

Spring 2019



Community Magazine

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**Copy Date for
Summer
Edition
is
Friday
25th May**

Your Upwell parish Neighbourhood Plan

UPWELL PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATION 14 PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

MONDAY 8TH APRIL – FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2019

THE DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON THE UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE
[WWW.UPWELLPARISH.COM/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN](http://WWW.UPWELLPARISH.COM/NEIGHBOURHOOD_PLAN)

COMMENTS MAY BE MADE BY EMAIL TO
neighbourhoodplan@upwellparish.com

HARD COPY WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE 7 WEEK CONSULTATION PERIOD AT
THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS AND TIMES:

UPWELL VILLAGE HALL
MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS/FRIDAYS 2.00-4.00 P.M.
TUESDAYS 9.30-11.30 A.M.

THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL
MONDAYS/THURSDAYS 7.00-9.00 P.M.

A COPY WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT:

THE FIVE BELLS INN
RAV'S FISH AND CHIPS
JOANNE'S PANTRY
NORMAL OPENING HOURS WILL APPLY

COMMENTS MAY BE MADE TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS GIVEN ABOVE
OR IN WRITING TO THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE
C/O THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL
SQUIRES DROVE, THREE HOLES
WISBECH PE14 9JY



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

PARISH ASSEMBLY REPORT 2019

Principle points concerning activity during the year are:

Council voted for a 2% increase in the precept at the December meeting. The good news for tax payers is that this means you will actually be paying less in the next year! Why? *Because the tax base for the parish has increased considerably from last year (850.5) to this year (867.2) and by even more when the Borough changed their collection rate from 97.5% to 100% (887.6) so the overall effect on a Band D property has decreased even though we increased the precept.* Council made the increase to cover additional costs for next year, including the forthcoming election (which used to be paid for by the Borough) and open space maintenance principally the river bank and Cemetery. A budget for professional services has been allocated for next year in view of the potential development of the Council's land on Lowside.

During the year, two projects for which Council submitted successful bids to the NNC Parish Partnership Scheme were installed: the new bus shelter at the bottom of Townley Close, the dot matrix sign at the junction of Tointons Road and New Road and the new SAM2 speed camera is now operational throughout the Parish.

There have been no further Parish Partnership bids this year, but one project that is finally working out, is the enforcement of the yellow no parking zigzags outside the School. County Councillor, Harry Humphrey, paid for the necessary signs out of his Members Allowance and once a snag over the parking for buses and taxis has been sorted out there will be a mandatory no parking zone outside the School.

During the year Council have taken over the management of Upwell Cemetery from the Borough Council. We are employing a contractor to cut the grass on a fortnightly cycle and volunteers have come forward to keep it tidy. I would like to thank them for their contribution, which is making a noticeable improvement. Witness, a visitor took me aside one morning and thanked Council for the brilliant job now being done!

The Neighbourhood Plan has taken far longer than expected but it is going out for pre-submission consultation for a 7 week period from next Monday, 8th April and I expect that it should clear the final hurdles, becoming a legal document during the course of this year. Of note, the Borough Council has simultaneously been preparing an update to the Local Plan and have decided that where a Parish is making housing allocations as part of a Neighbourhood Plan, the Borough will not do so.

100 years after the end of WWI, grant funding from the Borough Council with additional donations from the Community made it possible for the centennial wreath to be designed and made by a local craftsman and installed at the War Memorial in time for Remembrance Sunday. This is dedicated to the 66 men of the Parish who lost their lives in that war.

This is an election year for the Parish and the Borough Council and I would like to thank Councillors for their hard work during the last four years. Some are retiring and I would like to think they are taking with them memories of a hard working but friendly 'team' who are dedicated to working for the Parish and its residents.

Councillors are volunteers but there is a small army of volunteers in this Parish and I would like to close by thanking you all. Whether you volunteer for speedwatch and the 'SAM' camera, help in the Cemetery, with the Welle Creek Trust, with the village hall committees, with the youth groups – Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Girls' Brigade, whether you quietly go around picking up litter or run one of numerous clubs and societies that all play a part in the Community, your hard work may feel like a thankless task but it isn't. It's appreciated by everyone, even if they are very bad at saying so!

Well Creek Trust AGM

A big thank you from the Trust's committee to the members who attended the AGM on the evening of 7th February 2019 at the Outwell Village Hall.

After the minutes of the 2018 meeting were concluded, and a refreshment break, Cliff Carson gave a very enlightening presentation on some of the wildlife that can be found on the surrounding fens, such as Otters, Water Voles and Elvers and the steps being taken by the MLC to help them get to the fens to grow and become adults. It's hard to imagine that the Eels' spawning grounds are in the Sargasso sea and the tiny Elvers migrate thousands of miles to Europe to grow and become adults and then swim back to the Sargasso sea to spawn.

The committee would like to thank Polly for opening the bar and making us and the members feel welcome at the hall and for everybody renewing their subscriptions for another year.

Looking forward to seeing you next year.

The Well Creek Trust committee

Fancy lunch and a friendly chat?

As a member of the Upwell and Outwell Luncheon Club I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us at our fortnightly meeting in Upwell Methodist church hall on Town Street. We welcome anyone of pensionable age to join us and enjoy a hot two course lunch with tea or coffee afterwards, together with the chance to have a chat and relax with other residents of the villages and surrounding parishes in informal surroundings.

Some of our members have difficulty with their mobility so we also arrange transport to and from the club using a minibus suitable for those using walking aids and wheelchair users.


Several of the members attend and enjoy lunch with their carers (always welcome – especially if they are prepared to give a hand collecting plates or handing out teas!) whilst others like to spend time chatting to other members on their own.

The committee understand however that it can sometimes be very difficult to take that first step and go somewhere new so some of our members have offered to visit anyone thinking of coming along beforehand for a chat and a cuppa so that there is a familiar face to welcome them or even perhaps bring them along that first time.

If you are interested in knowing a little more before making a decision please don't hesitate to telephone Jackie on 07584 735805 or Pearl on 01945 773566.


We would love to see you there.

Jackie Scotten


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Lakesend Happy Circle
2019 Coach Trips

Wednesday 8th May – Skegness
Wednesday 12th June – Sheringham
Tuesday 9th July – Melton Mowbray
Wednesday 14th August – Boston
Wednesday 18th September – The Range, Hunstanton or Sandringham
Wednesday 20th November – Bawdeswell



 Club Christmas lunch – Date and venue TBA
Bus fare £10
Pick-up starts in Upwell at 9am

There is no parking at Hircrocks

Please ring Hazel for details on 01945 772327

UPWELL HALL

6 NEW ROAD UPWELL WISBECH CAMBS PE14 9AB

200 Club Winners 2018

January £25 James Williams, £15 M. Watson, £12 Martin Paulette
 February £25 Alma Smith, £15 Hayley Jarvis, £12 David Johnson
 March £25 Jackie Cooper, £15 Jake Smith, £12 Gordon Moat.
 April £25 Rav, £15 Martin Jakings, £12 C. Sproule.
 May £25 Helen Hurst, £15 Doreen Margiotta, £12 J Russell.

Half yearly - JUNE

£50 Tom Wolzck, £25 Lindsey Brown, £15 M. Cox, £12 J. Cooper

July £25 C. Robinson, £15 J. Lovett, £12 G. Game.
 August £25 N. George, £15 A. Moat, £12 J. Gooch.
 September £25 J. Shaw, £15 P. Brooks, £12 S. Meek.
 October £25 B. Ferguson, £15 C. Martin, £12 J. Smith.
 November £25 J. Green, £15 D. Martin, £12. T. Wolzck.

DECEMBER - THE BIG ONE

£500 Ellie Williams £100 Karen Armstrong £50 Jill Murfin
£25 Doreen Margiotta £15 Brian Carr £12 Amanda Kelly

200 CLUB 2019

January £25 P. Poole, £15 J. Day, £12 Hannah Poole
 February £25 Linda Carr £15 K. Timson £12 Helen Hartley
 March £25 D. Margiotta, £15 Christine Oakey £12 Jackie Saunders.

5th Upwell Village Yard Sale

Sunday 30th June 2019

8.00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is how it works –

You register your home address with us for a pitch fee of £5.00.

We will put your address on our yard sale map listing. The maps will be available throughout the village and available to download from 20th June from

www.upwellparish.com

Please book your pitch by 15th June 2019

For more information and forms to register, please contact:-

Linda Carr 01945 774145 or lcarr182@btinternet.com

Last year's Yard Sale was again a great success; over 60 homes took part. We would like more of the village to take part, so please join us this year and make money from the things you no longer need. You do not have to leave your home - just step outside and make money.

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Winter is always a challenging time for the scouts, since the weather prevents them from being outdoors. Still we managed a fair number of activities and visits. We visited the police station in Wisbech to learn all about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. During the visit the scouts were imprisoned in one of their vehicles and the scout leader was breathalysed, both of which we would hope to avoid in real life. Local Tai Chi teacher Pete Baldwin, taught us a routine, which we practised. He then revisited to check on our progress. I think we all learned that sometimes it is more challenging to do things slowly, and that we all need to improve our coordination. We ended the year with a Xmas party at Skaters and a Xmas Fayre.

After the Xmas break we started work on our Electronics badge, which required us to complete three projects. We made flashing cards, Morse code generating machines, a steady hand game and everyone had a go at some soldiering. We could not get through a term without some cooking and of course eating, this time cakes, a few of which make it home! Origami was our craft for this term, if you picture a peaceful evening with calming music playing in the background, you would be wrong. We made water bombs, which of course needed to be tested. I was slightly worried by the number of scouts we asked to take home a copy of the instructions.

At the beginning of March, we managed a sleepover that included visits to Paint Pots in Downham and the Norwich ski



school to try out tubing. The fired pots were impressive. The tubing from the viewing area looked scarily fast, but impressively none of the scouts or Explorers bottled out. The fish and chip supper was delicious.

Next term we are looking forward to being outside a lot, back to pioneering and fire building. Additionally the older scouts will be undertaking their expedition camp, this is a camp, which they choose, plan and undertake with the minimum adult help. They have chosen to visit Milton Keynes so that they can try out indoor sky diving, snowboarding and Virtual Reality.

Christine (scout leader)

We are seriously looking at having to close scouts at the start of the summer holidays, due to lack of adult leaders. If you enjoy spending

t i m e with young people in the ten to fourteen year age bracket, and are willing to commit to joining us on Wednesday evenings during term time please come along and see us at Upwell Methodist Church Hall between 6 and 8pm. Yes they are loud, yes they have opinions, but they are also looking to try out new things and have adventures.



Green Fingers Gardening Club

The mild weather over winter has seen our gardens get off to a fine start. Snowdrops & aconites flowered early and lasted a good while. Now it is the turn of the spring bulbs with the daffodils alongside the Well Creek putting on a lovely show. There is real warmth in the sun so it will soon be time to start vegetable growing. The club will be running a couple of growing competitions this year which should keep us busy.

We have already had a fine selection of speakers and some memorable talks this year - ranging from 'Opium in The Fens' through 'The Wildflowers of Greece' and 'The Sandringham Show' to 'From Farm to Fork' which involved a NFU representative talking us through some crops produced in this area. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at Upwell Methodist Church Hall. The talk on April 16th is on 'Hanging Baskets' to be followed, on May 21st, by a trip to Elgood's Brewery and Garden. These gatherings are nothing if not varied and social so feel free to join us if you share our love of plants and gardens. Further details can be obtained from Susie (01945 773576).

We are yet to decide on the charity we will be supporting this year but we will be fund raising at a Summer Fayre held at the home of one of our members on Saturday 20th July. (See advert on page 10)

Upwell Village Hall – Chairman's Annual Report

The Committee room was totally gutted and renovated during March/April 2018, with some work also being carried out in the gents' toilets. During this work, the heating suffered a major water loss from the system overnight, resulting in no heating to the main hall, so electric heaters were used to limited effect. Shelford Heating Engineers were tasked with locating the leak, which proved troublesome and the actual location of the leak was never found, only the section of pipework though a process of elimination. Shelford Heating were successful in reinstating heating to the main hall which is currently operational. The other issue which the Committee were aware of throughout the summer was a cracked oil storage tank. A second hand replacement tank was offered, but by the time this became available, and then discovered it could not be extracted from the site (although later the tank was successfully extracted by another person), both heating oil suppliers refused to fill the existing tank, although an initial fill by a new supplier was made due to the delivery being made in the dark and a second delivery resulted in only a one-off partial fill. Quotes were sought for a new tank, and deliberated by Upwell Parish Council as to who should be responsible for the replacement tank. Thankfully the Council agreed to pay for the new installation, which is currently awaited.

Upwell Village Hall continues to be a venue for regular weekly users, including dog obedience training, Ringcraft (dog showing) which has increased its usage, bowls and keep fit. There is also a healthy mix of monthly users. There are often enquiries for other users but unfortunately they often come to nothing due to lack of demand or interest. There are a number of vacant daily slots still available for hire.

By now the hall will enjoy the benefits of WiFi, which has been a long time coming, and it is appreciated that in some respects, the facilities at the hall have fallen behind its competitors. Unlike those competitors though, Upwell Village Hall does not have youth on its side, and past work on the

premises prior to Upwell Parish Council buying the Hall in most cases has been detrimental. Whilst improvements and renovations have been done in the past, made possible by the hard work and efforts of the various committee members over the years, major work is now required. This is to include a complete re-wire of the whole premises and new heating system of a type, or types, yet to be finalised but possibly oil combined with air source and solar panels to complement the energy requirements. The ladies toilets still desperately need renovation and the main hall needs a complete make over, to include possible removal of existing dark stained wood panelling which was installed to cover over work when the walls were damp proof injected, which was not really a successful cure. In fact, all areas of the building are in need of attention, and if a Committee still exists in the near future, then grant funding will be applied for, but by the time quotes, grant applications are made and awarded (if successful), it is realistic to expect nothing to happen until 2020, as the Hall will also have to be closed for some of the more essential work, and any closure period cannot be pre-determined at this point.

There appears to be a great deal of concern, and confusion, as to the responsibilities of both the Upwell Parish Council as owners, and the Upwell Village Hall committee, tasked with running the hall on behalf of the Council. Hopefully an amicable arrangement will be forthcoming.

I was hoping that this would be my last report as Chairman of the Upwell Village Hall Committee, but lack of members, and recent and potential future resignations of members has put me in the position where I feel I have no option but to remain on the Committee, and as chairman if it is wished, for the time being. With every Community Magazine I have offered an 'open invitation' to the community for new committee members, but quite obviously the community has no interest in Upwell Village Hall, or any other facility for that matter. It is a distinct possibility that the existing committee may fold due to lack of members, and the running of Upwell Village Hall will fall to the Council. I sincerely hope that doesn't happen.

Andrew

Upwell Hall News

In this edition of the Community Newsletter my AGM report as Chairman of Upwell Village Hall is included, which was submitted to Upwell Parish Council. We desperately need new fresh faces on Upwell Village Hall, to come up with new exciting fund raising ideas or give some time to help with some (not all) existing events or have some input & ideas into the future projects we have in mind. Without an increase in committee numbers, the current committee may well stand down as we feel that running Upwell Village Hall is something that should include the community, a community that doesn't seem to share that view unfortunately. The existing committee if it remains, have some major renovation & refurbishment work planned for the Hall as outlined in the AGM report, but we need your support to help make these projects a reality. It would be great if a new committee member (or two) could come on board who are knowledgeable & able to assist us in sourcing & having time

to apply for grant funding for the various projects, which the committee has decided should be done individually on the basis of priority. Just an increase of committee numbers generally would be very much appreciated by the existing committee, so do please give some thought & consideration to joining us, it's only about an hour & a half on the second Thursday of the month & isn't too formal although we do have an agenda of main issues to follow. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you that do support Upwell Village Hall with purchasing a 200 Club ticket or regularly attending events, or indeed being a part of one of the numerous user groups. All support helps to keep Upwell Village Hall going.





Cheers

Andrew Harrison (Upwell Hall Chairman), Ros Shorting (Manager and Secretary), Amanda Williams (Treasurer), Linda and Brian Carr, Pat Moat and Charles Martin

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UPWELL PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Reg charity 300425

Ros. Shorting – Secretary 11 Baptist Road, Upwell, Wisbech Cambs PE14 9EY Tele 01945 773604
email: rosdshorting@talktalk.net.

Our first event of the year was the Valentine Dance held at Upwell Hall on 16th February, with dancing to the Strollers and a buffet supper of sausage and chips provided by Rav's a very successful evening, all raffle prizes were donated and



balloons donated by Balloon print.

Fast approaching is the start of our carboot season on April 4th, we look forward to meeting new and old faces, prices remain the same £5 per pitch with refreshments, toilets and disabled parking/Blue badge holders on the field. Sellers



8am (although some arrive quite a bit earlier) buyers 9am. Dogs allowed on short leads.

Our first Horse and Pony Show is Easter Saturday 20th April first class inhand class is 9.30am and our inhand judge will be CAROLE BARTRAM, ridden classes not before 12noon and our ridden judge will be POLLY DREW. We will be holding some "fun classes" including Open fancy dress, best six legs. Rosettes 1st – 10th place with champion and reserve champion for both sections culminating in Supreme and Reserve Supreme. Sponsorship is always welcome £10 per class.

Our next big event will be our Weekend Event 6th and 7th July – Saturday 6th is **PARTY IN THE PARK**, live music, bbq – BRING YOUR OWN drinks in PLASTIC containers only or cans - **NO GLASS**, Tea, coffee available. Sunday 7th is our **SUMMER FAYRE** day, with vintage and classic vehicles, stalls, afternoon tea tent, Fenland Raptors, arena displays. **Bowls Club bar will be open – DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN -**

If you would like to be involved, need a stall form, or form for vehicle display, please contact Ros 01945 773604 or Christine 01945 774060. Raffle tickets will be on sale before the weekend, in local shops and with committee members. Raffle prizes welcome to Pat Moat on 01945 772257 To operate, as with all committees we struggle for members, we meet once a month throughout the year in the pavilion – usually on a Tuesday evening 7.30pm. If you have moved to the village recently and want to get involved in village life – come and join us. I am usually about most days particularly on a Thursday – at the pavilion come and have a chat.

AGM 15th April 7.30pm in the Pavilion –



Some of our events we need posts knocking in, items moving, but there is always tea, coffee and sometimes a bacon roll payment, and camaraderie!

Look forward to meeting you all again during the summer.





We are just over half way through the academic year yet have done so much and still have much more planned. Year 4 visited Hamerton Zoo where unfortunately we were defeated by the wind and rain and had to make a slightly earlier return back to school. Reception Class visited Downham Market to watch the lion dance as part of their Chinese new year topic. Year 5 became Historians for the day, when they visited West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village. They examined the evidence, 'talked' to the artefacts and posed questions to find out more. Year 6 took a trip to Norwich Castle to extend their learning about the Egyptians and the mummification process....and brought skills back to school so

they could mummify children and oranges.....!! Year 5 and 6 will be attending a residential at the end of the Spring term and I wonder which activity they will convince me to try this year. Last year I abseiled for the first time and really enjoyed it, but I wasn't so taken with the giant swing! Year 3 and 4 will be attending a school sleepover where they will qualify as dragon trainers. There is never a dull moment at Upwell Academy. Keeping children safe continues to be our absolute priority and we had a visit from the NSPCC. In support of this children wore green and brought in loose change totalling over £150. Thank you to our families who have been so generous. I would urge all families to share a short video clip with their children as it is a fun way to share a very serious message about keeping private parts private. Google 'Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus'. FOSA, our parent fundraiser group, is very active and planning many fun events for the children. On behalf of the school and

the children I would like to say a very big thank you to Hannah Dalgarno and her fabulous team who willingly volunteer their time.

I have been approached by residents in connection with the problems caused when parents park on the zig zag lines and this has been an on-going discussion with the Parish Council. Not only does this pose a risk to children but it also means that traffic cannot flow as there are very few passing points. Similarly, there is a lack of consideration for those who use the pathways with dogs being allowed to fowl on the pavement. This is unpleasant but can also be a health risk to children.

If you are starting to think about schools for younger children, or are moving to the area, please call to arrange an appointment to visit. I welcome the opportunity to show off the amazing work we are all doing.

Mrs Norman (Principal)
office@upa.eastern-mat.co.uk
 01945 773220



Upwell Gilbert and Sullivan Society
 Presents

Iolanthe




Thursday 11th, Friday 12th & Saturday 13th April 2019
 St. Andrews Methodist Church, Outwell, PE14 8TD
 7:30pm
 Adults £7.50 Children £4 Box Office: 01945 773070

The Iolanthe story, pitting a corps of fairies against the House of Peers, has delighted audiences since 1882, when it became the first G&S opera to have its premiere at the brand new Savoy Theatre. It ran for 398 performances, replete with sparkly wands, courtesy of that new-fangled discovery, electricity. Author and composer were at the peak of their creative powers, so it is no surprise that Iolanthe ranks as one of the duo's most popular collaborations.

Strephon, an Arcadian shepherd, wants to marry Phyllis, a Ward of Chancery. Phyllis does not know that Strephon is actually half fairy (his upper half — thankfully his legs are mortal!) and when she catches him kissing a young lady, she assumes the worst. But her "rival" turns out to be none other than Strephon's own mother, Iolanthe, who is a fairy — fairies, as you may know, never grow old, hence the misunderstanding. Meanwhile, Phyllis' guardian, the Lord Chancellor, and half the peers in the House of Lords are sighing after her. Soon the peers and the fairies are virtually at war with each other, and long established friendships become strained. Eventually all gets happily resolved, thanks to the Lord Chancellor who has a 'simple' solution. Direction is by John Hollands with Musical Direction by Pat Askew, both well experienced in matters G & S with many previous productions to their credit. An entertaining evening is assured. To reserve your seat - call 01945 773070 now!

website: upwellgands.weebly.com

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Statistic via ONS, 2010



OPEN GARDEN AND COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 20th July 10.30 to 12.30

At Rosebank, 72A Small Lode, Upwell

FREE ENTRY

Tea, coffee and cakes

Plant stall, cakes, books and a raffle

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHARITY

Middle Level Act

Background

The Middle Level Commissioners are the navigation authority for the Middle Level river system which comprises approximately 100 miles of navigable waterways in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

The legal framework which governs the Commissioners' navigation function was made up of a number of 18th and 19th century Acts which were considerably out of date and do not align with either the modern requirements of navigators or navigation authorities or the statutory framework applicable to other navigation authorities such as the Canals and River Trust and the Environment Agency. The old legislation which governed the Commissioners did not include adequate provision for the registration of vessels using the waterways or the levelling of charges for the use of waterways and associated facilities by recreational boats, nor was there any requirements for boats to be safe or insured.

The Commissioners had since 2016 been promoting a Private Bill through the House of Commons and the House of Lords and the Bill eventually received Royal Assent in November 2018. A copy of the new Act can be found by searching for Middle Level Act 2018 on the internet. The new Act contains provision on charging allowing the Middle Level Commissioners to properly regulate the navigation on the waterways and a system of registration for vessels using the waterways. These powers are akin to those used by the Canals and River Trust, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority and other large inland navigation authorities. Section 11 of the Act gives the Commissioners powers to make Byelaws in relation to the waterways and their banks for maintaining and improving the waterways for the purpose of recreation and leisure pursuits, for controlling the navigation of the waterways and regulate the conduct and activities of persons using the waterways.

With regard to the Byelaws, the Commissioners have now drafted a final set of Byelaws which will be going out to public consultation in the very near future. Following the consultation exercise, and consideration of any representations, the Byelaws will then be submitted to Defra for confirmation.

Under Section 3 of the Middle Level Act, the Commissioners must establish a body to be known as the Navigation Advisory Committee to advise the Commissioners on the exercise of their functions in respect of navigation under the Navigation Acts. This advisory committee is to consist of persons appointed by the

Commissioners, who appear to the Commissioners to be representative of :

- a. recreational motor boating interests in the waterways;
- b. the interests of individuals who use vessels on the waterways as their sole residence (including individuals who do not own or have access to a permanent mooring);
- c. other navigational interests in the waterways;
- d. any recreational users of the waterways and their banks;
- e. riparian owners in the Middle Level; and
- f. other local interest in the Middle Level

The Commissioners have written to various organisations inviting nominations from those groups for a representative to sit on the advisory committee and we are currently awaiting their responses which will be reported to the next Board meeting of the Commissioners. The Commissioners are also in discussion with the Environment Agency on the introduction of the registration system, and it may be the registration system will be done by the Environment Agency under contract with the Middle Level Commissioners in an arrangement similar to that exercised by the Cams Conservators.

The Commissioners are currently working to a timetable of introducing charging and registration in April 2020, but this timescale is dependent on the approval and confirmation of the Byelaws. The registration charges rates have yet to be developed but are likely to be aligned with those of the Environment Agency.

The Middle Level Commissioners have also committed to investing in provision of services for boaters and with the introduction of charging, will have a vested interest in helping to sustain a successful and thriving navigation community. The Middle Level Commissioners are looking forward to working with representatives of the Well Creek section of its system and it is hoped that the investment already made in the phased dredging of the Creek is an indication of the Commissioners' appreciation of the value and importance of this section of the system. If you are interested in progress on registration, byelaws and future plans, please keep an eye on our website www.middlelevel.gov.uk or follow us on twitter @mlcnavigation.

Lorna McShane
Solicitor and Assistant Clerk
Middle Level Commissioners
01354 602003
www.middlelevel.gov.uk

PRESS RELEASE

23-3-19

START

Wisbech to Upwell Tramway Project back on track

The trustees of the Well Creek Trust are delighted to report that a long term project to remember the former Wisbech to Upwell Tramway (made famous by the Thomas the Tank Engine stories) has recommenced thanks to the efforts of local volunteers.

Not only has local historian and retired Nestle Purina Engineer, William (Bill) Smith, managed to locate period railway materials needed to produce the memento he has specially designed for the old Upwell Depot site, but also March-based, SDM Fabrications have offered their services to help with transport and workshop facilities.

“It’s wonderful that this project can get going again thanks to Bill and SDM,” said Allan Gullon, Treasurer of the Trust.

“I have been receiving donations from local people who are all really keen to see this happen and due to the help offered by SDM we are now much closer to reaching the target of around £1500 that we need to complete the Upwell Memento”

The Trust, which was formed in 1970 and successfully rescued Well Creek from being used as a land-fill site to ensure its ‘survival for all time’ view the Wisbech to Upwell Tram Project as a similar and equally worthwhile venture.

The Project Team are applying for some grant funding to help hit the target sum required but if you would like to make a donation towards the project then cheques, made payable to Well Creek Trust, can be sent to Allan Gullon, Sylvia House, Thurlands Drove, Upwell, Wisbech, PE14 9AP.



Picture from the Bill Smith Collection courtesy John Francis showing Eric (Mike) Francis closing the Upwell Tram Yard gate for the final time 23 May 1966. Mike was the yard foreman and worked at the tram yard from 1951.



Fire & Rescue Service News

I start this month off with an update that has been a long time coming.

As of the end of March I will have a crew of 10 at Outwell Station, with two others going through the remaining process that, all being well, will then start with us by the end of June. This will technically give me a full complement of 12 crew members. I am however hoping to be able to gain an authority to recruit a 13th person to plug some predicted gaps in availability. As a result, for the first time in many years, we now have a waiting list for individuals who have applied or are in the process of applying, to join us. All successful applications I receive now will be held and remain valid for 12 month from the date they were completed and signed, and should any crew member have to leave for whatever reason then we would then back fill from that list. Apart from helping those final individuals pass their assessments, we now as a station have the task ahead to fill some vital skills gaps. I am the only Officer in Charge and I also only have 2 response drivers. As a result I am now in the process of helping several crew members through their driving process and also two others to start the long journey to become Incident Commanders, which takes a great deal of effort and dedication to achieve. Having said that so far I am being overwhelmed by the general effort and enthusiasm I am seeing week in and week out from all my crew. They are a credit to our community.

Our newest crew member, Ben Lanchester has successfully completed his fitness tests this week, meaning he will join us in early April to commence his pre Induction training. Well done Ben, you have done well.

Incidents have slowed down somewhat in this last month, which on the whole is good news. This has also meant we have been able to spend more time training our crew with all the skills required to use the equipment we carry on our appliance.

As you may have read during the last week on social media, we were asked to help ‘rescue’ a large wheelie bin from The Boat Basin, after some local youths thought it would be a good idea to throw several into the water. This is a waste of our time, but worse still could be putting them in danger doing silly things by open water. If you know these individuals, please urge them to act more responsibly.

Remember push the button not your luck. Get Out & Stay Out!!



Welle W.I had their A.G.M. in November when the committee and officers stood down and re-elections took place. The new committee for 2019 is :

President	Muriel Johns
Vice-President	Pauline Raynor
Secretary	Janet Roden
Treasurer	Kim MacLachlan
Events Co-ordinator	Cath Hirst
Publicity	Edna Hollands
Raffle/Facebook	Fiona Saul

So far this year we have had a talk on Acupuncture, a demonstration on flower arranging and sewing green hearts and a talk by a local author.

The first Speaker showed us the type of needles used in acupuncture; how they worked along with the various ‘ailments’ that could be treated. As usual an interesting and knowledgeable evening.

The second month gave the members a choice of making either a flower wreath or sewing a green heart for the

campaign “Show the Love’ protection of climate change. A very hilarious evening with some artistic flair.

Our third month gave us Sylvie Short, our local author, who gave us a very thought-provoking talk on her entry into book writing, along with copies of her various books to have a look at. Again, a very interesting and jolly evening.

Future meetings will include the members bag stamping and keep fit chair activity – both of which will no doubt cause some mirth during the evening. These will be followed by a talk on ‘Who Gets Granny’s Spoons?’ our cream tea event then another talk on ‘Murder, Sex and Mayhem’ with pudding and punch.

Not a member, but interested in any of the above? Not a problem come along as a guest, meet new people, make new friends and hopefully join our growing community. We look forward to meeting you all.

We meet at Upwell Village Hall on the first Monday of the month and start at 7.30pm

For any enquiries please contact our President Muriel Johns on 07809743805

Most people in Upwell will have seen the article in the Wisbech Standard about the estate being built in St Peters Rd, and the apparent delay it has taken to reach this point. However I think that it is relevant to comment on one of the points raised in that article. Probate is an estimation of the value of a persons total assets when they die. This includes cash, vehicles, personal items in the home, investments and all land and buildings. The values placed on the first four items are those realised from their sale which is usually soon after they die. Land and buildings valuations are much more difficult. The valuation is just that, a guide to the value of an item which could be sold at some future time. There is also an element of estimating what it might take to get that asset into a realisable state. It is also important for the executors to make the most from the asset. One resident of Upwell suggested that I should have sold off extra land with the house known as The Hollies and not bothered about trying to get planning permission. If I had done that, the value of the estate would have been much reduced. Also I believe that people in Upwell would then have been very unhappy with me, if planning permission had been obtained at a later stage and the estate and Trust not benefited from the increase in value.

In arranging for the site to have planning permission and then for the building of a roadway and all utilities as necessary, it was decided to form a limited company, trading as The Hollies (Upwell) Ltd. This separated the building site from the estate to ensure that the assets of the estate were safe and secure. Also any interest arising between the two would allow the Trust now being set up to show that it was in receipt of income to assist with charitable status. Whatever happens on the building site does not affect the money held by the estate. At the moment The Middle Level Drainage Board is attempting to force the plot owners to have far larger soakaways than is required for building regulations. As far as we can determine they are the only drainage board in the country attempting to impose this restriction. The company and various other interested parties are in discussions to decide what action should be taken. Any cost would be paid for by those interested parties and have no effect upon the assets of the estate and Trust.

It is hoped that the housing estate will be completed later this year and I believe that it will enhance the village of Upwell and will have provided the Village with considerable funds for the Charitable Trust.

The nature reserve is springing back into life and is being maintained by the Community Support Group

who also help out at the playing field. During my time controlling what has happened, I have basically arranged insurance cover for the site and minimal maintenance to keep it just ticking over. The time will shortly arrive when the nature reserve will be part of the Charitable Trust and at that time money will have to be spent on it to ensure that it is safe and accessible to all residents of Upwell. This will probably mean that a surface which will take wheelchairs and pushchairs will need to be laid on the path. There may well be seats needed for people to rest. All of these costs will come out of the funds of the charitable Trust. As the village jungle drums have been beating, I am sure that nearly everyone knows that Dr Paul Williams has agreed to be Chair of the Blunt Family Trust and that seven Trustees have been appointed. Charitable status will be sought in the near future. Although I commenced looking for a chair person for the Trust last year, it has been difficult to find someone in the village with the ability and knowledge of these matters to take on the running of the Trust. I am pleased and grateful that Paul has taken on the task. I am sure that he will receive the full support and backing of the residents. I offered to join the Trustees for one year to assist with the smooth hand over of the finances, and this has been accepted.

My time as Executor for Edie Blunt is now coming to a close, for which I am grateful. It has not been an easy task, and it is one which I was not aware of until she died. I was not asked in advance whether I would be prepared to take on the task. My connection with the Blunt family goes back to 1973. I arrived in Wisbech on 1st May 1973 and one of the early jobs passed on by a retiring partner at Stephenson Smart & Co in South Brink was that of the Blunt family. I soon met Mother, Jim and Edie, dealt with their various financial needs and often helped with their other tasks concerning orchard help and knowledge, putting them in contact with the necessary people whenever I could.

When Edie died I had the task of clearing the house, and have retained some photographs and a few other personal items. It is my intention to arrange these in a scrapbook, so that if anyone asks about the Blunt family in the future there will be a small record of them for people to read.

This should be my final report for the estate as most matters will be dealt with by The Blunt Family Trust in the future. If there is any matter of importance I will attempt to report it in the village news.

A D Davies
Executor

22 March 2019

Prevention is better than cure

Blog by Dr Paul Williams

Chair, West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group

Spring seems to have arrived and with it the end of one financial year and the start of the next. The good news is that it now looks likely the CCG will meet its financial target for this year, which is a significant achievement when one considers the scale of the deficit facing us at the end of last financial year.

The next year is a challenging one for us as we have been set a very tight financial target which will require us to save 4.2% of our total allocation, a difficult task. However, the year is also an exciting one.

Recently the NHS Long Term Plan was published; this plan comes with money attached to it and demands that the NHS transforms the way we deliver care. The main planks of the plan, as it affects you the patient, are that we are moving forward with plans to join up health and social care and that we will be altering the way we provide care so that we are more proactive rather than reactive.

I don't pretend I can summarise the huge document that is the NHS Long Term Plan in a few lines but I do want to single out two things to mention to you; population health management and primary care networks.

In the past patients would become unwell, consult their doctor and receive treatment or admission to hospital. Clearly we aren't going to stop treating you when you become unwell but what we are going to do is try to intervene to prevent you becoming unwell in the first place.

This isn't just an extension of health promotion advice, such as trying to stop people smoking or encouraging them to take more exercise but, through the use of improved technology, identifying individuals in the population who are at risk of becoming unwell and providing interventions for those individuals to prevent their condition from deteriorating. This is population health management in a nutshell and we have high hopes for it. It is a way to keep



you as well as possible at home rather than having an unnecessary admission to hospital.

Anyone who has read any of my previous articles will have heard about the plans for integration of health and social care. This is the fundamental idea behind the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and the Integrated Care System (ICS). The ICS has three levels, the lower two being place (West Norfolk) and neighbourhood (groups of GP practices). These neighbourhood organisations are being called primary care networks and are envisaged as the fundamental building blocks of the ICS. Each network will consist of a group of neighbouring GP practices, representatives of community nursing, mental health providers, voluntary organisations, social prescribers, secondary care representatives and social services.

By all these organisations sitting around the same virtual table it will allow care to be provided in a more seamless way, with barriers between the various organisations being broken down. With the data being provided by population health management, as described above, these networks of key workers on the ground will be able to intervene to keep our vulnerable patients as well as possible and in their own homes for as long as possible.

I have been hearing how we are going to transform the NHS for years and in reality very little has changed on the ground. I think things may be different this year and I really believe the way we provide care will be different this time next year. I don't expect to have reached our final destination by then but I hope we have made substantial strides on the journey.

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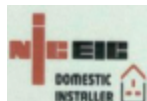
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AGM for THVH&PF on Tuesday 23rd April, 7.00pm at the hall. Nomination and Election of Trustee Committee Members. All welcome, we are keen to hear from people wishing to become trustees. For more details contact: Helen 01354 610316

NEW – THE PUDDING SOCIETY on Saturday 11th May, 7.30 to 10.30pm at the hall. Come along for an evening celebrating the glory of the pudding. Tickets £15pp to include a light 2 course meal followed by as much pudding, from a choice of 5, as you can manage. As well as entertainment and hosting from the Society's very own Pudding Master. For tickets and more information see www.tiffinely.com or call 01353 656785

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Sunday 14th APRIL 2019,
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(Here we go again)
(PG) 114 mins

The long-awaited sequel to the 2008 ABBA-themed movie musical has arrived - so dig out the bell bottoms and blue eye shadow and get ready to sing-a-long.

Sunday 12th May 2019,
2pm, The GREEN BOOK
(12a) 130 mins.

BAFTA & Golden Globe winning American biographical comedy-drama film directed by Peter Farrelly. Set in 1962, the film is inspired by the true story of a tour of the Deep South between African-American classical and jazz pianist Don Shirley (MahershalaAli) and Tony Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen), an Italian-American bouncer who served as Shirley's driver and bodyguard.

Sunday 9th June 2019, 2pm - Look out for more details.

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The Edith Blunt Family Trust

I am pleased to tell you all there has been considerable progress in the setting up of the Edith Blunt Family trust since the last newsletter.

A few weeks ago I was approached by Tony Davies and he asked me to consider becoming chair of the trustees and to aid him in selecting and appointing the other trustees. He freely admitted I was not the first person he had approached. I met with him and carefully questioned him on all the events that have led up to where we are and after careful consideration agreed to serve as chair, I had, like several other people, applied to become a trustee several years ago.

When Edith Blunt died Tony Davies, who had been her family's accountant for many years, discovered he had been appointed one of two executors for her estate. She had not asked him if he would serve in this capacity so the mantle was thrust upon him. The late George West was also appointed as an executor, however, George was unwell for several years before he passed away which left Tony carrying the brunt of the duties. I am now going to summarise the sequence of events that led us to where we are today as they have been recounted to me by Tony Davies.

When Tony was valuing the estate to put it through probate he took into account the maximum value of the land, assuming planning permission for building 7 houses on the land. Therefore the estimate, disclosed at that time of £1.1million, already included income from the sale of house and building plots. By setting the probate value at the highest reasonable level Tony minimised the capital gains tax exposure of the trust thereby maintaining the value of the trust to the village. Tony has already applied twice to the Charity Commission to register the trust as a charity but was told he could not do that until the trust had an income. The bulk of the capital of the trust has been obtained from the sale of the house and land. Tony could have put just two plots on the front but that would have meant the additional land at the back would not add much to the capital. In order to use the land at the back of the Hollies for building, an access road was needed. The original position suggested was vetoed by the county councils highways department. To place it in its current position the estate needed to use some land that was owned by an adjoining landowner. It was therefore decided to work with adjoining landowners to open up more land for additional building plots and to create better access. This meant the cost of the access road was less for the estate, as it was shared with other parties; also to recompense the estate for

the use of its land to reach the new plots on adjoining land the trust has received a percentage of the sale price of all the plots.

Tony and the other parties formed a company to build the road and sell the plots. The estate loaned money to the new company at a reasonable rate of interest and has had to wait for the plots to all be sold to get the income from the loan and sales. All the plots have now been sold and so the trust now has an income and can therefore reapply for charitable status, which will, of course, mean it will not have to pay tax on the income. I felt it was very important that the board of trustees represent a broad spectrum of residents of the village, therefore I invited all the people that I was informed had applied to come for interview by myself and Tony. I invited 15 people and 11 people agreed to attend for the interview. Those interviews have now taken place and I can now announce who the initial seven trustees will be.

They are:

Dr Paul Williams, chair,
Mr Tony Davies, for 1st year only,
Mr Charles Martin,
Mr John Richardson,
Ms Haidee Norman,
Mrs Ros Shorting,
Mr Nigel Carter.

I hope you will all agree this is a good mix of Upwell residents and I am sure the group will fairly administer the trust in the coming years.

By the time this article is published we will have had our first meeting when we will be drawing up the aims of the charity and finalising the mechanism for people to apply for grants. I will update you in future Upwell Parish Newsletters. **Paul Williams**



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Bill Pugh	773129
Chris Robinson	07836 606098
Jon Schultz	07860 483578
Ros Shorting	773604

Your Borough Councillors Are:
David Pope 01945 773054
Vivienne Spikings 01945 772248

Your County Councillor Is:
Harry Humphrey 01945 430539

Clerk:

Kate Bennett
upwellpc@googlemail.com

Voicemail number:
01945 592747

Facebook Page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
search/upwell+parish/](https://www.facebook.com/search/upwell+parish/)

keywords search

Website

Check out our
website:

www.upwellparish.com

Twitter: @upwellparish

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service Needs You!!



Outwell Fire Station - Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service

Have you ever thought of joining a highly trained and respected team that responds to emergency calls and protects your local community?

If so then please either contact myself, for an initial chat using the details below, or visit us on a Wednesday evening at Outwell Fire Station, Churchfield Rd, Outwell, PE14 8RL. Alternatively please use the link below to register your interest:-

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/norfolk-fire-and-rescue-service/recruitment/becoming-a-retained-firefighter>

To be eligible you will need to:

- Live, work or both within approximately 5 minutes of Outwell Fire Station.
- Be willing & able to respond to emergency calls at short notice during agreed periods.
- Be available to attend weekly drill periods on Wednesday evenings (times may vary depending on the training need).

In return you will:

- Become an employed & fully qualified Retained (On-Call) Fire-Fighter.
- Receive a regular monthly income, holiday pay & the ability to join the pension scheme.
- Receive nationally accredited training.

• Become part of a highly trained team who protect the community.

Applications welcome from all walks of life, male or female and who are at least 18 yrs. old.

WM Glen Gates Mob: 07946331359 Email: glen.gates@fire.norfolk.gov.uk



Upwell Parish Council

Meeting Dates For 2019

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will take place at Upwell Village Hall. 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

Full Council 7.00 p.m.

May 7th - AGM

June 3rd (Three Holes VH)

July 1st

August 5th