

Winter 2020



Upwell Parish Council



Photo: Ros Shorting

Community Magazine

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Upwell Parish Council
Christmas Lights Competition

Decorate your house with Christmas lights for the chance to win a trophy for 2021

Home and Business Categories
Judging to take place the evening of the 18th December

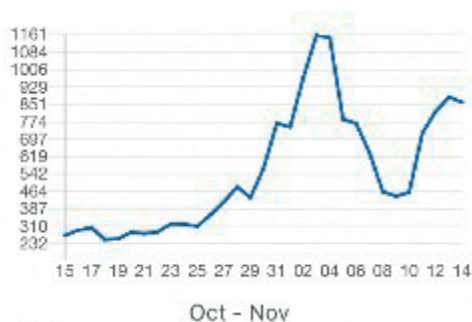
No need to enter- all houses in the parish will be judged



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I write this article we are about half way through the month-long lock down the government has imposed upon us. Although our part of the country has not been as badly affected as some areas we too have experienced an increase in cases in recent weeks. The graph here shows the estimated number of Covid infections in our council borough for the last month. As you can see even here cases increased by about 5 times over about two

weeks leading up to the lockdown, I hope that, by the time you read this, the graph will be showing a good drop in case numbers.



What this should tell us though is that just because we are lucky here not to be too badly affected, we must follow the rules to help keep it that way. Several of our more vulnerable parishioners have contacted the council to complain that because many local people and local stores have not been following the rules, they are feeling afraid to go out and to shop in local stores. Please remember to wear a mask when in shops, even local convenience stores, give people space, two metres if possible, even when out in the open air, and regularly wash your hands and use hand sanitiser.

The way some of our residents have been ignoring the new rules is indicative, of what I think I have perceived in recent years, of a reduced concern for others in the community from a small minority of the population. This is exemplified by the increased amount of unpicked-up dog mess on our streets and the reckless driving in the evenings and nights, especially along the river. The electronic speed sign that the parish council, thanks to a keen local volunteer, moves around the parish actually records the speed of vehicles. What that has shown is that, although the vast majority of drivers are at or around the speed limit, there is a small minority of people who drive at excessive speeds well above the limit, especially after dark. I would like to call upon all our parishioners to consider the effect their actions, or inactions, have on their fellow residents and turn over a new leaf as we enter 2021.

One part of the village that has experienced the effects of poor driving more than most is the stretch of Town Street just north of Church Bridge. As you will all know a car went through the fence there into the river quite a few months ago now. Since then I believe two more cars and a motor

bike have gone through the same gap. On first inspection you wouldn't think that stretch of road a particularly dangerous one, the curve is modest, the main road actually turns left there over the bridge and there is a constant stream of traffic from Three Holes turning onto Town Street at the junction; on top of that there are often parked cars in the area and a concentration of shops; all these factors should ensure cars drive more carefully at that point. Again can I urge you all to be aware the stretch is dangerous and to drive accordingly.

I have seen a lot of talk on local internet chat sites and have had many conversations with parishioners about the length of time it is taking to get the fence repaired there. Firstly, I want to assure you all that the parish council has been on the case from the time of the first accident. The problem is the fact there is dispute about who is responsible for the fence. The river side is the responsibility of the Middle Level Commissioners, the highway verge and pavement is looked after by the County Council highways department. Neither of these bodies erected the fence and neither will take over the responsibility for maintaining it. It was constructed before I came to the village and I am told it was built as a result of the actions of a local benefactor. Some years ago the parish council funded Andrew Harrison to replace some of the cross pieces, in the Upwell section of the fence, that had fallen out, with wooden substitute cross pieces; this explains why the state of the fence in Outwell is worse than that in Upwell. This was done to improve the aesthetics of the village rather than an indication of the council taking on the financial responsibility for the fence. To get back to the current problem Norfolk Highways agreed to repair the fence but only because the section damaged is alongside a public footpath and they feel it is important that a physical barrier exists to prevent pedestrians falling into the river. The problem that has caused the excessive delay is that current health and safety regulations and concerns mean the contractor will have to safeguard workers not only from traffic on Town Street but also from falling into the Well Creek. The initial estimates for the health and safety precautions needed were all well in excess of the actual costs of repairing the fence. There have been high level discussions between the county council and the contractor and I am pleased to tell you that I understand agreement has now been reached and the work will shortly be scheduled, hopefully, it may have started before you read this.

Finally I just want to mention Christmas. This year we may have to celebrate in smaller groups than is usual. Hopefully, the government will be able to relax the rules a little to allow families to get together if only just for Christmas Day. If not I am sure we will still make the best of it. This year the council is reinstating the awarding of cups for the best decorated houses and businesses in the parish, judging will take place on December 18th. This is advertised on the front page of this magazine and on our website. In any case please accept my, and Upwell Parish Council's, best wishes for a happy Christmas and a better new year.

Dr Paul Williams

Upwell and Outwell Age Concern Luncheon Club

The members and volunteers of our lunch club have been very disappointed that, like everyone else during these difficult times, they have not been able to meet since the Spring. We had hoped that we could run regular Covid 19 secure coffee and cake sessions during September but these were also put on hold when regulations limited us to six people.

Instead we have been keeping in touch by phone and weekly newsletters containing a few conundrums, quizzes to keep the 'little grey cells' occupied and some jokes to coax the odd smile.

We will be back as soon as we are allowed and new members will be very welcome. In the meantime, if you would like to know more, or even just like a copy of our newsletter or bumper Christmas quizzes don't hesitate to contact Pearl Willcox on 01945 773566 or me, Jackie Scotten, on 07584 735805.



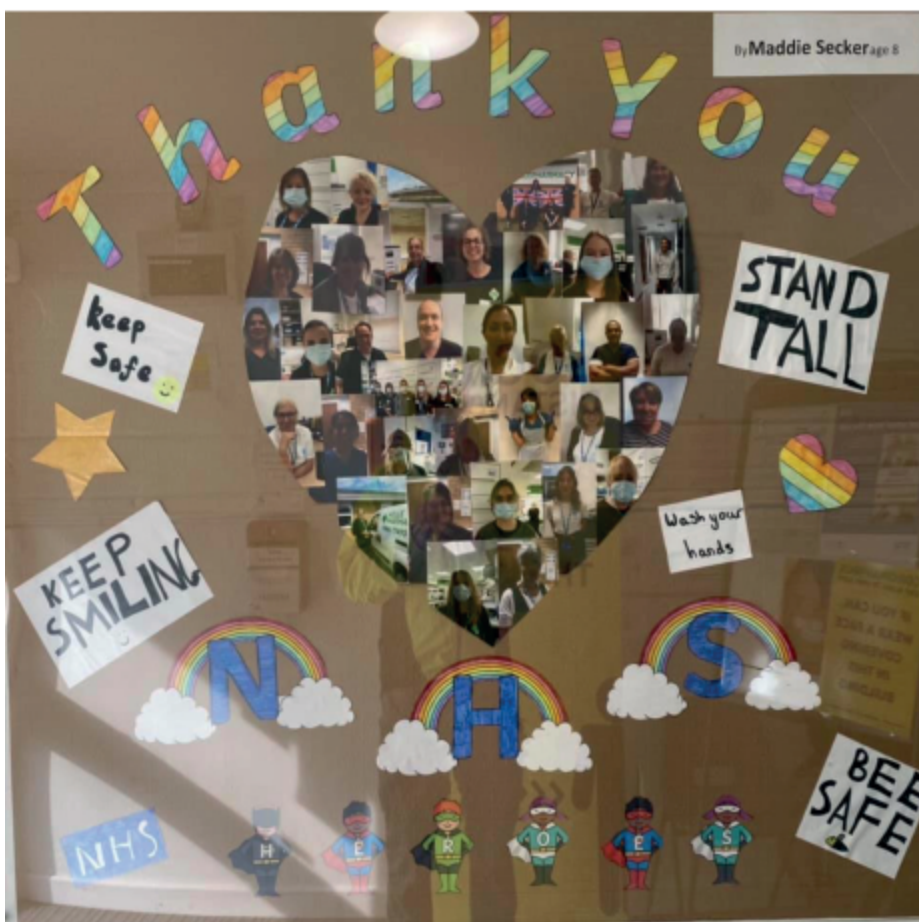
UPWELL (NORFOLK)

DOLE CHARITIES

(For those living in the former Norfolk part of the Parish only)

DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS THE TRUSTEES HAVE REGRETTABLY MADE THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE 2020 DOLE DISTRIBUTION

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Clerk
07799762175



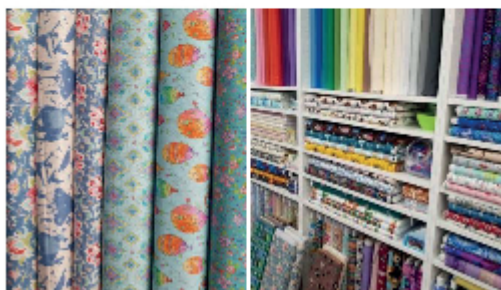
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Upwell Hall Update

Upwell Hall had managed to re-open in September with new Covid rules and although we couldn't have parties and music performance events we were able to start providing a venue for valuable community activities such as the Friendship Club for the elderly, pilates to help fitness, dance classes and indoor bowls as well as being a venue for meetings and training for local businesses. Unfortunately the new lockdown has meant we are closed again but the vaccine news in recent days has at least given us a light at the end of the tunnel.

We have started looking for contractors to start the work bringing the hall into the 21st century. We have got good contractors interested in the electrical and heating work but we are still a bit short of builders interested in doing the construction remedial work we need doing. If you own, or know of, a local building firm who may be interested please email us on upwellhall@gmail.com.

We are in need of a new hall manager. We advertised through Facebook in September and appointed a new manager but unfortunately his circumstances changed and he had to withdraw after appointment. We are therefore in the process of re-advertising. There is a job advert in this magazine which gives full details on what is involved and how to apply. However, I want to take this opportunity to explain a little about the post in case you may be interested. The hall manager acts as the main point of contact for potential hirers, receives monies and passes them to the treasurer, is the line manager and holiday relief for the cleaner, is generally responsible for the day to day running of the hall and attends hall committee meetings to report to the parish council group that runs the hall on behalf of the parish council. The parish council own the hall and the manager is an employee of the parish council. The post is remunerated with a flat salary and the current manager estimates it takes up about 30 hours a month. Please see the full advert opposite for more details. A full job description can be obtained from the parish clerk, upwellpc@gmail.com, to whom all applications should be addressed.

Let us hope 2021 is a better year for us all and that the hall can fully re-open and resume its life as a hub of the community.

UPWELL CEMETERY

As many of you will know Upwell Parish Council took over the running of the cemetery, which is owned by the Borough Council, a few years ago. Since then a group of councillors have taken an interest in the running of the cemetery and several local volunteers have been helping manage the site.

Currently the Parish Council receives the income from the fees payable to use the cemetery and uses that income to maintain the site. We have appointed a local person to act as a gardener with some regular hours to keep the cemetery in good order. Earlier this year we became aware that a lot of people had started using the cemetery and the adjacent allotments as a short cut between St.Peter's Road and Stonehouse Road, and some allotment users were accessing their allotments through the cemetery. Several relatives of people at rest in the cemetery expressed concern that it was disrespectful for the cemetery to

**UPWELL HALL,
6 NEW ROAD, UPWELL**

**There is a vacancy for the position
of Hall Manager – must live locally.**

£300 per month

Duties to include:

- Meet and greet potential hirers.
- Take bookings, make sure diary up to date, collect deposits, invoice hirers, and collect fees, issue receipts.
- Pass any fees to treasurer with breakdown of income fortnightly/monthly.
- Liaise with cleaner and be a relief cleaner when required, this includes using a buffer machine.
- Arrange access to hall for tradesmen.
- Arrange access for hirers, collect security deposits and arrange return of keys and security deposits, particularly weekend bookings.
- Attend and present a monthly report to the hall committee.
- Liaise with the web page and Facebook administrators, advertise events for the hall, display any posters for hirers in the notice boards.
- Check heating oil regularly and order when required.
- You will be paid a flat monthly wage in arrears by the Parish Council via BACS.
- Salary to include hours, and any associated costs for administration.
- Be responsible for re-setting alarm when activated and allowing your contact telephone number to be used for the automatic dialler.

**Please contact Parish Clerk by email for full job description
and to apply in writing quoting relevant experience
(references will be required):
upwellpc@gmail.com**

be used in this way. The council had a site meeting there on a wet Saturday morning and agreed with this point of view. It was decided that a fence should be erected to separate the cemetery from the allotments. This has now been erected and in due course a hedge will be planted in front of the fence. There is a gate in the fence which is exclusively there for the use of the grave diggers so they can deposit the spoil from their work in the allotment area from where it will be easier to remove. We have become aware that some people are attempting to climb the fence to keep using the route as a thoroughfare. Please do not do this. The opening of the walk through the orchard referred to in the Blunt Trust update elsewhere in this newsletter provides an alternative walk-through for people.

Dr Paul Williams



Green Fingers Gardening Club

The Club is yet to resume but our gardens have put on a show regardless. From the daffodils dancing along the Well Creek, through Wisteria flowering in Croft Road to marigolds shining out in New Bridge Road, every flower has brought pleasure

Way back BC (Before Corona), Daisy had suggested that we commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Susie, our Chairman, was commissioned to buy a tree & a plaque. The virus struck & everything

was put on hold. Early in November, Susie & a few others gathered at Upwell War Memorial to get the tree planted before the worst of the winter weather (pictured below - it is a crab apple, Malus 'Royalty'). We hope to have a Club gathering around it next year; possibly on the 76th anniversary of VE Day - fingers crossed. In the meantime, the photo will give an idea of how it looks & you can view it informally if passing the War Memorial.

We hope that you have managed to stay well in these unprecedented times. Annus horribilis indeed but at least we have had time to devote to our gardens. Christmas will no doubt be different too but, with luck, vaccines will soon be available. Till then, stay safe and hope for normality of sorts in 2021.

***** CHRISTMAS GREETINGS and HAPPY NEW YEAR *****

20 December	10:30am Christmas themed service at the Methodist Church Upwell
24 Christmas Eve	11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion at St Peter's Upwell
25 Christmas Day	10:00am Holy Communion at St Clements Outwell 10:30am Christmas Service at the Methodist Church Upwell

Please look out for details of other services



Blunt Trust Update

I thought I would start this month's update with a reminder of how we came about and what we are here for.

When Edith Blunt died in 2012 she left all her estate to be made into a trust for the benefit of the village of Upwell. It took several years for the estate to be turned into cash, and even now we do not have the whole value of the legacy in our bank account. However, the Trust has been operating for over a year and we achieved charitable status in the Spring. We are currently in the process of setting up a website and I will give you all the details once that has been completed. Part of Edith's wishes was that the old orchard she owned behind her house, which links St.Peter's Road with Stonehouse Road, should be turned into a **nature walk** for local people to enjoy. We have been hard at work making that safe and accessible for most of this year. We have a lot of planting going on there at the moment; we had a volunteer session in October when daffodil bulbs were planted by a large group of volunteers along both sides of the path for the full length of the orchard. By the time you read this I am hoping we will have planted over 600 trees as hedging along both sides of the orchard as well as some new fruit trees and fruit bushes in the orchard itself. We have agreed a right of way across some land at the Stonehouse Road end of the orchard which allows people to use the walk as a connection between the two roads. We plan to tarmac a section of the car park at the St.Peter's Road end of the orchard to allow disabled people in wheelchairs to get easy access to the walk.

We have been able to make a substantial donation in excess of £90,000 to **Upwell Playing Field**. The committee there have been struggling for years to build a new pavilion and although

they had raised and spent substantial sums and made excellent progress they were stalled with no changing rooms and showers installed and no access for the disabled to the car park and pavilion. The Trustees looked carefully at the Playing Field's application and after a site meeting agreed to fund the remaining money they needed to complete the project. As I write this the work on surfacing the car park and creating the disabled access is underway, the work on the changing rooms is nearly completed. This is great news for the community as the playing field is a fantastic asset for the village.

We have also made our first two **educational grants**. One of our aims is to make it easier for local people to access further education. We have agreed to make a donation of £500 toward general expenses to successful applicants and to give up to £1000 towards agreed equipment needed. One of the people we made an award to wrote us a letter and below is an extract:

We hope learning of these awards will encourage more of our young people, and older ones wanting to further their education, to apply to us in the future.

We also made a substantial grant to the **Upwell Bowls Club** for them to buy a new mower to allow them to keep their lawn in peak condition.

To remind you the Trustees are Dr Paul Williams, John Richardson, Tony Davies, Charles Martin, Ros Shorting, Nigel Carter and Haidee Norman. You can contact any of us for details about how to make an application. Once the website is live you will be able to access application forms and application advice there.

Dr Paul Williams

I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in the trust committee. I am extremely grateful for the support you have provided me in the form of financial aid towards my studies. This has given me the opportunity to be able to participate fully in all aspects of my course and to help achieve my future goals. With the financial aid provided I was able to buy essential equipment needed to complete my course.

I think it is fantastic that there are funds available for people within our village, who need support with furthering their education but do not always have the means to do so. My future goal is to eventually get my bachelor's degree and be able to give back to my local area. With your help I know I am one step closer to achieving this.

Hi there from Lakesend Village Hall

My name is Willow Dines, chairperson of Lakesend Village Hall Committee

First, we would like to apologize for the lack of communication from us, the committee of Lakesend Village Hall. I became chairperson in January and unfortunately, COVID-19 happened.

During this tough time of COVID-19, we have been unable to organise any events for the hall. However, we would like your suggestions for potential events at our hall - it would be helpful if you could factor-in social-distancing and other COVID-19 requirements with your suggestions.

Contact email is lakes.end.villagehall@mail.co.uk.

Behind the scenes, we have been working with Freebridge Community Housing, Cllr. Colin Rose and Upwell Parish Council to get drainage sorted out for residents of Hurst

Crescent, Lakesend. Requests have also been put to UK Power Networks to cut a tree opposite Cock Fen Road and to the Community Pay Back team to help with the Hall grounds. We have had a quote from CGM to have them use agricultural machinery on the grounds.

We have seats for additional members for our committee and we are looking for a range of ages (18+) to join us. Ideally, members must be approachable, friendly, have a sense of humour and be available for meetings. Anyone who is interested can send me an email or ring me on 07942506760.

A community meeting has been set up on Zoom for 18th December at 7pm. For details, please ring/email me. Anyone unable to join this meeting but wishing to participate/know more please do get in touch.

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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

Parish Clerk, Melanie Hilton: 07368 420237

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

By the time you receive this edition of the Parish Magazine, we should (and I use that term with all hope) be out of the second period of lockdown. Regardless we carry on as best we can and for the Playing Field that means our successful on-line competitions. Earlier we held an **on-line Fun Dog Show** via our Facebook page and it was very successful. All entries received a rosette. Our thanks go to Hilary Cox for agreeing to judge all the categories.

The winners were –

Class	Winner	Owner
Best Puppy	Kevin	Poppy Bell
Prettiest Bitch	Amber	Denise Kay
Handsome Dog	Buster	Little Ewe Farm
Veteran	Maisie	Emma Drew
Rescue/re-home	Marley	Ali Wiles
Scruffiest	Archie	Stephanie Thorpe
Small Breed	Morris	Andy Lister
Large Breed	Ebonni	Little Ewe Farm
Matched Pair	Isla & Bonnie	Little Ewe Farm
Fancy Dress	Ernie	Rachael Hartwell
One Judge would like to take home	Ernie	Rachael Hartwell
Appealing Eyes	Kimmi	Denise Kay
Best 6 Legs	Merlin	Gabriella Whitcombe
Best Friends	Freddie & Woody	Joanne Walker
Gone but not Forgotten	Ben	Susan Evans
Best in Show	Isla & Bonnie	Little Ewe Farm



And here are Isla and Bonnie

You have probably noticed all the ground works carried out on the smaller first carpark and down toward the pavilion? This was necessary drainage works in readiness for our new

car park surfaces which will give much better disabled access. Our thanks go to all our supporters and in particular to The Blunt Trust for supporting us in this project.

*Christine Aston
Chair UPFC*

The police will never...



Contact you to ask for your PIN or bank details



Ask to withdraw cash to hand over to them for safe-keeping



Ask you transfer money out of your account for fraud reasons



Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINs, or cards



POSTPONED 160 CLUB DRAW

THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD

Due to the Covid lockdown and restrictions, the final 2019-20 160 Club Draw was postponed last March. The draw was made at the virtual November committee meeting (using an online random number generator) and the three, £20 winners are:

Brian Meek - No. 106
John Bradley - No.26
Ken Medcalf - No. 78

Uptown Fun Emporium of Talent

Uptown Fun (www.partypackage.co.uk) in Town Street, Upwell are adapting to the new uncertain times we live in, to provide support for the local community and small business owners. With the last year seeing social gatherings wiped out, it has been a disaster for the Party industry that we have been in for 16 years and is our primary source of trade. Ours and many other businesses face challenging times. Rather than have our shelves gathering dust with party supplies for parties that are simply not happening at the moment or worse still closing our doors permanently like lots of other businesses in our sector have been forced to, we have instead researched what the local community would like to see available in the shop. The feedback was brilliant and the local community here, as always, have been incredibly supportive and provided loads of fantastic suggestions. By far the most popular request was for us to increase the space we already offer to local artists, independent retailers and crafts people to showcase their products.

We have reconfigured the shop and are very pleased to confirm that we will be able to offer the community an even wider range of products for the home and garden many of which are produced right here in the local community, by some amazingly talented individuals. Additionally we have decades of experience in retailing online and so we are also able to provide an ecommerce outlet for local retailers who may be wishing to try selling online for the first time, or for those who



are perhaps more experienced online retailers aiming to sell more. For example, we can offer access to reduced rates packaging materials, delivery logistics and can help you with your own website, social media, eBay or Amazon sales or provide that service for you. So Uptown Fun is now an Emporium that not only remains the place to get your hands on anything for a party, it's also the place to find fantastic gifts, homewares, support, networking and consultation for anyone who has a product to sell.

We do still have some spaces available in Uptown Fun Emporium for anyone wishing to secure a bay, shelf or area of the shop so if you are a local business, artist or crafts person and would like to learn more, just pop in and speak with Oona at the shop or call us on 01945 772 777.



Health centre update

The surgery and pharmacy are still open during the second lock down and we continue to provide consultations by phone, video, email and face to face when needed. It is going to be a challenging winter for the NHS but we are still here for you, and if you have concerns about your or your family's health then please call us.

Our staff have worked hard during the pandemic and we are doing everything we can to keep them and all patients coming to the surgery and pharmacy safe and protected. We all know that this is a very stressful time for everyone but please try not to take that out on the surgery and pharmacy staff. We have noticed an increase in abuse of NHS workers recently and we are taking a very firm stance on this. Anybody who repeatedly abuses our staff will be asked to leave the list and find another surgery and pharmacy. If you have concerns or complaints then ask to speak to Steve Reeves, James Cowling or myself. Thank you for your understanding.

Flu vaccinations

We have completed the first phase of the biggest flu campaign we have ever organised and I want to thank all the staff and volunteers for the smooth, efficient and safe way that the clinics ran. And thank you to all the patients for turning up at the correct times and following the instructions so that we were able to get people in and out of the building quickly and safely.

There are still some high-risk patients who have not had their flu jab and stocks are running low so please get in touch if you have not had yours yet.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for details of how many extra vaccines we will get to give to fit people in the 50-64-year-old group. Please keep an eye on the practice Facebook page for more information.

Covid vaccinations

This will happen in 2021 and we are currently working out the details with other local practices and the health authorities. At the moment the plan is for this to be administered at just one practice. This might mean some of our patients will have to travel to another surgery for their vaccines. The whole vaccination campaign will be a huge undertaking for the NHS when it is already at full stretch but we know this must be done in order to get back to some semblance of normal life next year. Please don't contact the surgery with queries about this vaccine at the moment. The NHS will contact you when it's time to book your jabs. But do start thinking about how you will travel to a vaccination centre. We will all need to think about how we get ourselves, our families, our neighbours to this life saving vaccine, and we will be looking at ways of enlisting volunteer drivers to help with this. Again, please watch the practice website or Facebook page for more details as we have them.

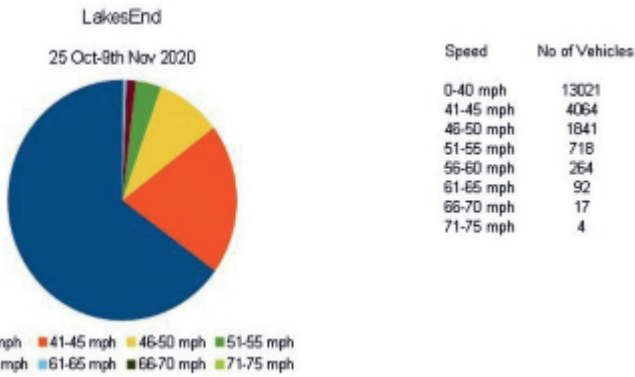
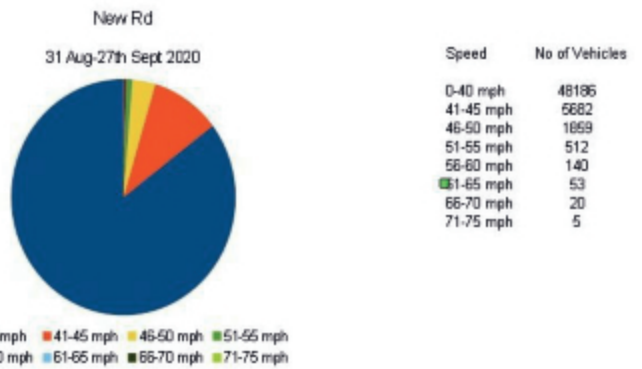
Stay at home as much as you can, wear a mask and wash your hands as much as possible, look after yourselves and your family and friends. Please stay safe. I hope to see you at a vaccination clinic soon.

I will leave you with a photo of a wonderful piece of artwork by Maddie Secker (see Page 3) – thank you Maddie!

Emonn Clarke

Speed Awareness Messaging camera (SAM2)

It is perhaps a sad fact of life these days that speed cameras have become an important tool in the battle of improving our road safety. But do they keep drivers on their best behaviour and make roads safer? A study carried out over a 24 year period showed that speed cameras in general reduced accidents by 17% to 39% and they reduced fatalities by between 58% to 68% and the



a first offence and you do not have any points on your licence, you could be offered a speed awareness course instead of penalty points.

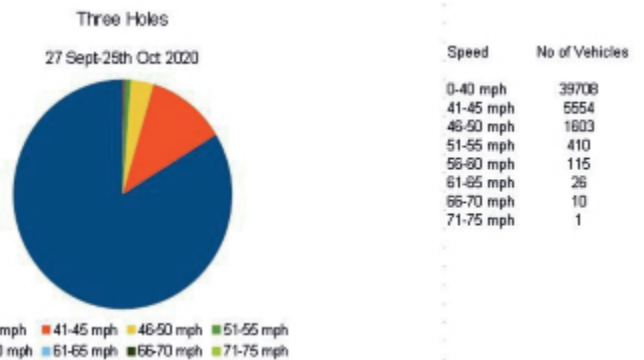
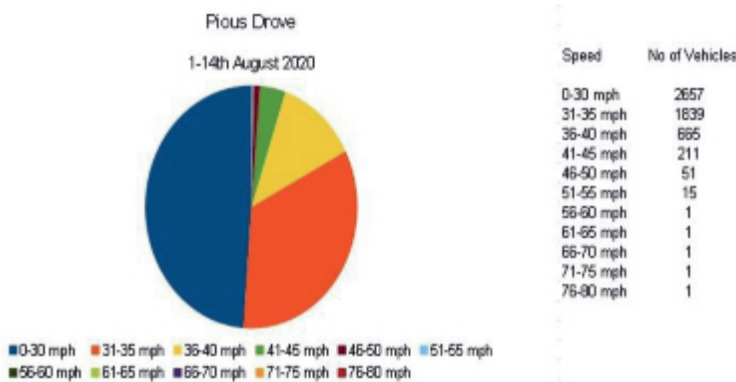
As part of our Parish campaign to highlight speed awareness, you may have seen our SAM camera at various locations. The SAM camera operates throughout Upwell, Three Holes and Lakes End and records the time and date of those breaking the speed limit. The results are detailed in the graphs.

effects were seen within 500 metres of the cameras (study by LSE 2016).

In June 2019, the AA carried out a survey of members and asked if it was acceptable to use speed cameras to identify vehicles involved in speeding offences. Their results reported that 8 out of 10 said yes. All of which should mean that speed cameras should only be a problem for speeding drivers?

Parish Volunteer - Filipe Cardoso de Freitas

Speeding has sadly become practically an everyday event in our Parish and to try to combat this the Parish Council rely on volunteers to help manage the SAM camera. One such volunteer is Filipe Cardoso de Freitas who has lived in Upwell for over 10 years and enjoys being part of our community. Filipe volunteered as he feels very strongly about this problem, especially as he has a young family. Filipe manages the site relocations and setting up of the cameras. They are in position for four weeks in each



What is the penalty for speeding?

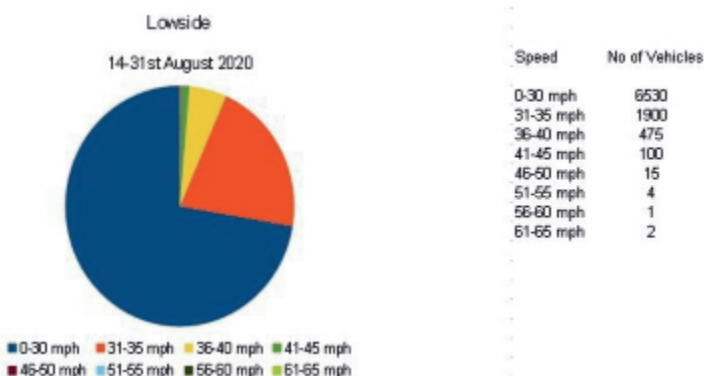
The current UK Government legislation minimum penalty is generally a £100 fine and three points put on your licence. This could be higher if you have exceeded the speed limit by a lot and you could even get a Court Summons. If it is

location and their direction is re-aligned every two weeks to capture speeding vehicles coming into and out of the location. The data is then collated by him and an analysis report produced.

Filipe's contribution is greatly appreciated by the Parish Council but I am sad to report that he has received verbal abuse when undertaking his SAM camera duties.

Bizarrely, quite a few of the 'speeders' shout that he should think of doing 'something more worthwhile...' – I think trying to make our roads safer is high up on the list of 'worth while', don't you?

Christine Aston





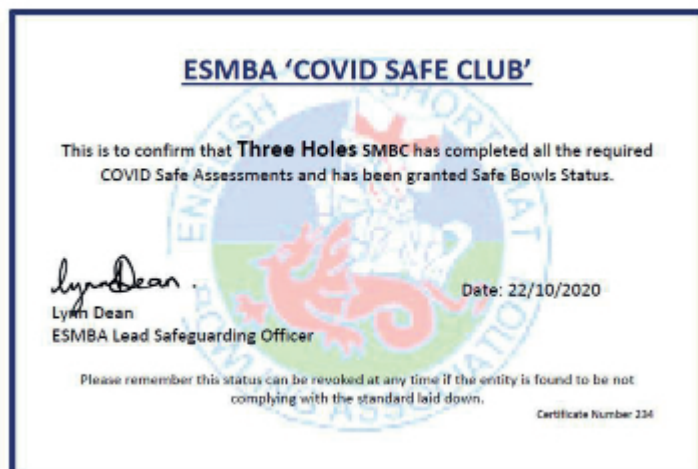
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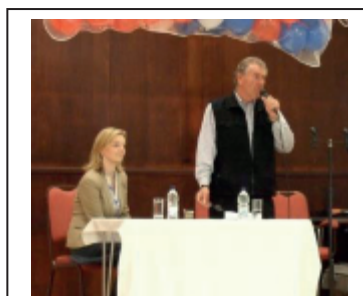
I am writing this article towards the end of the second Coronavirus lockdown and it has just been announced that Norfolk and Cambridgeshire are in Tier 2 from the 2nd December. Sadly this means that most things are still unable to go ahead at the village hall and many other places too!



Since June 2020, all sports in England have to receive permission via their sport's National Governing Body before they can play. Thanks to team-working between the Three Holes Short Mat Bowls Club and the village hall committee, we achieved certification as a Covid Safe Club from the English Short Mat Bowls Association. So, as soon as Norfolk moves to Tier 1, bowls can restart at Three Holes.

We are sad to say that two, long-serving THVH&PF trustees, Brian & Hilary Ranger, have stepped down as they are moving away from the area. Brian was the Chairman of the committee for many years and was the driving force that ensured the village hall was restored and was able to reopen after a break-in and serious fire in 2011. Hilary volunteered as our Welle Cinema Coordinator and built up a loyal, regular following for the films we were able to show each month up until the dreaded virus brought an abrupt stop to things. As we were unable to give them a public thank you and send off, we have presented them with a canvas print to remind them of their time at Three Holes Village Hall – these are some of the photo's included in the canvas.

BRIAN & HILARY – A HUGE THANK YOU, GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK – YOU WILL BE GREATLY MISSED!



Brian with M.P. Liz Truss at the reopening of the hall



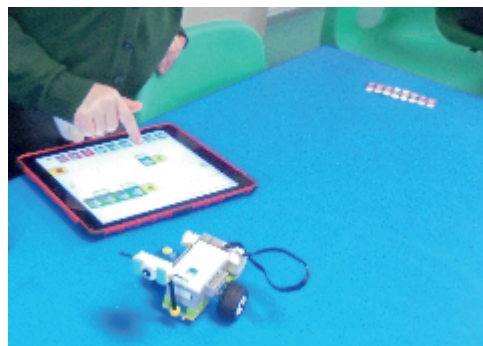
Hilary & Brian at the Welle Cinema launch



Brian & Hilary at the launch with the Welle Film Productions crew

As the Covid situation continues to change, please go to the Three Holes Village Hall website for updates on what is - or isn't - able to go ahead www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk. For bookings contact Helen on 01354 610316 or for anything else email me, Sue Lowe, lowecuss@gmail.com

It has been a very different Autumn term, but the children and staff at Upwell Academy have adjusted brilliantly. We are so fortunate to be in an area where Covid cases are low. However, we are still following social distancing guidelines and enhanced cleaning regimes. I think the saddest aspect is the things we are unable to do at the moment such as swimming, trips and after school clubs. But I am sure we will make up for it when the time is right.



We held a virtual Remembrance Day service which was led by year 5, and the scouting children attended in their uniform which was lovely to see. The children each decorated a stone and we are currently creating a large poppy with them all.



A big shout out to FOSA who have provided the children with much needed play equipment - a box for each bubble – which they are really enjoying. Thank you to everyone who supports FOSA by helping to raise money, and of course to the FOSA committee who give up their own time.

I know Ofsted have said that children have forgotten key skills such as how to use a knife and fork, but I have to say how impressed I am with our reception children. Usually we have lunch

time buddies who help children clear their plates etc but obviously we are not doing this at the moment due to bubbles being in place. This term the children are carrying trays of food to their table and then sensibly clearing away when they have finished, scraping uneaten food into the bin and then putting cutlery, cups etc in the correct place. Well done Hoglets, especially when you think that some of them only turned four in the summer.

In Year 1 they have been exploring fables in English. The children know that fables have animals as their characters and that fables have a special lesson or message called a moral in them. The favourite fable has been The Hare and the Tortoise. It has taught us all to take our time and not rush, and has taught us to be kind. Unfortunately, after listening to the fable, the characters lost their voices. That meant that Year 1 had to retell the story and decide what each character would say. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring fables.



Year 2's History topic this term is Ancient Egypt. This week they have learnt to understand and explain the ancient Egyptian ritual of mummification! They watched the Mummification In Ancient Egypt film and used it to help them to sequence the steps. Year 2 also found out they would store a dead person's organs in canopic jars!



This was to make sure that they had them for the afterlife. They then enjoyed mummifying two of the children in their class. What an experience!

Year 3 have been learning about the Ancient Greeks - from the Olympic games to the start of democracy. They have written their own stories based on Theseus and the Minotaur, with some very scary creatures! Year 3 are also starting to learn French which is great fun and a very useful skill.

In Year 5 they have been learning about coding and how to program for a specific purpose. We are very lucky to have new Lego Education coding kits which makes coding easy and fun for the children and teachers. So far, they have coded Milo the Space Rover, an Earthquake simulator and tested building types, floodgates opening with a sensor and a rescue helicopter with gears and a winch to rescue stranded animals. Of course, the programming doesn't always go perfectly the first time, so like any good technician they have had to debug and improve their codes to make them the best they can be. We definitely have some budding scientists, technicians and engineers in Year 5! We will catch up with year 4 and 6 next time.

We are unable to accept visitors to the Academy at the moment and that includes families with children due to start school in September 2021. However, we do have a short slide show on our website which shows photographs of key areas of the school.

Haidee Norman – Principal at Upwell Academy
office@upa.eastern-mat.co.uk 01945 773220

This summer the parish saw several incidents along the Well Creek involving injured swans due to discarded fishing equipment. The parish council has had much correspondence regarding these incidents via email, social media and letter from concerned parishioners, as the swans on the Well Creek bring much joy, as well as from a concerned angler giving professional advice.

Lines, hooks and other rubbish that is discarded by anglers, boaters and the general public is harming our wildlife. It is, like most things, a result of a few irresponsible people. We know that the majority of responsible anglers go home with more than just their own rubbish. The loss of line and terminal tackle that is left behind is usually the result of inexperience; ill equipped, novice anglers and even poachers that are not prepared for the type of fish they are targeting.

We have some top tips to keep the Well Creek free of these incidents;

- Know when it is legal to fish. Rivers can only be fished 16th June - 14th March inclusive
- Ensure you have an Environment Agency Rod Licence, available online or at the post office, to avoid penalty fines. Prices range from £6 to £82 depending on the type of fish, number of rods and duration of the licence
- You may need to buy a day ticket or similar to fish in an area - check before you fish
- Do not leave lines and nets in the water for days at a time
- Use the correct equipment;
 - For example for pike, zander and carp a heavy line with a minimum 12lb breaking strain and a rod of at least 2.5lb test curve or good quality spinning rod. You will also need a large landing net minimum 36 inches across
 - For general coarse fish you'll need a lighter line of between 3 and 6 lb breaking strain with a lighter line hook length between hook and reel line, this could be only few inches long

Always start fishing with an experienced angler and follow their advice. There are some great educational videos on YouTube for most types of angling.

Martin's Fishing For Kids is a project supported by the Well Creek and 2nd Chance Fishing Tackle on the Well Creek which offers support, guidance and tutorials on angling for children free of charge - the project can be found on Facebook. Martin is available for advice (07933455052) so don't be shy - get it right!

Martin Scott and Meggan Mercer



Well Creek Trust News

1. Annual bulb planting.

The Well Creek committee along with some volunteers planted £125.00 worth of bulbs along the Upwell end of the Well Creek. They were planted in gaps identified earlier in March this year by members of the committee who walked along the Creek taking photos of the gaps. The area covered the stretch between Marmont Priory Lock and the Salters Lode Lock.

The Trust would like to thank the volunteers and members of the committee for dedicating their time to planting the bulbs.

2. New Fishing platform for junior fisherman club.

Good news, the Well Creek Trust planning application for a new fishing platform on the behalf of Martin Hugh Scott has been approved by the Middle Level Commissioners. The application is now with the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. Martin, who started a fishing club for children a couple of years ago, made a request to the Well Creek Trust for a new platform, as the Lance Hunter-Rowe Boat Haven (Outwell Basin) in the Spring to Autumn months is very busy with boats. This new platform will be for fishing only and not to be used by

boaters. Martin is busy raising funds for the materials and will be helped by volunteers to build the platform.

If anybody is interested in helping Martin to raise funds for this worthwhile cause, please see link below.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/martins-fishing-for-kids-platforms?fbclid=IwAR3gjCFhkOO52XHWL9uqsMQLvj_0Ch02uPUNPwgJdbQgdvZ0YDEnNCihl0E

3. Damaged fishing lines and nets.

A big thank you from the Well Creek Trust to Caroline Butcher and her neighbour for removing the hook from a swan's mouth. I know to the credit of most fishermen they take their spent fishing lines and damaged unusable nets home with them, but the odd few that don't, end up injuring the Creeks wildlife.

This is a request from the Trust:

Could all local fishermen keep an eye out for anybody leaving behind fishing lines and other equipment please. We are not asking you to speak to them, but an email to the Trust telling us where it is and we will clear it away. You can contact us via our website.

www.wellcreektrust.org.uk

Many thanks in advance for your help.

Ready, steady, census

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Upwell will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes

part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

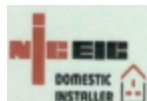
1. What is the capital of Qatar?
2. Who wrote the Mister Men series of books?
3. Which city hosted the 1994 football World Cup Final?
4. Who played Ricky Butcher in Eastenders?
5. How many years are there in a millennium?
6. What kind of animal is a Wessex Saddleback?
7. In which city is Schiphol airport?
8. Which vegetable is used in the dish Eggs Florentine?
9. Which Roman road ran from Exeter to Lincoln?
10. Of which country is Reykjavik the capital?
11. In which sport might you score a ‘home run’?
12. Which singer was born Marie McLaughlin?
13. Devil’s Apron and Purple Laver are types of what?
14. If you were at Goodison Park, who would be playing at home?
15. Which town was destroyed by Vesuvius?
16. What is a female ferret called?
17. In which county is the coastal resort of Worthing?
18. According to *The Animals*, where was the *House of the Rising Sun*?
19. Russian, Fleury, Tau and Papal are all types of what?
20. On which river does Washington DC stand?
21. Which actress played *Basil Fawlty’s* wife in *Fawlty Towers*?
22. What is a Zither?
23. Which *Star Trek* character was played by Leonard Nimoy?
24. In which English county can Creswell Crags be found’?
25. Other than Catherine Parr, his last wife, which one of Henry VIII’s wives outlived him?

FIVE THINGS YOU MAYBE DIDN’T KNOW.....

- King George I could speak very little English
- The Mazateco Indians of Mexico can hold a complete conversation just by whistling
- Until 1930 riders of bicycles had to ring their bells non-stop whilst the machine was in motion
- William Pitt introduced income tax in Great Britain in 1799, with a top rate of 10%
- Lettuce is the only vegetable that is not sold frozen, bottled, processed or pre-cooked

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13. Seaweed
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15. Pompeii
16. A Gill
17. West Sussex
18. New Orleans
19. Crosses
20. Potomac
21. Prunella Scales
22. A musical instrument
23. Mr Spock
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25. Anne of Cleves

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The Lovely Allotment



We are currently living in uncertain times and this has affected many people in different ways. In a lot of people this has produced feelings of loneliness and even isolation. But there is someone who wants and is doing something about it, let me introduce you to Emma Dwight.

Emma has personally taken on 5 allotments in Upwell, yes 5! And these are being transformed into lovely outdoor growing spaces for those people that may have or had previously experienced mental health issues and need more human contact whilst doing something worthwhile. From her own experience Emma knows how valuable having a project that



is yours to achieve can help and we are all now much more aware on the good impact out-door space has on our overall feelings of well-being. With her new love for gardening, Emma has already completed the RHS Diploma II and is studying for Diploma grade III at the Manea School of Gardening.

The Lovely Allotment's aim is to provide this space for that feeling of self-worth to grow along with the flowers and vegetables. There are general garden maintenance activities and you can learn to propagate plants by different methods;



as well as a quiet sensory area within the allotment should anyone feel overwhelmed and the need for just peace and quiet. There is opportunity for people to have their own small area to cultivate separately from the other areas if they wish.

There is no charge to be part of this and Emma hopes that



this will eventually become self-funding through the sale of the produce they grow. Now all seeds, bulbs and equipment are either bought by Emma or are kindly donated by or bought with monetary donations from parishioners.

The Lovely Allotment was first thought of much earlier in the year but of course, as we all know only too well, 2020 had other ideas and the original June start date came and went. When lockdown was lifted, some of the allotments could be prepared and a start made on growing.

Emma has already contacted other communities to see if they can trade ideas and The Lovely Allotment will be providing a Christchurch project with flowers, grown on the Upwell allotments for their new recycled vehicle tyre flower beds.

The allotments in Upwell are well underway in their transformation and already have wheelchair access and accessible toilet. They are lucky to now have polytunnels, a green house, raised beds for those that may have difficulty with ground level beds and a summer house with a small kitchen area. Emma also knows it can be difficult to get out with small children but this is not a problem as a Mud Kitchen has been created to keep all the small people entertained! And maybe the older ones?!

I think you will agree that the Lovely Allotment's aims are worthwhile and hopefully provide therapeutic rehabilitation.

If you feel you would benefit from being part of this project

and would like to know more about The Lovely Allotment or wish to donate, they have a Facebook page which allows you to contact Emma; or email Lovelylittlethings@gmail.com or you can call on 07399776204. Obviously currently Covid restrictions apply and you will need to speak to Emma to book your time in advance. The Lovely Allotment is fully insured and DBS checked.

Christine Aston

Upwell Parish

Neighbourhood Plan

2015-2036



Neighbourhood Planning was introduced in the Localism Act 2011. It is an important and powerful tool that gives communities statutory powers to develop a shared vision and shape how their community develops.

The Upwell Parish Neighbourhood Plan is a document that sets out local planning policies for Upwell Parish. It has passed through all the stages required to go to referendum and now carries 'significant weight' which means, where relevant, it will be used to decide whether planning applications are approved. The referendum should take place with the local council elections to be held next May. It is a community document written by local people. It is a powerful tool to ensure that we get the right type of development in the right places

Neighbourhood Plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans and should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan. So the Local Plan for the Borough King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) sets the overall strategic policies such as the amount of new development, housing numbers, and the distribution of development across the borough.

A Neighbourhood Plan can contain non-strategic policies, such as allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities, establishing design principles for new development, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies. Once a Neighbourhood Plan has been brought into force, it becomes part of the development plan for the Parish. The policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Borough Council's Local Plan.

In April 2015 Upwell Parish Council decided to take advantage of the right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Upwell. The Neighbourhood Area was formally designated by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk on 2nd December 2015. The timeframe chosen for the plan was 2015 to 2036. Of course, the policy context might change, either by a future revision to national planning policy or changes to the Borough Council's strategic policies. Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan is an important role which the Parish Council will undertake because changes may take place in planning legislation, national policy or local plan policy which may have implications for the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. Annual monitoring exercises and typically a 5-year review will be undertaken.

The Submission version presents the Neighbourhood Plan for Upwell Parish see: <https://west-norfolk-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/neighbourhood-plan/neighbourhood-plan-consultations/upwell-npconsultation/upwell-npconsult>

It has been developed after a number of consultation events and exercises. Open Meetings were held in January, February and March 2016, and further consultation exercises took place in September 2018 when we looked at proposed sites for future development and Local Green Spaces (which will be protected from development), and Spring 2019 when we consulted on the draft plan. It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects what is important to us as a community, and what we would like to improve and protect. The results of all these public consultation events and exercises have been considered alongside known factual evidence, such as the housing need, the flood risk, the good quality agricultural land, the historic assets in the Parish, and the fact that Welle Creek is a major route for narrowboats on the Nene-Ouse Link. Importantly, the effort has been directed at ensuring that we produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Upwell that helps to deliver the housing and economic needs of the Parish, but also makes sure that this particular patch of the Fens does not get spoiled by development.

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

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The practice and pharmacy are open as usual on all non-bank holiday work days.

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Thursday 24th 8.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m.

Friday 25th-Tuesday 29th CLOSED

Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st 8.00 a.m.-12.00 noon

Friday 1st January CLOSED

Saturday 2nd 8.00 a.m.-12.00 noon

Russell's Butchers

Wednesday 23rd 6.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Thursday 24th 6.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m

Friday 25th-Tuesday 29th CLOSED

Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st 8.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

New Year's Eve 9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

Saturday 2nd January 8.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

Rav's Fish and Chips

Thursday 24th 4.00 – 7.30 p.m.

25th December - 5th January CLOSED

Wednesday 6th 4.00 – 9.00 p.m.



Upwell Parish Council

Meeting Dates For 2021

To be considered at the December 2020 Council meeting and will be published as soon as possible.

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.