

# Community Magazine

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## Coronavirus Pandemic

We hope that everyone is keeping safe. The Covid-19 pandemic has had and continues to have huge implications to many aspects of life. It is important to remember that the pandemic is not over and there is a continuing risk of coronavirus outbreaks in the community. The important messages are to continue to follow the social distancing guidelines from the government and take as many precautions as possible. Specifically:

- try to stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with (or anyone not in your support bubble)
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Unless you have breathing difficulties or are a child under 3 you should wear a face covering in all places where it is hard to remain a safe distance away from other people. This includes shops, hospitals, GP practices, public transport etc.

*The surgery would also respectfully ask patients not to enter the surgery building unless you have already been asked to by the surgery team. Again, this is to minimise the risk of covid-19 infection to both patients and staff.*

## Flu Season

With winter approaching, we are of course nearing the 'flu season. By the time you read this we will be booking and possibly vaccinating people against the influenza virus. Because of the pandemic the way we deliver the vaccine will be quite different this year as we need to maintain social distancing and keep everybody as safe. You will not be able to attend a flu clinic without making an appointment first. You will need to book an appointment at the surgery and arrive no more than 5 minutes before your appointment time.

**We will be running flu clinics on some Saturdays and during the week during October and November. Please do not attend unless you have an appointment.**

Please note that people in the 50-64-year old age group (who would not have been eligible in previous years for a flu vaccine) will **not** be vaccinated until November and December, providing there is sufficient vaccine, and no appointments will be offered for this age group until then. This is to ensure that those who are most at risk are vaccinated first. If you are 50-64 and you are in one of the other groups which is eligible for the flu vaccination, for example you have a health condition which puts you at risk from the flu, you will be able to obtain a flu vaccine earlier.

## Finally...

If you can, please follow us on Facebook. This is a great way to keep up to date with what is happening in the practice including flu clinic information and helpful health advice.

We can be found at [www.facebook.com/UpwellHealthCentre](https://www.facebook.com/UpwellHealthCentre)  
Best wishes, stay safe, remember the pandemic is not over.

**The team at Upwell Health Centre**



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

What an extraordinary year this has been. The ramifications of the microscopic virus spreading through the world have been like the “ripples” of an asteroid landing in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Locally we have been quite lucky in that the virus has never been rampant in our community and at the time of writing there isn't a single case of Covid-19 in any hospital in Norfolk. However, the

effects on our way of life here in the parish of Upwell have been enormous; it has affected all age groups and will be a significant memory for the whole population for years to come. At the height of lockdown our relatively quiet streets were deserted and we all only ventured out once a week, if at all. Then we all developed a passion for exercise and it was lovely to see couples and family groups walking and cycling through the villages; conversations, socially distanced of course, were occurring between people who hadn't seen each other for a long time.

Our clubs and community facilities were closed and are now only just reopening. Children have been out of school since March with only a few getting the opportunity to return in June. Their exams were cancelled and we have all just lived through the chaos and stress of the A level and GCSE results debacle. Those of us with teenagers off to university or college will be anxious that their first year away will be a very strange one where they may miss out on a lot of the softer benefits of further education. Businesses have been closed and have been struggling to remain viable; many parishioners will have been furloughed or may even have lost their jobs. Amongst it all community spirit has shone through with volunteers helping the old and vulnerable with their shopping and medicines delivery.

At the parish council we also were affected by the virus. Our monthly meetings moved online via Zoom which was an interesting experience for us all! We did manage one meeting back in the main hall of Upwell hall in June but it was decided

at that stage not to re-open the hall and it was difficult to hear everyone in the large hall with masks on so we have been back on Zoom again in August. We did hold an open-air meeting in the village hall garden recently. That was an extraordinary meeting to decide what the future relationship between the parish council, who currently own the hall, and the people who actually run the hall, would be. There was an excellent turn out from members of the public at the meeting and we had an excellent discussion about the best way forward. It was agreed at the meeting that for the the long-term future of the hall it would be transferred to a charity to operate. This would enable the hall to access grant aid from a much broader range of sources than is currently available. However, it was also noted that in the immediate aftermath of the covid-19 crisis grant aid may be thin on the ground. Therefore, it was agreed by a large majority that the council would get the hall into a better state prior to the transfer; notably with a full rewiring and renewal of the heating system. We are now getting moving on those things so watch this space.

I know there has been a lot of public concern about the closing of the Five Bells public house following its enforced closure due to covid-19. The parish council received several comments from the public that it should intervene about this. The Five Bells is of course a private business and the parish council has no authority to intervene in the running of any business in the parish. I have spoken to the owner and he has informed me that the pub was operating at a loss prior to the crisis and the loss of revenue since March proved too much of a financial burden. The good news is that although it is no longer a public house it is still operating as a private function venue and therefore will still bring economic benefits to the parish although we have lost a well-liked local eating and drinking venue.

This magazine is due for publication in September. I hope that when you read this, things will have continued to improve and that our children are back in school and many more parishioners are back in work. Let us hope the winter does not prove a difficult time for us and that 2021 will be a better year.

Dr Paul Williams

## POSSIBLE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Nothing is certain these days but we are hoping to stage a Christmas Craft Fair at Upwell Hall over the weekend of:  
**October 31st / November 1st**

The current plan is to stage the craft fair over two days with **different** crafters present on each day. Admission would be the same as usual but would get you a two day ticket so you could still see all the craft stalls over the weekend for no extra cost. There would of course be Covid-19 safeguards in place throughout the weekend.

So put the dates on your calendar now and look out for further information online and around the village.

## Blunt Trust Update - August 2020

Since the last update in the spring a lot has happened for the trust, especially around the nature walk in the old orchard we are developing between St.Peter's Road and Stonehouse Road.

**Firstly** on the orchard front. In the spring it became obvious that a lot of work was going to be needed to make the orchard fit for purpose. We have been employing a local contractor to clear the overgrown vegetation and to heavily prune the old trees to remove the dead and dying wood. The result has been a much more open, in fact too open, orchard. We have had the long-awaited path laid through the orchard and are currently arranging for the installation of some benches and picnic tables in various parts of the walk. In the autumn we will start planting some new trees, hedging, fruit bushes and shrubs. We are hoping that by the spring we can officially open the walk to the general public. We are especially keen that the orchard is used as an educational resource by the local schools and children's

clubs and societies and we are considering erecting a small educational centre in one part of the orchard.

**Secondly**, we have received several applications for grants since the last update. We have been able to help Upwell Bowls Club with a grant to help them buy a new mower for the bowling green and we are currently working with Upwell Playing Field Committee to help them complete the long term project they have had to get a fully functional pavilion including changing rooms and disabled access finished.

**Thirdly**, we have started to receive applications for small educational grants to help our children going to college and university.

We are currently setting up a website where local people can see what we are doing and get easy access to application forms and notes to help them apply for grants from the trust.

Dr Paul Williams

## Our New Parish Clerk – Melanie Hilton

We normally would have introduced our new Parish Clerk ages ago but like so many things at the moment, this magazine was put on hold for a while and so finally we can say 'hello' to Melanie who became Upwell Parish Clerk on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019!

A keen interest in local community events led to her taking on the position of Upwell Parish Clerk, where Melanie has used her skills from previously being a finance officer at Marshland High School to administer her Clerk responsibilities. With the council's support she is currently studying for her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).

Melanie is certainly 'local' having been brought up in Gorefield before moving to Wisbech, Emneth and then to

Outwell about 2 years ago, where they are converting an old apple store.

Melanie says that she loves being part of a village community and on a personal level she believes that maintaining our roads and getting the speed limits adhered to are two of the most important things.

As well as her Parish Clerk duties and not forgetting the apple store, Melanie has two daughters, one studying Psychology at University and her youngest at College studying Childcare. Melanie enjoys music and watching a good period drama, although we may suggest she tries Doctor Dolittle as Melanie has a small gang of mostly rescued animals. At last count there are 3 Labradors, 4 cats, geese, chickens, 2 ponies and a goat! A menagerie indeed!

Christine Aston



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## Join the Great British September Clean

We still need you to be part of the pick

**11 - 27  
SEPTEMBER 2020**

Register your support [keepbritaintidy.org](http://keepbritaintidy.org)  
**#GBSpringClean**

Keep Britain Tidy is a registered Charity No. 5271737



*Tackling litter is an absolute priority, and never before has it been so important for our community to come together to take part in this amazing campaign. We know that taking part in community action has positive effects on our mental health and, right now, anything we can do to unite British citizens and empower communities to make a difference during these uncertain times is so important. Right now, a lot of things are uncertain, but our passion for tackling litter and our love for the environment will not falter. Thank you for your help to unite communities and ignite passion in others for protecting the beautiful environment we share.*

*Kind regards,  
Keep Britain Tidy.*





# Fun dog show

@ Upwell Playing Field, New Road,  
Upwell, Wisbech, Cambs PE14 9AB

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Booking in from **11am**

judging from 12noon –

20 fun classes £1.50 per class.

Judge Mrs Hilary Cox.

Rosettes 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Place, Best in Show

**NO BITCHES IN SEASON**

UPWELL PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE - CHARITY REG 300425  
CONTACT ROS 01945 773604, LIZ 01945 773466

## UPWELL PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Registered charity: 300425

### FUN DOG SHOW

Name of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Dogs name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**NO BITCHES IN SEASON**  
Dog is fully vaccinated YES/NO: Microchipped....YES/NO: D.O.B.....

Please circle class you wish to enter. - **£1.50 PER CLASS.**

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Best puppy 12months and under.     | 2 Prettiest bitch                    |
| 3 Handsome dog                       | 4 Veteran 8 years +                  |
| 5 Best rescue/rehomed.               | 6 Waggiest tail/Bottom               |
| 7 Scruffiest dog – Male/Female       | 8 Young handler – 12 yrs and under   |
| 9 Young handler 13 – 19yrs           | 10 Best trick                        |
| 11 Best small breed                  | 12 Best Large breed                  |
| 13 Best pair                         | 14 Fancy dress – open                |
| 15 Dog Judge would like to take home | 16 Most appealing eyes.              |
| 17 Best 6 legs                       | 18 Best mover.                       |
| 19 Best visiting dog over 20 miles   | 20 Best visiting dog under 20 miles. |

ALL first place winners go forward to BEST IN SHOW,

Anyone competing under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult to sign. – Judges decision is final.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### Little Sunshines Preschool

The setting presents inspirational indoor and outdoor spaces to encourage and captivate young minds. All areas are furnished with toys and equipment made from natural and recyclable materials where staff follow an 'the moment' ethos following the childrens' interest.

Little Sunshines Preschool has been open for almost a year and from September are looking forward to opening a breakfast club for the pre-school children. Open from 7.45am-9.00am during term time with breakfast and professional qualified care for £4.50.

From October, Little Sunshines will be opening a much-needed toddler group in the area with lots of exciting ideas for parents and and children to socialize within a safe, covid-19 secure environment. Please keep a look out for more details on the social media pages.

The Preschool has provision for up to 20 children from ages 2 to 4 years and is open Monday to Friday, 7.45am till 3pm term time only.

Please feel free to follow our progress on Facebook and Instagram and if you should wish to make an inquiry please do so via either, email: [LittleSunshines.upwell@gmail.com](mailto:LittleSunshines.upwell@gmail.com) or tel: 07903 068464

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

AT PRESENT (early September) IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE PERMITTED, COME NOVEMBER, AND WHETHER THE CEREMONY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL AT 10.45 a.m. CAN BE HELD.

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CLOSER TO THE TIME ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE AND NOTICEBOARDS.



## Green Fingers Gardening Club



Lockdown in March saw the abandonment of our monthly meetings which are yet to resume. Nevertheless, despite the havoc wreaked by Covid-19, the natural world has pressed on regardless. On bike rides around Upwell, Outwell & Emneth, I have seen each season emerge, develop & move imperceptibly into the next. The changes were reflected in the myriad of gardens I passed. March & April brought the spring bulbs with daffodils, bluebells and tulips in abundance. As May gave way to June, blossom appeared on many trees & bushes. The perfume and flowers of Wisteria were particularly noticeable. Through the summer, we have all been treated

to a fine display of roses and annual bedding. Many people have had more time to devote to gardening so there has been a lot to look at and the necessary dead-heading has been done, extending the season further. Many plants continued to flower despite the strong winds and rain that arrived towards the end of August. Now we are in September, colourful dahlias are giving a fine show. The days are shortening, plants like sweet peas are producing fewer flowers and the leaves are turning on the trees. We have the colours & fruits of autumn to come.

Several of us from Green Fingers were hoping to go to this year's Chelsea Flower Show which, along with so many things, was cancelled. Still, there's always next year - Coronavirus permitting.

Stay safe & well ....

## The Farming Year 2019-20

Hi Everybody,

Another year has passed, where does the time go? The 2019 cereal harvest turned out fairly well, so they tell me, as well as potatoes and sugar beet, but some onion crops were not so good as we had had some very hot weather. Then, when farmers wanted to start drilling winter cereals, the weather changed, the rain started and carried on, apart from odd days when some farmers managed to get some drilling done. So anybody who drilled early probably did alright as things turned out.

The wet weather continued on till well into the new year. In the spring it started to become dryer but it was too late to drill winter cereals so they had to drill spring cereals or some other crop. The dry weather continued and it became very hot in April, so spring sown wheat, barley, sugar beet and some vegetables began to suffer as did the strawberries and some early potatoes. Then we had some late frosts in May that affected some crops a bit, but they seemed to get over it and grow on.

When we started lifting early potatoes, digging carrots and picking strawberries in late May the hot weather continued, so the land became very dry and hard in some places. You could see the effects of this as you went about the area, especially on heavier soils where crops were suffering through lack of rain.

Then we have had to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic and going into lockdown. Many shops and cafes closed down, meaning dairy farmers were having to pour milk down the drain and with restaurants and fish and chip shops

closed the potato trade was affected. With people panic buying, some foods became short in supermarkets and toilet rolls sold out. Why toilet rolls? Some people must have sheds full. In spite of all this we managed to get by.

Then, just in time for some produce but a little late for some of the spring sown crops, in early June we had a downpour over three days and nights. My rain gauge recorded 94mm in all. There was so much water it was level with the ridges where the potatoes were growing. You could not walk on the land, let alone get anything out of the ground for a day or two. It spoiled a lot of my strawberries and some veg but it helped a lot of other things. The weather settled down and it became dryer again but then the heat started to build up and just as harvest started we had some record high temperatures.

According to the farming press in some parts of the country the cereal harvest is very light but I believe the Fens have fared better and other produce such as potatoes, onions and sugar beet don't look too bad. I saw a news clip on Anglia news one night where they were vining peas for freezing, but due to the heat the peas were going over so quickly that a lot weren't good enough, for all that they were working 24 hours a day.

Strange weather we are having. At the time of writing we have strong to gale force winds blowing, which is unusual for this time of the year. I suppose it's down to global warming, as everything seems to be put down to that. I just wonder what autumn and winter have in store for us.

Regards Keith

# Swans



The appearance of cygnets could not have been timed any better. The new arrival of the young swans came in March - six hatched at new bridge and eight down March river side. They have been enjoyed by many throughout the village. The concern and care surrounding the conversations on social media has encapsulated the sense of community which seems to be a shining light through these difficult times. It is thoroughly heart-warming to witness so many ensuring the safety of these magnificent, graceful creatures. It seems that despite the natural predatory dangers of the Welle Creek, both families have managed to beat the odds and the pike! What an entertaining addition to the parish they have been. In late May, I was stopped in my car by the family of eight as they were sat in the road along St Peter's Road. I waited for ten minutes whilst a neighbour safely coaxed them back onto the bank. Usually, such a

disruption to my day would not be well received. However, in this instance I was amused and could not help but think how lucky we are to have such lovely wildlife in the parish. Swans are precious, protected birds and for good reason. As one of the largest flying birds and the largest member of the waterfowl family there are only four surviving species of swan in the UK and six species throughout the world. The biggest threats to swans are human persecution from egg vandalism and our changing climate. More extreme weather is thought to disrupt migration patterns and feeding habitats. Luckily for us, cygnets can stay with their parents for up to a year, so we should have many more months to enjoy the abundance of swans in the parish.

Meggan Mercer



## Over the Limit

The speed limit through most of Upwell is 30 mph, not that that seems to be a concern to at least half the drivers travelling through the village. The data from the SAM camera that flashes the speed (to a cut off point) when it is approached by a speeding vehicle is recorded and sent to the Police.

A few statistics from various recent locations:

- Town Street opposite Ransomes Close: between 52.1 and 59.2% of vehicles were speeding, average in excess of 35 mph.
- Opposite the Methodist Church, unsurprisingly, roughly the same information was recorded.
- Pious Drove near the telephone exchange: a lower percentage of speeding vehicles, between 12.8 and 18.9%, but travelling at a higher average speed, 39 – 40 mph.
- Lowside: an even lower percentage of speeders, 4.7 – 8.8%, travelling at just under or at 40 mph.
- There are also some even higher and very dangerous speeds recorded.

What does all this tell us? There are drivers out there who don't care what happens when they are behind the wheel. This is what RoSPA has to say on the subject:

***Around two-thirds of crashes in which people are killed or injured occur on roads with a speed limit of 30 mph or less. At 30mph, vehicles are travelling at 44 feet (about 3 car lengths) each second. One blink and the driver may fail to see the early warning brake lights; a short glance away and the movement of a child behind a parked car will be missed. Even in good conditions, the difference in stopping distance between 30 mph and 35 mph is an extra 21 feet or 6.4 metres, more than 2 car lengths. An analysis of vehicle speed in pedestrian fatalities in Great Britain, found that 85% of pedestrians killed when struck by cars or car-derived vans, died in collision that occurred at impact speeds below 40mph, 45% at less than 30 mph and 5% at speeds below 20 mph.*** (RoSPA fact sheet: ***Inappropriate Speed*** is available on the Parish Council website)

Do you want to be responsible for a serious or fatal injury to a pedestrian? There's a simple way to avoid it.

Prue Lester



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Upwell Parish Council



**To Rent Garden Allotments**

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

Rent is £7.50 per year

Call for more information

**Tel. 01945 592747**



# UPWELL PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Reg charity 300425

*Ros. Shorting – Secretary* 11 Baptist Road, Upwell, Wisbech Cambs PE14 9EY Tele 01945 773604  
email: [upfc@talktalk.net](mailto:upfc@talktalk.net)

It has been an odd year for us all but gradually we are getting back to some form of normal.

As the Government relaxed the rules, we have been able to have our Thursday morning **Car Boot Sales** re-start, although with social distancing and sanitized regulations in place! However, this has been very well received and we had more than 40 sellers on our first Thursday. We are doing refreshments but no indoor sitting and all orders are taken at a distance.

And just to let you know, we wash all the money that we receive and give you 'clean' money if you need change!



Our **Horse & Pony Shows** also re-started with the first in July. Once again with social distancing and sanitised regulations applied. It went very well and was well subscribed. By the time you read this the August show would also have taken place. The last show for this strange year will be on September 19<sup>th</sup>. We have not been able to run our usual membership so there will not be a presentation evening this year.

Please can we stress that although we do have notices placed around the field and pavilion, we need you to comply with social distancing at the Car Boot Sales and the Horse & Pony Shows as we need to keep us all safe.

In addition we have been running **Virtual Horse Shows** and this has been so successful that we plan to continue with these as well as the 'live' shows. Our first Virtual Show was actually picked up by The Heavy Horse Herald, a worldwide magazine! Please see our Facebook pages and our website for details of all our events.



*Yes, we have a web site! Take a look at*

*<https://www.upwellplayingfield.co.uk> as this will give information about us and any events that we may have planned.*

*I am pleased to say that our **children's play area** is open but responsibility for pre-cleaning the equipment before your child (or any child you are responsible for) uses it, is down to you so*

*please bring your own wipes and place them in the bins provided after use.*

*Lastly but by no means least, we welcome **football** back on the field with Upwell Town F.C. now playing regularly and training on Tuesday evenings. Please contact Alex Lynn for details (07585 606073) or see their Facebook page.*

Please bear with us as we are doing our best to sort through the Government regulations and all the amendments that keep occurring to keep our supporters and field users (and ourselves!) as safe as we can.

*We always value your ongoing support, especially in these strange times.*

**Christine Aston**  
**Chair UPFC**



# FIRE SERVICE NEWS



## ***Outwell Fire Station - Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service***

I hope this update finds you and your loved ones all fit and well, and finding ways through this current situation that we all find ourselves in.

As you can imagine, like all of you around us, life as we knew it has changed in many ways for us at Outwell Station, with current guidance from Public Health England, to protect us and our community. Some of these changes include that, to maintain station availability and prevent the risk of the whole station becoming ill and subsequently unavailable, we have, where possible, split the crew up into two groups, to train separately. During this time of social distancing, we are also responding to incidents with a max crew of 5 instead of our usual 8, which although not ideal for the initial response to some incidents, does help protect us all.

At present, all but imperative training courses including offsite training have all been cancelled until further notice, once again to prevent the spread of Covid, and potentially have a worse impact on cover across Norfolk.

However, as you can imagine, we have not been idle but instead finding new ways to maintain both our knowledge and practical skills, which is working well as a whole, whilst also providing us with new opportunities to learn.

Within Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service we have so far been lucky compared to previous predictions, with only a very minimal number of colleagues affected either directly or indirectly. At Outwell Station we have luckily had no cases amongst our crew or our families. However we did have one crew member who had to self-isolate due to previously having close contact with a confirmed case. However he was confirmed as ok himself.

To maintain strategic availability at core stations during current Covid conditions, I have been seconded to Thetford Wholtime Station since early April, to provide consistent availability and officer skills that they have been lacking recently. How long this will last for is still unclear.



Although this current move has taken me away from Outwell more than usual, we have been able to maintain some availability to protect our community as a whole with Matt Crawley, my Crew Manager, being able to book available in my absence as our second OIC. He is in the final stages of building a house nearby and has just come to us permanently from West Walton.

Between us, we shall be able to give an improved availability to our community just as we have in previous years. Welcome to the team Matt.

As mentioned with current training conditions and limitations, we have managed to continue training for our development crew, and as a result can confirm that FF Duncan Perham has development stage, to become competent in role, and both Keith Game and also Ollie Skeels have also completed their initial assessments, having passed their Gateway 1 process. Well done all.

During these strange and unsettling times, and current spells of hot weather, we have attended numerous incidents, including property fires and also fires in the open, most of which could have been prevented with a bit more planning and control measures put in place before ignition to prevent fire spread.

We have attended a fire in a kitchen where a single parent put some food on the hob, before taking a sleeping tablet and falling asleep, with a toddler asleep in another room. Luckily a neighbour heard her smoke alarm and dialled 999 to get help on the way. Luckily with quick interventions and some medical treatment both occupants were fine.

Now that busier times have resumed, more shops and businesses are open, and the fact that the roads are getting busier and busier each week, means the traffic is more congested. Please try to plan your journeys, drive to arrive and try not to put yourselves or others at risk, especially at a time where our resources are already stretched, whilst attending so many fires in the open.

In the coming weeks, as restrictions are hopefully lifted, you will start to see us out and about locally and training within our community again. Please feel free to say hello as usual, but please whilst some restrictions are in place, please protect yourselves and us by maintaining social distancing.

At present we have a waiting list of applicants to join us at Outwell Station, as a result we are currently not actively seeking further applicants unless able to provide near 24/7 cover for us.

Watch Manager Glen Gates





## Upwell Hall Update

The last six months have been a very significant period for Upwell Hall. Along with so many other facilities and businesses the hall was forced to close in March due to the covid-19 situation. The hall has had no new income since that time and initially we were denied a borough council administered government grant which meant we had to come to the parish council for financial support. Fortunately, since then the government have changed their guidelines and we have been awarded the same grant as other community facilities in the parish.

However, the hall committee were very disappointed with the level of support the parish council gave the hall; this on a background of many years where the hall committee felt the council had been avoiding its financial responsibilities as the owner of the hall. As a result of this the parish council decided to have an extraordinary council meeting to finally decide what the long-term relationship of the hall and the council should be. This meeting took place on August 10th in the open air at the hall garden.

In advance of the meeting the hall committee decided to raise public awareness about the hall and its predicament and arranged for posts on social media and a leaflet drop to households in the village of Upwell. As a result of this publicity campaign the council received a lot of emails from parishioners supporting the hall and there was a good turn out from the public at the extraordinary council meeting. At the meeting the public were given a chance to speak and each councillor gave their personal views on what should happen. After a good debate the following resolution was passed:

***The council agree to pass the hall to a charity but to remain as custodian trustees. However, before that can take place the hall needs to be brought up to a better standard. The council agree to fund the re-wiring and the replacement of the central heating, hopefully with***

***additional grant aid from WREN. On an ongoing basis the council will hire the hall, and any other community facilities it uses in the parish, on the same terms as any other hirer. The council recognises that there are other community facilities in the parish that need support and agree that they will support ALL of these fairly, including Upwell Hall and Playing Field and Three Holes Hall and Playing Field, on an ongoing basis on top of any immediate investment in Upwell Hall consequent upon this proposal.***

I think it is very helpful that a clear position has now been agreed and we have clear objectives to work towards. Last financial year the hall committee had set aside some monies for the renovation of the ladies' toilets in the hall and also to improve the appearance of the frontage of the hall. Both these jobs have been done during the lockdown period and when we reopen, hopefully at the start of September, you will all be able to see the great improvement in the toilets and the new raised beds that are being installed on the newly paved area along New Road.

Finally, just a word about reopening. The restrictions that have been imposed to try to prevent an upsurge in cases of the virus mean that when we reopen the capacity of the hall will be reduced to a maximum of 50 people. It is vital that people wear masks in the building and maintain good social distancing and follow the one-way system and toilet restrictions we have put in place. All event organisers are going to make sure the people using the hall during their hire follow these guidelines and the national guidelines that have been laid down for the type of activity being engaged in. Hand sanitiser is being provided for users to avail themselves of.

Dr Paul Williams



Starting back again on Monday 14th September we have a Brand new Beginners Ballroom and Latin Class at 7.30pm so come along and learn something new whilst having lots of fun. This is followed by a Level 2 class continuing on from the Beginners, adding additional steps to give you more variety in your dancing.

New for Upwell we also have some classes on Wednesdays from the 16th September. We have a 45 mins Fitsteps class at 6.30pm. Its a dance fitness class suitable for all and gives you a chance to learn lots of dance steps, keeping fit in the process. Its based on Ballroom & Latin and includes other genres too. We also have a Stroll/Line Dance class for everyone to come along with no partner and have some fun learning and dancing Strolls and line dances to a variety of music and socialise with friends and meet new ones. This class is 7.30pm-8.15pm. All classes are £6 per person and must be pre-booked as places are limited due to social distancing guidelines.



**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ**

1. How many sides has a 20 pence piece?
2. How many players are there in a baseball team?
3. What is the capital of Peru?
4. Which group had a best-selling album called 'The Joshua Tree'?
5. Which English county's emblem is an imp?
6. Who was the second wife of Henry VIII?
7. What was the capital of England before London?
8. In which Irish county is Connemara?
9. Which river flows through Chester?
10. In which year did the Munich Olympics take place?
11. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
12. The Bahamas lie off the coast of which US State?
13. Who is the lead singer of Simply Red?
14. What is the aniseed flavoured alcoholic drink of Greece?
15. Which Queen was married to Prince Albert?
16. Which fictional hero was born on Krypton?
17. Who is the patron saint of motorists?
18. What is the name for the oriental art of paper folding?
19. What is the capital of Malta?
20. What can be upside down, ginger or Dundee?
21. Who created Paddington Bear?
22. Which is the longest river in the UK?
23. Who was Labour leader before Tony Blair?
24. Which actor played Captain Mainwaring in 'Dad's Army'?
25. Aquamarine is the birth stone of which month?



August Supreme champion Emma Scotney with judges Charlotte Cooper and Frankie Ayers



Poppy Ireland Fancy Dress Winner



Upwell Town Playing in red shirts against Terrington 1st winning 8-6





As with many people in the country, we are starting the new academic year with a considerable degree of uncertainty. Will there be a local lockdown? Will we be able to keep the school open? Will we return to a more normal state of affairs? There are many unknowns but what I do know is that we can't wait to welcome

children and families back to Upwell Academy. They have been amazing during lockdown but teachers are ready to return to face to face teaching – after all it is what they do best. Miss Ellington and her team are also keen to develop outdoor learning, both by growing things in our school garden but also enhancing their learning through outdoor activities. This will benefit the children, especially those who need a more hands on approach to their



learning.

Unfortunately, our Year 6's didn't have the end of year celebrations which we would traditionally hold. They have been an amazing group of children throughout their time at Upwell and we will all miss them greatly. However, I know that they will approach their start at secondary school with positivity and determination to continue their successful learning journey.

We have a number of new families joining us this year and of course our youngest children will be joining our 'Hoglets' class. Mrs Fisher and her team have been preparing the rooms ready for them and they look amazing! Each child will receive a personalised Hoglet which will be their reading buddy for a year. What a great idea. We also welcome two new teachers to our academy, Miss Kirk and Miss Riches.

We continue to benefit from being part of the Eastern Multi Academy Trust and now it is time for years 3 and 4 to directly benefit. During the summer break their toilet facilities have been completely refurbished and it looks good – very fresh.

On Friday 11th September we will be celebrating Roald Dahl Day and children (and staff) are welcome to attend school in fancy dress and lessons will be themed. We will also finally launch our reading bus and sensory garden. It has taken a year but we are very excited to start using these newly developed areas.

FOSA (parent fundraising group) have also been affected during lockdown as they have been unable to fundraise, which is how they are able to fund activities and purchases for the children. However, one avenue of income for them has been through Easy Fundraising. If you regularly shop online it is so easy to use and

many online retailers such as Ebay and Amazon are part of this fundraising scheme. They simply pay a percentage of your spend to the Upwell Academy cause. Please sign up and search for 'Upwell Academy' either through their website or APP. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

I would like to say a huge thank you to my staff who worked



tirelessly throughout lockdown either at home supporting Home Learning, or by ensuring that we were able to support as many children in school as we could. I know that as a community we will all continue to observe social distancing and government guidelines to ensure that Upwell continues to be a safe place to be and that the academy is able to remain open to all children. I wish you all continued good health. Stay safe.

**Haidee Norman – Principal at Upwell Academy**



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# Three Holes Village Hall & Playing Field

Charity no. 304483

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[www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk](http://www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk)

**I wrote my last article on the first day of the Coronavirus lockdown and, looking back, it's hard to comprehend how much has changed for everyone since then.**

The village hall at Three Holes has continued to be closed but I am delighted to say we have recently had our first post-lockdown pilot event with local Women's Institute Federation members - held to Covid-19 Secure Guidelines of course!



*Nationally, the W.I has issued its members with guidelines and Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) has issued guidelines for village halls and community groups, see <https://acre.org.uk/rural-issues/providing-advice-and-guidance-to-help-groups.php>*

*This photo' shows the Covid-19 secure layout used for the recent W.I pilot event at our village hall.*

Thanks to the Government's decision to issue Small Business Grants during lockdown, THVH&PF received £10,000 and this has meant that the charity can continue to meet the ongoing, overhead costs required to maintain the village hall and playing field despite not receiving usual income through bookings and fund raising. It has also allowed the committee to invest in materials and implement procedures etc required to meet the Covid-19 health and safety guidelines. For example, we have invested in an electric mister/fogger machine that enables us to disinfect all surfaces (hard and soft) in just a few minutes. Disinfecting upholstery and curtains etc would have been almost impossible without this device and the hall would, most likely, have had to remain closed.

By law, some types of bookings are still not permitted (e.g. private parties) but, as Government and National Governing Bodies of sports and other organisations are now publishing Covid-19 Secure Guidelines, some pre-existing and some new hirers are working with us to plan how they can start bookings for their activities from October. Look out for more details of Three Holes Short May Bowls Club, the Saturday Bingo and the Friday Auction. Also aiming to start-up at our hall in October is the new Little Sunshines Toddler Group.

For more details of how to book Three Holes Village Hall please contact Helen on 01354 610316 or go to [www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk](http://www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk)





**12th Wisbech**  
(Upwell and Outwell)



## Scouting in Lock Down

**On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 the 12<sup>th</sup> Wisbech, Upwell and Outwell scout troop received the news from HQ that due to coronavirus and in line with government policy all scouting activities both inside and out were to cease until further notice.**

For scout groups across the country who meet weekly and positively encourage team-work through group activities, this was of course a massive blow. But you can never keep a good scout down and creativeness and ingenuity are qualities that scouting encourages, so after a few weeks of preparation it was not long before, like many other organisations trying to operate during lockdown, scouting went virtual.

It was a bit of a change when Akela, instead of appearing live on a Wednesday night at Upwell Methodist Church began appearing in pre-recorded videos (with his children acting as camera crew) being broadcast over the internet via the group's Facebook page for the pack to view. We had a fantastic response from both the



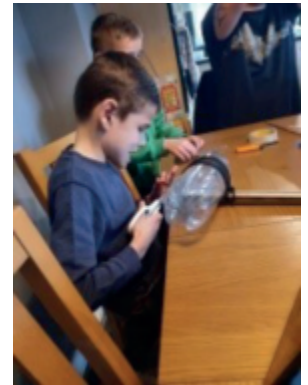
kids and their parents and were soon back completing lots and lots of badges. Obviously with kids working from home some of the activities had to adjust but cubs it appears are great at adjusting. One of the first challenges set was raft building to go toward the cub's adventure challenge badge and while this would usually take place with oil drums and pioneering poles next to a river or lake, instead the kids built mini rafts out of milk bottles and sticks and tested them in buckets, bath tubs, paddling pools and hot tubs.

We also set the cubs a tracking challenge and while those with enough space outdoors and access to the usual sticks and stones completed this challenge in a more conventional scouting method, those who did not were encouraged to create their tracks out of the things they found at home and laid their tracks around their houses for their parents or siblings to follow.

Badge work also included the artists badge with some cubs making Easter cards, some making models out of Lego, clay or recyclables and others designing their own masks or book covers,

with kids choosing their own activities at home the variety was endless.

The cubs also completed their entertainers badge with the aim of cheering everyone up whilst in lock down. The kids completed this badge by recording their performances at home and then uploading them to the group's Facebook page for the rest of the pack to see. This badge work even took Akela aback, with the pack revealing many hidden talents with magic tricks, puppet shows, musical performances, dances and skits.



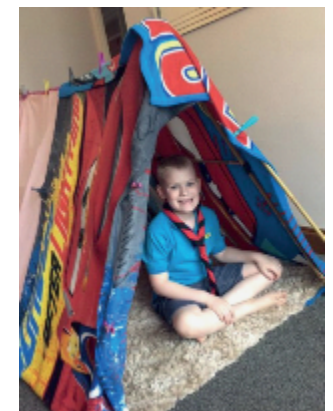
The parental response to us carrying out the Home help badge during lock down was unsurprisingly great, with the cubs having to cook meals for them, do washing and ironing, cleaning round the house and changing and making their own beds.

Obviously a massive part of scouting is camping and with lock down rules in place all camps were cancelled. With the camp season starting and lots of camp-based badges to be earned, the virtual camp was born. We took part in our first virtual camp at the end of April and joined a world wide effort started by Northumberland scout group to create a world record for the biggest ever virtual camp. We joined over 84,000 other scouting members from across 67 countries in a night of camping. For our part the members of the group set up their own camp or den (either inside their house or out in the garden), designed their own camp flag and made a flagpole to fly it, cooked their own camp meal and took part in a virtual campfire which we broadcast live over the internet.

We have since taken part in a national virtual camp in July and most recently an Olympic-themed Fenland District virtual camp which saw almost all of the groups in Fenland participating in various challenges and competitions over a weekend to earn points for their troop. I am very pleased to say that not only did one of our cubs win the competition to design the camp badge for the event but also the 12<sup>th</sup> Wisbech Upwell and Outwell troop earned the most points over the weekend and took the overall gold medal.

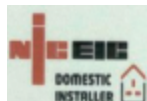
Lock down has been a challenge for everyone but scouting has always been about overcoming challenges and so scouting has adapted and will continue, virtually for now, until we can meet again.

**Akela**



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  5. Lincolnshire
  6. Anne Boleyn
  7. Winchester
  8. County Galway
  9. River Dee
  10. 1972
  11. Leonardo Da Vinci
  12. Florida
  13. Mick Hucknall
  14. Ouzo
  15. Queen Victoria
  16. Superman
  17. St Christopher
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  20. Cake
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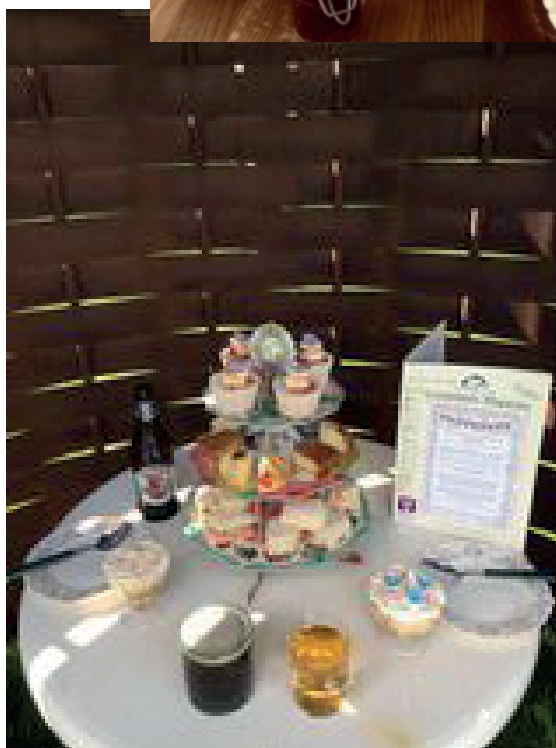
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## VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations 2020

Our village celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day were cancelled. We were able to publish our special edition of the community magazine containing parishioners' memories of the event in 1945. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those involved. The special edition was enjoyed by many and we have received some lovely feedback. This did not stop us from celebrating safely from our own gardens on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, in our 'stay at home' street parties. It was fabulous to see the pictures and the effort households has gone to. It was especially lovely to see the assortment of bunting in windows and on fences through out the parish - they went well with the rainbow artwork already painting the villages with colour. We made the best of a difficult situation and I think we did it with style! Here are some pictures of the celebrations

**Meggan Mercer**



### On the day in 1945.....

I recently had a telephone conversation with an old Upwell native, Kenneth Frusher who grew up at Thurlands Drove, now living in Macclesfield.

He told me on this day in 1945 pretty much the entire Upwell population gathered in the centre of the village to celebrate the end of the war. He was with a chap called Ralph Woolner who also lived at Thurlands. He told me his father, Ernie Frusher the Upwell Baptist lay preacher, was given a really important task.

Opposite St Peter's church gates, an old wooden boat was filled with straw and sticking out from the straw was a post containing a picture of Adolph Hitler. At precisely 2100 hrs Mr Frusher set light to the straw to great cheers from the populous. The village continued to celebrate late into the evening, no doubt consuming a few bevies from the local pubs.

**Bill Smith**

**UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Summary of Receipts & Payments**  
**year ending 31st March 2020**

2018 2019		2019 2020
£		£
	<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	
36030	Precept	37,310
996	Council Tax Support Grant	456
15278	Allotments - Agricultural & Garden	21797
2544	Cemetery	11375
6482	Village Hall recharges	6711
0	Insurance	1410
7	Bank interest*	10
3920	Adverts/Newsletter	3550
259	Recharges (training, salt for grit bin)	100
7520	Grants	2880
1130	Donations	3350
3450	PPS funding	0
250	Miscellaneous	0
3760	VAT	5595
<b>81626</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>94544</b>
	*£10 interest on gratuity acct.	
	<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>	
9035	Clerk Salary	12814
180	Payroll	165
428	Expenses	1242
397	Audit fees	402
214	Stationery	0
3728	Bank/Loans	3716
7020	Agricultural land	7020
548	Garden Allotments	240
8296	Parks and open spaces	3939
1515	Cemetery (grass cutting)	3438
823	BCKLWN	2176
11833	Village Hall	11865
567	Security	427
62	Training	270
787	British Telecom & TalkTalk	300
2298	Street lights	2408
2184	Insurance	2466
20	S137 payments	20
250	Donations	100
2205	Advertising/Newsletter	2866
456	Subscriptions	781
10587	Highways	206
8545	Neighbourhood Plan	3620
420	War Memorial	43
1738	Car park at playing field	20
300	Car park Townley Close	1738
1799	Other	0
6228	VAT	2473
<b>82463</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>64755</b>
40858	Opening Balance	40021
81626	Plus total receipts	94544
82463	Less Total Payments	64755
<b><u>40021</u></b>	<b>Total transferred to Annual Return</b>	<b><u>69810</u></b>
	<b>Represented by</b>	
37732	Unity Trust Account 20281171 - Tailored account	67188
2289	Unity Trust Account 20281184 - Tailored deposit	2622
204	Fixed Interest Bond - United Trust 20087975	12101
0	Unpresented cheques	0
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## Three Holes Village Hall & Playing Field

Charity no. 304483

Junction of Main Rd & Squires Drove, Three Holes, PE14 9JY

[www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk](http://www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk)

Thanks to an award from the BCKL&WN Small Grant fund the village hall at Three Holes is getting a make-over before its post-lockdown re-opening.

At the beginning of this year, the trustee committee of the Three Holes Village Hall & Playing Field charity decided that the hall was looking a bit tired. Although the facilities were of a good standard and in good order it had been nearly ten years since the hall had last been painted. Things were beginning to look grubby in places and regular users were remarking upon it.

The trustees applied via the Norfolk Community Foundation for a Borough Council King's Lynn & West Norfolk grant just before lock-down started in March and were delighted when news of the award came through at the end of May. The BCKL&WN had agreed to pay one third of the cost of the re-painting work.

*"This was wonderful news for the charity but, as we were worried that we might not be able to re-open due to the pandemic, we decided to wait" said Geoff Fox-Noble, Treasurer, "Now that we are getting ready to open the doors again we decided to get on with the painting."*



**Upwell Parish Council**

### Meeting Dates For 2020

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.**

**October 5th**

**November 2nd**

**December 7th**