For anyone who has mobility issues we are able to arrange transport to and from lunch using a minibus suitable for those using walking aids and wheelchair users.

If you would like further information, please contact Jackie Scotten on 07584 735805 for a chat.

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through



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. Which Country has the most Pyramids in the World. Is it Egypt, Sudan, Mexico or Peru?
2. What was Mickey Mouse originally called – Maurice, Mortimer or Morty?
3. Which dog is known for yodelling?
4. What was the first food to be consumed in Space. Bread, Popcorn or pureed meat?
5. Which letter appears in 11% of all English words?
6. How long is a Human intestine?
7. Which Country produces the most coffee in the World?
8. Chartreuse is a shade of what colour?
9. What is Ringo Starr's birth name?
10. What is a gaggle of Parrots called?
11. What does a Camel store in its Hump?
12. What flowers work as a natural pest control?
13. Which actor played Wolverine?
14. The Unicorn is the national animal of which country?
15. How long do Elephant pregnancies last?
16. What is the nearest planet to the Sun?
17. What's the smallest country in the World?
18. In what country would you find Lake Bled?
19. How many colours are there in a rainbow?
20. Which is the only edible food that never goes bad?
21. Where would you be if you were standing on the Spanish Steps?
22. What is the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet?
23. What country has won the most World Cups?
24. What colours are in the flag of the United Nations?
25. Pink Ladies are types of which fruit?

Answers on page 14

St. Peter's Church, Upwell



Christmas

Sunday 19th November
2.00 – 4.00 pm

Themed crafts & activities
to celebrate
Early Christmas!
Shared story time
Refreshments




All FREE

We would be thankful for a small donation.

Everyone welcome!

Children must be accompanied by an adult
More Info: Tel. Raine Thorold on 01945 774322
Safeguarding continually updated



A Night Out at The Theatre
with music, laughter & much more!

Lakes End Village Hall
On Friday, 10th November 2023 at 7.30pm

You will laugh, you may cry, and come out feeling ready to take on the world!

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Doors open at 7pm, so get in early and grab yourself a drink before it starts.

Meet the actors in an After-Show Q&A, included in the price of the ticket, during which the bar will remain open!

Tickets on sale now.... don't miss out! £10 per person. Under 12s only £5.

Call 07977 701497 to book

All bar proceeds towards the renovation of Lakes End Village Hall.

“ Mixing nostalgia with playfulness, humour and poignancy
EASTERN DAILY PRESS ”

“ It was extraordinary; like nothing I've seen before
Audience review, 'Voices of Norfolk' 2022 ”

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
LAKES END VILLAGE HALL
THE GARAGE THEATRE
NATIONAL HORSE RACING MUSEUM

Blunts orchard nature walk

The trustees are planting a magnolia tree to mark the twin events of the Queen's platinum jubilee and the coronation of Charles III. It is being planted at **10-30 on October 10th** in a ceremony involving a group of children from Upwell Academy. The event will be open for all to attend if they so wish.

Five Things You May Not Know

- Avocados are not vegetables
- It has snowed in the Sahara Desert
- Giraffes hum to each other at night to make sure they stay together
- Nomophobia is the fear of not having a mobile phone
- Charlie Chaplin once lost a Charlie Chaplin look-alike competition!

Upwell Christmas Craft Fair



Beautiful handmade Christmas crafts including:

- Woodwork
- Jewellery
- Bags
- Candles
- Pottery and painted porcelain
- Gonks & soft toys
- Bunting
- Decorations
- Fairy houses
- And of course, our famous handmade Christmas Crackers

Everything you need for your festive celebrations - and more.

Teas, Coffees & Cakes available. Drop in and see Marion at:
Rosebank, 72a Small Lode, Upwell, PE14 9BG.

Friday 10th November, 10am to 4pm.

This event helps to raise money for Help for Heroes.

Green Fingers Gardening Club



Although we have had mixed weather during the summer, we managed to have our meetings on fine & dry days. The July meeting was held in Gerry & Sandi's garden. There were sunny and shady areas to explore or sit in and chat whilst Committee members served cuppas and cake. We had the Summer Supper in Marion's Garden. Tasty fish and chips (and alternatives) were delivered by Rav's Fish Shop in Upwell and Marion had made delicious trifles for pudding. The Home-grown Tomatoes Competition took place that evening and it was won by Rachel, who brought along a good selection

of tomatoes from her greenhouse. Susie provided a Gardening Quiz and almost everyone won a prize in the Raffle supervised by Paul.

In September, it was the Photography Competition. The subject was 'My Garden'. This could be interpreted widely to include plants, animals, structural features or weather events like snow or rain. David's photograph of a frost-covered cobweb hanging in the branches of a conifer was the winner. The judge was Mick who presented David with the Photography Cup that he and Mary had donated years ago. September's Speaker was one of our members, Alex, who spoke on 'Growing and Showing Daffodils'. No doubt we were given lots of tips for next spring's Daffodil Competition. Unfortunately, I was on holiday so missed them!

Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 19th at Upwell Methodist Church Hall (2 for 2.30pm start). They usually last about 2 hours. Instead of a talk there will be '**Gardening Hints & Tips**' with Susie & Gerry answering members' questions. Come along and we can extend our gardening knowledge together. Visitors pay £3 and it's 20p for tea and biscuits. November 16th's meeting is the AGM and the Christmas Meeting is on Thursday December 7th. General queries about the Club can be directed towards our Chairwoman, Raina (01945 772160)



Rachel's winning tomatoes

Report a Problem

Did you know that you can report various problems directly to Norfolk County Council? This quite often is the best and quickest route.

If you have internet access, search for Norfolk.gov.uk and go to 'Report a Problem'.

There you will see all the topics you can report directly to them. You can also

then track the outcome of your report. Topics you can report on include -

- Roads, pavements and cycleways
- Public right of way and trails
- Manhole covers and potholes
- Grass verges
- Sign posts

You will receive an acknowledgement and updates from NCC.



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To Rent Garden Allotments

The Parish Council has a number of garden allotments to rent on its Stonehouse Road site.

Call for more information

Parish Clerk, Melanie Hilton: 07368 420237



UPWELL WALKS – THE NEW MAP

By the village sign at Church Bridge there is a new board with an updated map of the footpaths and other off-road routes - which are suitable for horse riders too.

There is a QR code on the map that will take you to the website where information can be found about the paths, droves and tracks as well as the ‘what 3 words’ code that can be used to find where the paths leave the road.

<https://upwellvillagehall.co.uk/upwell-walks>

The numbers refer to the NCC’s mapping system and the ones referred to as Upwell Isle go back to the days when the Parish was divided between Norfolk, roughly East of Welle Creek and Cambridgeshire (Isle of Ely) to the West. (This website covers the whole County and may also be of interest when going out and about.)

<https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/>

There are photos on the website, many of which I took on my phone to get the ‘what 3 words’ location. These were intended as a starting point and better ones would be very welcome. The idea is to create an attractive gallery, so please email contributions to the contact address: upwellwalks@gmail.com

The Parish Council currently supplement the infrequent cuts done by the County Council and are usually aware when a path needs attention, so please don’t use the upwellwalks email address to report problems, it is for guidance, information and photos. Kelvin and I are the Councillors responsible so please get in touch with either of us if you have concerns.

With thanks to Rob Shaw for the artwork and the website and Andrew Harrison for installing the board.

Prue Lester

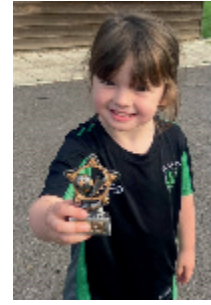


It's been a busy period for us here at UTYFC as we kick off the 2023/2024 season. At the time of writing, we are two or three games into the season, and we are enjoying some fantastic football across all our age groups.

We'd like to extend a warm thanks to everyone who has sponsored and contributed to the club during the off season, including i3Secure, Upwell Builders, CSS Wisbech, Carpe Diem Football Coaching, JAS Electrical, The Football



Our U8 start their second season in the Mid Norfolk Youth League and are tasked with building on their fantastic start to league football by developing their skills and techniques further before they make the jump to 7-a-side football next year. We have two U7 sides who join a league of 11



Foundation and The Blunt Trust. Support from local organisations is vital to the longevity of the club and the support has enabled us to provide the very best in terms of kit and equipment for the children.

used to early starts on a Saturday morning, let's wait until the winter comes!

As I've said in previous issues, we are always on the lookout for those looking to volunteer their time for the club. If you'd like to volunteer, please get in touch with us.

In our play phase age groups, we are seeing our numbers continue to increase which we expect as our children return to school or start school. We learn football through play and as the age groups progress, we implement more structured technical drills to help prepare them for U7 level football. If you have a child aged 3-6 (pre-school to Y1) who

I'd also like to bring you up to speed on how our men's team are performing. Despite some difficult early games against some strong competition the team continues to grow. Having undertaken structural changes in the Summer, the club has recently appointed a new manager



would like to have a taster, please get in touch. If you'd also like regular updates on how we are getting on as a club, then please follow our Facebook page 'Upwell Town Youth FC'!

and the future is looking bright. All fixtures for our first team are available on our website www.upwelltownfc.co.uk so if you find yourself at a loose end the lads could do with your support as they work to improve their league position and give a good showing of themselves in the Norfolk Primary Cup. At the time of writing, the team are preparing for a local derby against Outwell Swifts Reserves which promises to be a great game and a positive signal for local football considering the length of time it's been since we saw the last 'Welle' derby. The first team train on a Wednesday at 7pm so if you would like to get involved why not visit and introduce yourself. You're guaranteed a warm welcome!

As we move into the winter months, I must ask everyone who shares the playing field facilities with us to please help us take care of the field. On occasion over the past few months, it's been clear that e-scooters have been ridden across the pitches. Luckily this didn't cause too many problems, but were the pitches to be wet or muddy this could really chew it up and might mean we'd have to cancel sessions which we don't want to have to do.

Wishing you all the best,

Alex Parnell
 UTYFC Chairman
 UTFC Secretary

THE FARMING YEAR 2022-23

Hi All,

Well, that's another 12 months gone by – where has the time gone?

Looking back, I believe the 2022 cereal harvest turned out fairly well and the potatoes better than I thought after the hot dry weather.

Sugar beet was a bit variable, some crops looked good, some not so good, but then the fields that were left to be harvested later got caught by the frost, so a fair amount was not fit to process. It appears we are having to import more sugar this year as we are short.

Autumn-drilled cereals looked well through the winter and spring and I believe winter barley and wheat cropped well. The weather was a bit unsettled to start with, but it became drier and warmer later so harvest could get going.

I noticed a lot of fields of oilseed rape looked a bit bare; I would think due to flea beetle and grazing by pigeons.

Spring 23 was not too bad although the weather was a bit unsettled. It did start to dry and warm up so we could start drilling and planting. The crops started to grow well, sugar beet went away fairly well and most fields looked good. Onions seemed a bit slow but appeared to make up later when we had some rain.

We have had some hot weather again this year, with temperatures over 30 degrees, but we also have had some

rain, which helped the potatoes as they looked fairly good and the few I grew turned out well.

The strawberries turned out well this year as did my carrots and beetroot. Broad beans weren't too bad but I had to put wire round them as deer started to strip the tops off.

I have been told that some apple trees have a good crop and others are poor - and plums look to be the same.

As I drove around, I noticed a lot of fields of cereals had the dreaded black grass this year. Now I see the pumpkin harvest has started.

The other week I was reading an article on farming, which said we have to import over 46% of our food. I know we can't grow every type of produce, but then somebody wrote that we should take 30% of our land out of producing food and let it go for wildlife. To my mind this does not make much sense because if this happens, with all the building of houses and roads and land covered with solar panels and the population of the country and the world increasing, there could come a time when we are short of food. Then I suppose some Government Minister will get up and say farmers must produce more food. Funny old world, or am I just becoming a grumpy man in my old age? All the best and keep safe,

Regards,

Keith Harrison

Tea on Tuesday

It doesn't seem possible that Tea on Tuesday has just celebrated its second birthday - We have definitely baked an enormous number of cakes and made hundreds of gallons of tea in that time as well as giving lots of people the chance to meet new friends and rekindle friendships with old ones!

We all love a good natter, whether it's about the weather, the Strictly Come Dancing contestants (yes – it is that time of year again!) or even the latest news on the economy it is always better discussed over a good cup of tea. No better place than Tea on Tuesday then!

We meet fortnightly and have lots of tables all putting the world to rights, loads of laughter plus of course those scrummy savouries and cakes!

We can cater for those who need a gluten free diet and recognise that some of our members have difficulty with their mobility, so if needed, we can arrange transport to and from the club using a minibus suitable for those using walking aids and wheelchair users.

Why not come along and see for yourself? Tea on Tuesday is open to all ages and meets on alternate Tuesdays from 2pm until 3.30pm.

Life is like a cup of tea. It's all in how you make it.....

There is no charge, we just suggest a small donation if possible to help keep the club running.

If you are interested in knowing a little more please contact Jackie on **07584 735805** or email her at

jackiescott51@gmail.com



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Upwell Methodist Church

94 Town Street, Upwell PE14 9DQ

For further information please contact Jane Hurst

T 01945 588282 E janehurst1@virginmedia.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UpwellIMC>

Website: www.upwellmethodistchurch.uk

Minister: Rev Debbie Caulk

E deborah.caulk@methodist.org.uk

CRAFT FAIR
 light refreshments
 10am - 4pm

An evening of entertainment from
 'THE SUGAR BEATS'
 'SONGBIRD AND THE CROW'
 AND OTHERS
 with a buffet
 6.30pm

Upwell Methodist Church
 Saturday 14th October

For more information please contact
 Sylvie on 01945 774443

UPWELL METHODIST CHURCH
 INVITE YOU TO

GHOST STORIES
 'GHOULIES AND GHOSTIES
 AND LONG LEGGED BEASTIES'

A (MILDLY) SCARY TALK BY SYLVIE SHORT
 FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
 2.30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
 SYLVIE ON 01945 774443

TABLE TENNIS
 THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL
 EVERY TUESDAY FROM
 7PM TO 9PM
 OPEN TO ALL FROM AGE 12 & ABOVE
 £5 for adults and £2 for children
 12 upwards

FOR FURTHER INFO PLEASE
 CONTACT DANNY AMEY :
danoir999@gmail.com

Downham Market Community Choir
Singers Inspired

All welcome!

We sing, mainly in four part harmony (**Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass**), a wide range of songs from popular tunes to gospel and world music, under the enthusiastic musical direction of Natalie O'Sullivan.

Regular rehearsals:
Thursday evenings (during school terms)
7.30pm – 9.30pm at the
Methodist Church Hall, Downham Market,
PE38 9JE (near Morrison's car park).

No audition necessary.
No need to read music - all parts taught by ear.
First two sessions free as a taster.

For further information email
singersinspired.choir@gmail.com
 07800 543 204

Events at the Royal British Legion Upwell

Non-members welcome at ALL events

Thursday 5th October - Bingo eyes down at 7pm

Saturday 14th October Bar Six: a five-piece band performing hits for all to enjoy - Starting 8pm

Thursday 19th October - Bingo eyes down at 7pm

Saturday 21st October - Karaoke starts 8pm

Friday 27th October - Halloween Disco

Children's disco and party games 5pm to 7.30pm

Family disco starts at 7.30pm to late

We have had a mixed bag of events, some good, some not so good...

Our Weekend event was not particularly well supported but on the "up" side we did make some money to keep the Playing field maintained. A new event for us this year was a Motorbike, Trike and Vintage car event on August Bank Holiday Monday. It was very well supported by motor bike enthusiasts, vintage car fans and the general public. This will be repeated next May Monday 27th please put it in your diary.

Horse and Pony Shows were not so well supported – and we do not charge £20/£30 a class or even £10/£15 to enter, we are a village show – with plenty of people having horses and people moving to the area it is for everyone to enjoy, from small ponies to the larger breeds, in-hand and ridden showing, novice horse, novice handler and rider. A tack sale scheduled for the 24th of September was cancelled due to lack of response as was the Gymkhana earlier in the year. Use it or loose it I think the phrase is.

Car boot sales have caused a bit of a stir through sellers arriving early. Unfortunately that is something we have no control over and NO we are not opening the gates before 7.00am or leaving the gates open overnight. If you use New Road please take Listers Road or alternatively use Croft Road, Dovecote Road, School Road before 8am as has been



said it is 1 day a week for six months of the year.... Or please donate at least £5,000 towards the upkeep of the playing field and volunteer to do it.

We have our new extension finished, all alarmed, with spare tables, and chairs etc installed. This has freed up space in the pavilion itself. We have a new CCTV system, electricity installed to the container and all alarmed. It should be noted that **NOTHING OF VALUE IS KEPT IN ANY OF THE BUILDINGS OVER NIGHT** - our insurance could not stand the hit!

On the football front, if you have a grandchild that takes part on a training morning (Saturday) or evenings Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday please do come along and watch. It is great to see the little ones outside in the fresh air.

We also have Carpe Diem Football Coaching (Jay Best): at one particular session during the holidays one little lady sheltering in the pavilion said "come on Jay lets go" unfortunately not as it was thundering - this is how keen these little ones are to train, and play on Saturday mornings. Men's first team – there are changes all round: new chairman, new manager, sponsored by Robinsons Farms & Transport. We wish them well this season.

UPWELL PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

New Road, Upwell, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9AB.

Tel. 01945 773604 email upfc@talktalk.net

Registered charity 300425

As I am writing this report the sun is shining and it is lovely and bright after the deluge of rain during the week. We have our Horse and Pony Show on the 30th where we welcome everyone, rosettes 1st – 6th place, in-hand and ridden championship with Supreme, first class 9.30am, ridden not before 1pm. We will see how this show goes before we decide if we hold any next year.



We will be holding a raffle for a piece of ironwork kindly donated by "Plasma Willie". It is of a soldier; raffle tickets are a £1 per strip and proceeds will be split between Help for Heroes and UPFC. Please support this, just pop in on a Saturday morning, or Thursday car boot sale for your tickets. Raffle will be drawn on 11th November.

Committee members are Ros. Shorting, John Spikings, Mark Elliott, Pat Moat, Liz Thorpe, Steph Thorpe, Sara Tomling, Jay Best, Alex Parnell, Darren Fox.

As a committee we can only do what we can do with the volunteers we have – many times I have heard and been told "you should do this, why don't you do this"? Well, we could with your help...

if you would like to join us, please contact the secretary.



I found a lovely quote – Before you complain, have you volunteered yet?



Well Creek Newsletter from the Middle Level Commissioners

As far back as the 1930's, when the Well Creek was primarily used for commercial transportation, the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) have maintained the river for the benefit of the local community, for navigators and for wildlife. As the number of commercial boats dwindled over the following years, so too did the intensity of the maintenance undertaken. Then in 1970 when the Well Creek Trust were thankfully successful in saving the river from being filled in, the Commissioners were pleased to be part of ensuring the much-loved channel was maintained for the benefit of all, once again.

Now, the Middle Level Commissioners' statutory duty relating to Well Creek is to ensure that the channel remains fit for navigation and this includes maintaining the lock gates and managing in-channel vegetation and silt. The Commissioners are the Statutory Navigation Authority across the whole of the Middle Level catchment. All boats within the Middle Level system, including Well Creek, require a licence, and the licence fees charged contribute towards the operation, maintenance and improvement of navigation within the Middle Level.

Elsewhere within the Middle Level Catchment, as well as maintaining channels and structures for navigation, the Commissioners also have a wider range of statutory duties and powers. These include managing flood risk and water levels through the maintenance of drainage channels and their embankments and the operation of a range of water level management infrastructure such as sluices and pumping stations. It also includes the conservation and enhancement of the environment. The map (page 14) shows the extent of the Middle Level Catchment and the channels under the management of the Middle Level Commissioners. Mostly, but not always, the Commissioners own, and are responsible for, the inside bank face and the channel of all drainage channels within the Middle Level catchment. While the crest and any rear face of the banks (where they are embanked channels) are mostly privately owned, they do have to be kept clear for MLC to access to undertake their maintenance activities and this is enforced through bylaws. As with all Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), anyone wanting to erect any structure within 20m of a drainage channel or embankment (less for some IDBs) requires consent from Middle Level Commissioners, much like applying for planning permission.

These drainage channels are vital flood defence assets and it is necessary to cut the grass banks regularly to allow engineers to inspect their condition. While the Well Creek is not classed as a drainage channel as it is not a flood defence asset, the Commissioners are still pleased to provide a complimentary bank cutting service to support the local community, as it is clear that the river holds a very special place in the community. The bank ownership also differs along the Well Creek in that usually, but not always, the inner face of banks are owned by the adjacent landowner. This is usually stated in the deeds for the property. It is the landowner who is ultimately responsible for the upkeep of

the banks, including the control of any invasive species or injurious weeds.

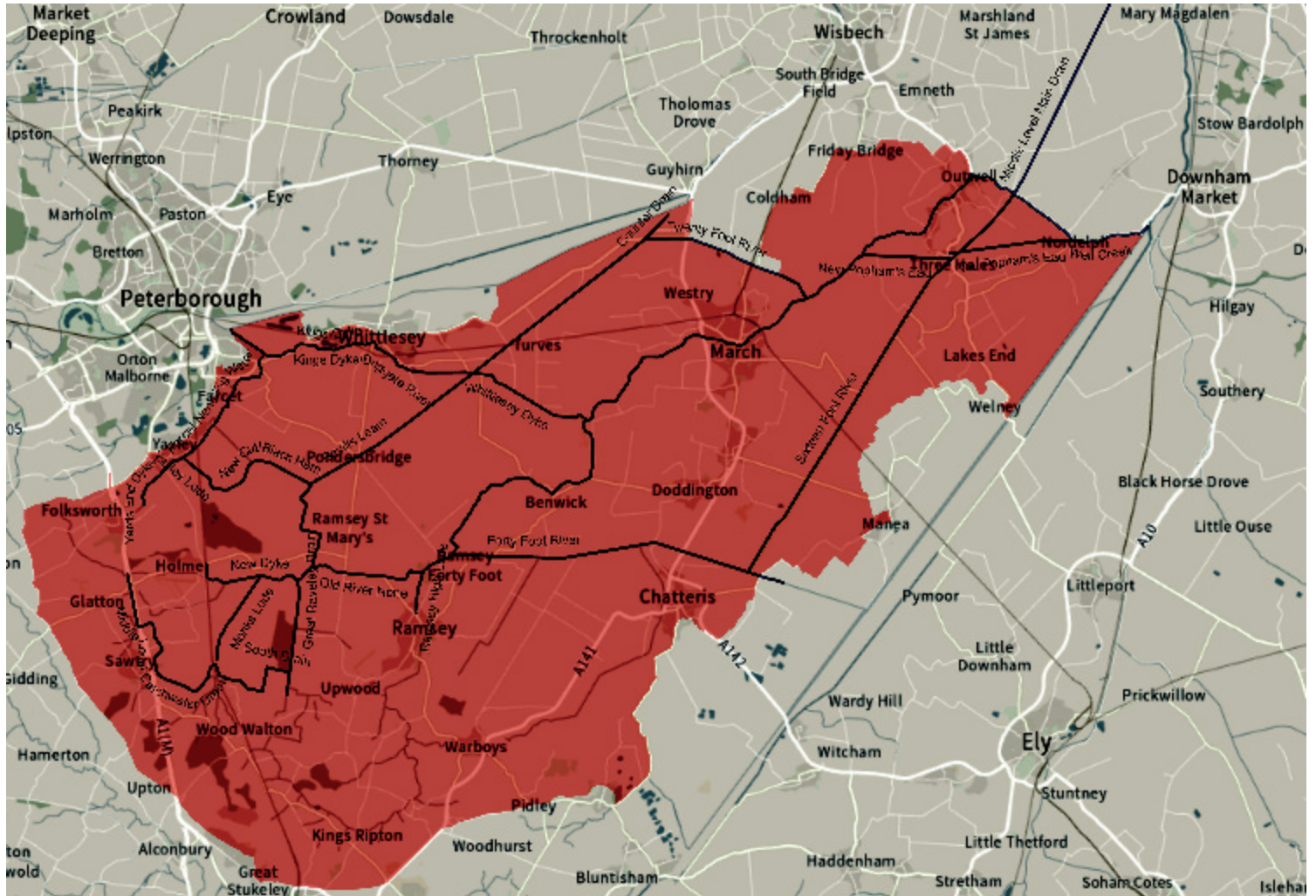
Equally as important as maintaining flood risk and water levels, is the Commissioners' duty to conserve and enhance the environment. Most of you know, and enjoy seeing the wide range of wildlife that call our rivers and banks, home. Our channels are a stronghold for the protected water vole, a species that in many other areas has seen huge declines over recent decades due to habitat degradation and predation. Other species commonly associated with our channels include otters, reptiles and a number of rare and beautiful insects, aquatic plants and birds. Many of these species are protected by law. These laws are just as applicable to the Commissioners as they are to us all. Just as you or I would be committing an offence if we damaged or destroyed an active birds' nest while cutting a hedge, the Commissioners could be prosecuted for destroying an active nest while cutting banks and marginal vegetation. It is for this reason that we schedule our maintenance activities to take place outside the main bird nesting season, generally accepted to be 1st March to 31st August. In some years, this has proved to be problematic along some stretches of the Well Creek, where the daffodils ideally need to be left for 6 weeks after flowering before cutting. This has meant that, in order to avoid the risk of harming a number of protected species, the first bank-mow of the year hasn't taken place until August, leading to worry that the banks have looked "unkept".

We have come a long way in our understanding of what our wildlife needs to thrive. The "keeping things neat" approach of having close-mown grass banks and no marginal vegetation, we now know, is not beneficial for most wildlife. But the "do nothing" approach often isn't either and can pose safety issues. You may notice that generally, a margin of vegetation is left undisturbed on the lower bank and at the waters' edge on most Middle Level channels to ensure that a wide range of wildlife has a safe refuge. The marginal vegetation also protects the toe of the banks from erosion. The rest of the banks are mown twice or 3 times a year, at times that are more supportive of wildlife, to provide a diversity of vegetation. Periodic mowing mimics natural processes such as grazing and allows less competitive plant species such as wild flowers, a chance at getting established before the faster-growing grasses block out the light.

So, nowadays, managing our rivers is a delicate balance. They can't always all be neat and tidy, they also can't all be left wild and unmanaged. But aiming for a patchwork of both with shades in-between is a sensible compromise and this will ensure that everyone and everything who value our rivers for something, continues to benefit from them.

To find out more about the work of the Middle Level Commissioners or contact us directly, you can visit our website, or link with us on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn.

Sofi Lloyd
Environment Officer MLC



- Answers Autumn 2023 Quiz
1. Sudan
 2. Mortimer
 3. Basenji
 4. Pured meat
 5. A
 6. 22 feet
 7. Brazil
 8. Yellow-Green
 9. Richard Starkey
 10. A Pandemonium
 11. Fat
 12. Marigolds
 13. Hugh Jackman
 14. Scotland
 15. 22 months
 16. Mercury
 17. Vatican City
 18. Slovenia
 19. Seven
 20. Honey
 21. Rome, Italy
 22. Delta
 23. Brazil
 24. Blue and White
 25. Apple

What's On!

AT

Lakes End Village Hall

Friday **“Horse Play”** (PG Rating)
10th Nov
At 7.30pm

Norfolk professional theatre company ‘The Whittings on the Wall’ are bringing their unique and exciting show **‘Horse Play’** to us **for one night only** as part of their regional tour.

Join us for music, laughter and some amazing shadow-puppetry, starring Hollywood actress Florence Wright from The Flash.

Bar open from 7pm for pre-play drinks and “Meet the Actors” in an after-show Q&A.

For Tickets Call 07977 701497 to book. £10/£5 under 12s

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Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information on activities and Welle Cinema.

Have you ever thought of becoming a Trustee? THVH&PF would love to hear from you. We are always looking for volunteers to help run events and help with fundraising. The hall is in need of a new flat roof any help you could give to help run events and raise funds, would be very much appreciated. Do you have any unwanted items we could sell at our tabletop events or suitable for raffle prizes; donations of items are always welcome. Thank You to everyone who already donates. Thank you to all our current volunteers, without you these events couldn't run.

With thanks to BCKLWN and BCLlr Colin Rose, the charity has received £300 from BCKLWN Councillor Community Grant Scheme for the purchase of two new cooker hoods for the hall.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

TABLE TENNIS open to all over 12 years, Tuesday's 7.00pm – 9.00pm Contact Danny Amey danoir999@mail.com

THREE HOLES INDOOR BOWLS CLUB are looking for new players, open to all over 16, new players very welcome. No

experience necessary; come and enjoy a fun, friendly game. Meets weekly on Thursdays at 7pm £3.50pp, Contact Pam Russell, Secretary, on 01945 773561 or just turn up. A warm welcome awaits.

FRIDAY AUCTION runs most weeks; sale starts 6pm, open for drop off of items and viewing from 9am hot food served all day. For more details contact Vik 07879005521, NOTE: from 20th October K.C Auctions will be taking over: contact K.C Auctions 07983920850 / 07494442513. The auction will be closed 6th & 13th October.

SATURDAY BINGO runs most weeks; doors open 5pm, eyes down 6.30pm. Hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, cake and snacks available. For more details contact Vik 07879005521 TABLETOP Starting 15th October, thereafter the 3rd Sunday of each month, 9am - 12noon. To book a table please email yasminwallbanks@gmail.com or call 01945 773272. Space is limited so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment. FREE entry for buyers.

Look out for information on our Fundraising Bingo event Sunday 26th November, children welcome.



Tickets £3.50 (no need to book) Starts 2pm, Doors open 1.30pm Refreshments available



5th November Double Jeopardy (15) (chosen by our audience) Framed for the murder of her husband, Libby Parsons (Ashley Judd) survives the long years in prison with two burning desires sustaining her -- finding her son and solving the mystery that destroyed her once-happy life. Standing between her and her quest, however, is her parole officer, Travis Lehman (Tommy Lee Jones). Libby poses a challenge to the cynical officer, one that forces him to face up to his own failings while pitting him against his superiors and law enforcement colleagues.



3rd December Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13) Daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Accompanied by his goddaughter, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA.



7th January The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12) is the story of an unremarkable man who sets off on a remarkable journey. Harold lives a life without purpose until he learns an old friend is dying and vows that in walking across England to see her, his journey can keep her alive. Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton



WELLE W.I.

Hello everyone,
Well, we had a reasonable summer; rather warm at times, but better than other countries. Now we are starting to feel the nip as Autumn

and Winter come knocking at the door. However, don't despair, come and join the Welle W.I. to meet new and old friends, have a cuppa and a natter and listen to engaging speakers or try your hand at a craft. Our program for next year will include carpet bowls, painting, quiz, various Speakers and a trip to Anglesey Abbey. We hold our meetings on the first Monday of the month, (unless it is a Bank Holiday, when it will be a Tuesday) at Upwell Village Hall at 7.30pm. Come along and have some fun.

Recently we had a trip out to Burghley House, which was greatly enjoyed by all. The weather was great, the gardens and house spectacular and well worth a visit. Our October meeting will include a speaker on Medical Detection Dogs and November is our annual meeting, where a new committee will be elected. December will include fun and games for our Christmas event. Don't sit at home, come along and join in the fun. Hope to see you all soon.
For further information contact President Jan 01945 774565




CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER
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MEETING DATES 2023

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend any meeting. Residents can address the Council at the start of the meeting but may only speak thereafter with the permission of the Chairman
All meetings start at 7.00 p.m.

October 9th
Three Holes Village Hall

November 13th
Upwell Village Hall

December 11th
Upwell Village Hall