

Autumn 2014



Upwell Parish Council

Community Magazine

Inside this issue

Chairman's Letter	2
Remembrance Service	2
Recycling Revolution	2
Village Yard Sale	3
Upwell Jazz Club	3
Primary School News	4
Nuisance Calls Scam	4
Three Holes VH News	5
Upwell War Memorial	6
William Gray, Stonemason	6
Who was Ben Thorn?	6
Jemima's Jesters	7
Green Fingers Club	7
Upwell Village Hall News	8
American Pokeweed	8
Gullon Good Life	10
Upwell Royal British Legion	12
The Farming Year	13
That Rainstorm	13
Upwell Playing Field News	14
Junior Football Training	14
Upwell Jazz Club	14
Parish Council Meetings	16
Christmas Lights Competition	16
Silent Telephone Calls	16

WORLD WAR ONE MEMORABILIA

EXHIBITION

UPWELL VILLAGE HALL

FREE ADMISSION

To commemorate the outbreak of WW1

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER, 7.00 P.M.

EXHIBITION OF MEMORABILIA

and

'HARRY'S WAR'
Presentation by Bev Housden
Following the discovery of a diary and sketchbook of the battlefields, Bev Housden and Ginnie Mayo set off to France and visited the places where Harry fought.

'UPWELL DID ITS DUTY'
Presentation by William Smith
Photographs and stories about some of those involved in World War 1 and the effect it had on some families and some of those left behind.

LICENCED BAR. REFRESHMENTS
Donations to Help the Heroes.

SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER
10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.

COME AND SEE THE EXHIBITION

Medals, Diaries, Photographs, Letters, Postcards and other Souvenirs from the battlefields, the war at sea and the homefront.



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear All,
Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Upwell Parish Council Community Magazine.

On the afternoon of the 8th August up to 5 inches of rain fell on the Parish; once again the weather has behaved in an unprecedented way. No one can remember so much rain falling in such a short time and while it is of no help, I would like to offer sympathy to those whose

homes were flooded and property damaged.

If you became aware of any blocked drains, or drain covers that were dislodged, at the kerbside, or any other highways problems following this deluge please report them to the Clerk, Kate Bennett.

Looking back at my last letter, the new Affordable Housing is under construction and I am told that it is of very high quality including a system that recycles heat within the buildings to reduce heating costs to a fraction of what might otherwise be expected. West Norfolk Homechoice, via the Borough Council is the place to apply.

I also referred to the Cemetery. Sadly, it is still in a sorry state but the Parish Council are still looking at taking it over from the Borough. However, we have heard recently that work to remove dead wood from some of the trees has been put out to tender and the

only thing to do is to wait until this has been done before taking any further steps. On a more positive note, the maintenance team have been treating a dangerous weed, 'American Pokeweed'. **If you find this in your garden please get rid of it. It is very invasive, spreading underground as well as seeding itself and the berries are poisonous.** Photo on page 8. Re-landscaping the flower borders can't be done until this weed is eradicated and it won't help if birds reintroduce it from elsewhere.

More positive news: having had the War Memorial restored and cleaned, we are waiting for the Tree Officer to approve work to the conifers and after Remembrance Sunday the plan is to start restoring the rose borders.

Lastly, my thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, our Advertisers for their support and the Distributors for their time and effort in getting it to you.

The copy date for the next one will be Friday 28th November.

With kind regards,

Prue Lester

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 10.45 a.m. Following the traditional custom there will be an open air service at the War Memorial and wreaths will be laid to commemorate the fallen in both World Wars, followed by a two minute silence at 11.00 a.m. Both the Reverends David Ely and Paul Skillings will be in attendance. Following this ceremony there will be a service in the Methodist Church, where the Reverend Skillings will give the address.

Join Norfolk's recycling revolution

People have for some time demanded a kerbside collection for glass jars and bottles, plastic food trays, tubs, pots and cartons. It will soon be possible to recycle your glass bottles and jars and a whole new range of clean food and drink containers by simply placing them in your green recycling bin. These items are then transformed into useful, saleable materials.

This change, which is happening across Norfolk from October 1, has been made possible as the material recycling facility at Costessey has been extended and upgraded with cutting edge equipment to enable a wider range of materials to be processed.

All we ask is that people rinse food from bottles, jars and plastic tubs before placing them loose in their bins."

www.recyclefornorfolk.org.uk

RECYCLEFORNORFOLK.ORG.UK
#RECYCLINGREVOLUTION

Norfolk
Waste
Partnership

★ JOIN THE ★
**RECYCLING
REVOLUTION**

Even more items can
now be put in your
recycling bin

★ CARTONS ★

★ GLASS ★
(BOTTLES & JARS)

★ PLASTIC ★
(BOTTLES, FOOD POTS
& TRAYS)



Have you ever been to a Village Yard Sale? NO, well you have missed out on an experience.

Village Yard Sales offer you an opportunity to look and buy things that are interesting, useful and the old saying 'one man's rubbish is another man's treasure' from cars to toys, beds, cots, clothes all-sorts of objects. You name it and it can be found at a Village Yard Sale.

It is good fun, and the great part about it is you do not have to leave your home. You only have to put the things you wish to sell in your front garden or

your driveway. Look around your home and see what you do not need any more, and make some money.

So, Upwell Villagers, why not join us on Sunday 7th June 2015 - 9.00 am to 2 p.m.

If you wish to take part in this event, please email:

lcarr182@btinternet.com or telephone Linda Carr 01945 774145 for more information.

This event can only take place if there are 30 homes or more taking part.

Price £5.00 per home (money raised going to Upwell Community Primary School and Upwell Village Hall).

Payment to be paid by 31st March 2015.

The Village Hall will be the focal point for people to purchase a map (20p), showing the houses that are taking part. people will be able use the facilities and buy tea/coffee - cakes.

Upwell Jazz Club 2014

Three Holes Village Hall (Sat Nav PE14 9JY)

Sunday 30th November

Guests: Derek Clenshaw - Trombone
Myke Clifford - Saxophone, flute/vocals
Helen Emery - Vocals
Tom Melvin - Vocals
and anyone else who happens to turn up!!!

Supported on keyboards by Nigel Portass and Nigel Smith on drums.

Information from Nigel Smith on 01945 773121

Bar, fresh rolls, crisps and savouries available.

Time: 12.30pm - 2.45pm.

Admission: £5.00. Under-16s Free

The Alan Norris Big Band one night tour

Saturday 18th October 2014
7.30pm

Three Holes Village Hall

SUPPER CONCERT *in aid of*

WE ARE MACMILLAN. & **Stroke**
CANCER SUPPORT association

Tickets: £15.00 to include buffet supper
from Sally Elmer 01945 773418 or Nigel Smith 01945 773121

Come and hear the region's leading big band
performing music from the likes of Miller, Ellington, and the Rat Pack

Tea, coffee, savouries and bar also available

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Monday	Closed
Tuesday	4.00pm - 9.00pm
Wednesday	4.00pm - 9.00pm
Thursday	4.00pm - 9.00pm
Friday	11.00am - 1.30pm 4.00pm - 9.00pm
Saturday	11.00am - 1.30pm 4.00pm - 9.00pm
Sunday	Closed

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Collets Bridge, Elm

Telephone 01945 474373



Here at Upwell Community Primary School

we have just launched our new Student Blog. Our Year 5 pupils have been busy reporting on a variety of events taking place around the school. You can read their reports, see pictures of work and keep up to date with what the children are learning at upwellcommunityprimary.blogspot.co.uk.

This month we said a fond farewell to our year 6 pupils. Their leavers' performance passed with relatively few tears and they have been attending Downham Market Academy for the last week of this school year. We wish them all the very best.

Congratulations to Drama Club who put on a performance of 'The Tempest'. It had been a challenge to learn all of the lines, many of which were unedited from Shakespeare's original script. They pulled it off though with some superbly funny scenes starring Trinculo (Shannon Brown) and Stephano (Loulabelle Gooch).

Our school netball team have had a successful term, coming 5th in the county championships. A huge congratulations to them and their coach, Mrs

Thorpe, for all their hard work. Meanwhile the rest of Victory class built their own space station in the classroom. Unfortunately we didn't manage to send it into orbit.

Pupils in Noble and Majestic have caught the 'homework bug', creating some super Tudor houses (Noble) and clocks (Majestic). The effort put into them is astonishing and the children can be rightfully proud of their accomplishments.

Discovery performed a super assembly sharing their crazy poems with us. They put their crystal clear voices to good use, reciting their own versions of Doctor Seuss's 'Wocket in my Pocket.'

Beacon have had a 'whale of a time', making papier mache animals and doing lots of crafty activities. Miss Morgan and her pupils have managed to make plenty of mess (as usual) and the caretaker has been picking glue from the carpet for days!

Admiral class have had a special lesson with Year 5 who taught them how to use the school iPads. All the children passed their 'iPad exam' and were given their 'pilot's licenses'. A big well done to the children in Reception.

Finally we would like to acknowledge the work of FOSA (Friends of School Association) who did a fantastic job of organising this year's Summer Fayre. A great time was had by all and lots of money was raised to help the pupils. Thank you very much and we look forward to discovering what next year's fayre has to offer. Pictures and more details of all our exciting events are available on the blog

David White

(Victory Class Teacher and Staff Governor)

NUISANCE CALLS SCAM

A resident rang me recently and asked me to publicise the following:

She answered a cold call from someone trying to sell her a gadget to cut out nuisance calls, even those from India. It sounded so feasible and tempting - and cost only £1.90 a month for a year, free thereafter, that she agreed to buy it.

However, checking later with the official organisation responsible for this service, she was told that it was nothing to do with them and realised it was a scam to get her credit card details.

The call came from the Brighton area so please be aware and don't give your card details over the phone in response to a call like this.

Prue Lester

LAKES END VILLAGE

HALL

BEGINNERS LINE DANCE

CLASS

FRIDAYS 7PM TILL 9PM

£2 INCLUDES REFRESHMENT

NO PARTNER REQUIRED

GOOD EXERCISE FOR MIND &

BODY

COME AND GIVE IT A GO

THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD Charity No. 304483

Successful grant bid for Welle Film Project!

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded £18,792 by the People's Health Trust (PHT) to launch our Welle Film Project. This means that for two years we will be able to run a monthly film club, buy film-making equipment and offer training to use it. After training we will get out and about making productions about local community activities.

At a **free launch event** at the Hall on Saturday 13 September (1pm to 5pm) we plan to explain what the project has to offer and will also be asking people for ideas of films they would like to see in the future – this could be anything from recent releases to blockbusters and classics. We will also be keen to speak to people (age 16+) who would like to apply to join the film-making group.

The programme for the first three screenings is:

12th October - Noah (12A) starring Russell Crowe

9th November - War Horse (12a), to commemorate World War 1 in partnership with Creative Arts East's Village Screen project.

13th December – Skyfall (12a) the 23rd Bond movie

Future film club screenings will take place on the **second Sunday of the month** and will usually start at 12.30hrs (doors open at 12.00hrs). Entry is £2 per person and refreshments will be available.

For more details contact Hilary on 01945 773710 or Sue on 01945 772824

The **PHT** is an independent charity addressing health inequalities across Great Britain. It works closely with each of the 51 society lotteries and makes grants using money raised by the society lotteries through The Health Lottery. The PHT have awarded the funding for the Welle Film Project to the area shaded in light grey on the map on the right.

Money raised by
HealthSuccess
through



Other news:

Looking ahead – **Christmas Bingo**, Sunday evening, 7 December.

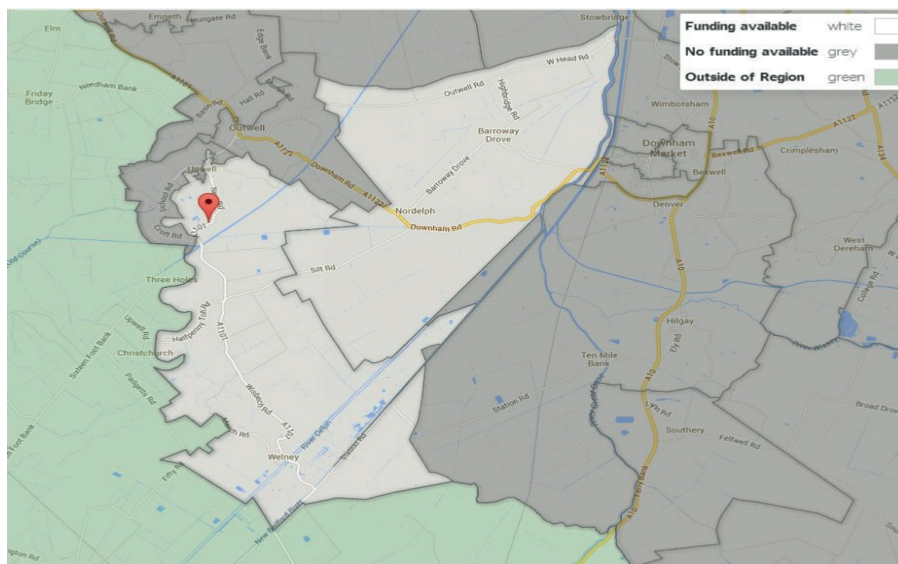
Carol and Eddie Manning have very kindly offered to run a Christmas Bingo to help with the continued effort to raise funds for the hall.

Hall Hire

For details of how to hire the hall for all purposes, please contact Eddie in the first instance (01945 773961). General enquiries can be made to Rita (01945 772236), Sally (01945 773418) and Sue (01945 772824) or see our website www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk

THREE HOLES BOWLS CLUB

Three Holes Bowls Club has regular weekly club nights on Thursday each week at 7pm to 9pm at the village Hall in Three Holes. They are always pleased to see new members so do come along and join in this fun, social night out. Just call Yvonne Drew on 07716 421563 or Hazel Medlock on 01945 772327 for more details.



UPWELL WAR MEMORIAL

Since I last wrote about the Memorial, I have come across some more information and some photos of it taken long ago.

Unfortunately the original press cuttings are in such poor condition that they would not reproduce legibly. Here is a summary:

As reported in the Wisbech Standard and the Wisbech Advertiser, the Memorial was unveiled on the last Sunday in September 1920 by the Rev. C.F. Townley who was assisted in the open air service of dedication by the then Rector. The Rev. A.P. Townley, the Revs. Curtis (Downham) and T. Douglas were also in attendance. The event was supported by a 'very large concourse'. The Rev. C.F. Townley gave a stirring address dealing with the sacrifice of the men. The



relatives and friends of the fallen were present and laid some beautiful wreaths at the foot of the memorial. The memorial had been funded by public subscription and cost £500. Mr J.W. Day (Chairman of the

Committee) passed a vote of thanks to the Ministers at the conclusion of the Ceremony and a further £13.00 was collected on the day. The arrangements had been made by Mr T.W. Hill, (Secretary) who, as we know had donated the land for what was then known as the Recreation Ground.

As we know the Angel of Peace was carved by Tommy Hines and William Gray and I have been sent a photograph of the latter. The Contractors were Messrs Davis & Sons of Wisbech.

I have also found out a little more about William Gray from one of his daughters in law, Muriel, aged 92, who lives in Downham Market and I have also been in touch with another descendent Trevor, who was born in Upwell and lived here until 1963.

WILLIAM GRAY

Percy William Gray was trained as a Stonemason by Tommy Hines and also served in World War One. He was called up to the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1915 and served in the infantry but was gassed at Ypres and invalided out. By this time he was already married to a fellow Sunday School teacher from St Clement's and became the father of 6 children. He was a small man in stature and took snuff to clear his head and help with the respiratory problems that he continued to suffer from after the gas attack. At one point he worked extensively in London, as the headstone, carved with an anchor, in St Peter's Churchyard had attracted the attention of a visitor from the city. He was assisted as a Stonemason by his 4th son, Cecil, but was forced to give up at the start of WW2 when Cecil was called up to serve in the R.A.S.C.,

as he was unable to manage the heavy work on his own.

He and his family lived at Tramway Villa, at the back of the Playing



Field and during the Second World War grew fruit and flowers on the strip of land beside the house. They grew paeonies, redcurrants, strawberries and apples.

His second son, Bill, (Ernest William) became Chief of Police for the Isle of Ely,

His third, Basil, emigrated to Australia but served during WW2 in the parachute regiment. He also had a daughter called Mary another son called Tony and was the father of a 'blue baby' who died at birth.

Who Was Ben Thorn?

As well as the War Memorial, Upwell has two other commemorative displays in St Peters Church: a brass plaque and a handwritten scroll. The three sources do not tally exactly. One name that appears on the scroll but not the others is Ben Thorn.

The only Ben Thorn killed in WWI was serving with the New Zealand Medical Corps. He was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry. His parents were Ben and Jessie Thorn, of Waihi, N.Z. I have discovered that a Ben Thorn and Jessie Parnell were married at St Ann's Church, Tottenham, London, on 11th November 1891. They had two sons: Thomas, born in 1892, and Ben, born 11 May 1896. This Ben would have been the right age to have been killed in action on 20 November 1917 aged 22. Why is his name in Upwell Church? Well, it seems that Jessie's maiden name was Parnell, and she came from Chatteris. Her father was Thomas Parnell, farmer, and there is a record of a Thomas Parnell getting married in Downham in 1870. Is this the connection? Can anyone throw any more light on this?

Steve Calton



Jemima's School of Jesters is starting Drama Clubs in Upwell, Three Holes and Elm, for children aged 8-12 and young people aged 13-19.

There was an Activity Day held in Upwell Village Hall on Sunday the 31st that went down a treat with some of the villages' youths, who participated in workshops including: Improvisation, Characterisation, Musical Theatre, and Stage Combat. They were led by Jemima Cummings, owner of Jemima's School of Jesters, with help and support from her brother Michael. "The activity day was a lovely success. Not surprisingly, perhaps, the boys particularly enjoyed the stage combat. Musical theatre is generally my favourite but the improv was most entertaining. It was a lot of fun, and I can't wait to get the classes started," said Jemima Cummings.

The weekly classes will run during term time, commencing on the 15th September. Jemima will be

teaching a syllabus that encompasses improvisation and characterisation skills for the first term, scripts, devising and producing small performances in the second term, and putting all the techniques together during the final term for a set piece or showcase, to entertain and impress families and friends!

"Drama is all about fun, creativity and confidence, and always involves a lot of laughter," explained Jemima, "The experience of performing initially to a small group of fellows generates the same 'stage fright' of any actor in a major production, and the camaraderie and laughter of 'everyone being in the same boat' is how we help one another through the - really quite brief - scary times. It's fun, honest! What we take here are progressive small steps towards everyone being able to express themselves more clearly, confidently, and enjoyably, through learning and practising simple, fun, effective drama techniques."

Weekly classes start on Monday 15th September in Three Holes Village Hall and Wednesday 17th in Upwell. 'Jesters' classes (age 8-12) are from 4.00-5.00pm at both venues, and 'Scholar' classes (age 13-19) are from 5.10-6.30pm at both venues. The cost is £3.50 per session and there's a sibling discount for which Jemima can be contacted.

www.jemimasjesters.wix.com/home

jemimasjesters@gmail.com

01945 738986 / 077877 16567

THE GREEN FINGERS GARDENING CLUB

What a strange year it has been weather-wise. After a very mild winter and lots of rain, the weather got much warmer and suddenly all the plants in the garden just went wild. The Roses and clematis really excelled themselves, and the bedding plants seemed to be double their normal height with lots of lovely flowers.

The gardens really have been lovely but now the plants are looking as if they have exhausted themselves which is a great pity as I'm writing this on the August Bank Holiday so we are still officially in summer. As it is, it's pouring with rain and very chilly. Let us hope we have some more fine weather to come and get some more colour in the gardens before the autumn really starts.

It has been a good year for the club. We've gained some new members and we've had some very good speakers. In June we had Stephen Lovell talking on Bark, Berries and Leaves which gave us ideas on having colour in the garden without relying on flowers. The July speakers were Sheila & Richard Drane who showed us how to get the best results from Cacti. August was the Annual Summer Supper

which means good food followed by an entertaining auction run by Paul who is very persuasive at getting people to part with their money. It is all good fun and the money goes towards club funds and a charity which has yet to be decided upon.

We also had two Plant Stalls, one at Outwell Playing Field in May and the other at Upwell Playing Field on a very wet day in July.

Our next meeting will be 16th September the talk will be The A to Z of Bulbs by a member of the company Taylor & Sons. They have been to us before and their speakers are very interesting with lots of useful information. On October the 21st we will have another visit from Geoff Hodge talking about his career as a garden magazine editor. Geoff has been to the club several times before and his talks are always very good being both humorous and informative. November will be the Annual General Meeting and the Christmas party in December. Meetings are held at the Upwell Methodist Church hall on the 3rd Tuesday in the month. **If you are interested please ring Gussie on 01945 772586**

UPWELL VILLAGE HALL NEWS & EVENTS



Summer almost seems a distant memory with autumn swiftly approaching. The hall through the summer months has held various wedding receptions, children's parties, committee meetings, the regular weekly and monthly hall groups and much more.

New weekly group: 'New Age Curling' takes place on Tuesday afternoons in the main hall, 2pm to 4pm. The cost is £3 per person which includes refreshments. Come along and make new friends whilst having fun and keeping active. Suitable for able and disabled people. Contact Ros Shorting on 01945 773604.

The **Lincs Ladies Clothes Show** which took place on Wednesday 2nd July proved to be as popular as ever with many ladies attending. With a good variety of tops, scarves, jackets, dresses, trousers and much more, I think most ladies left having made a purchase at a very reasonable price. Many thanks to our three ladies who modelled the clothes on the night: Alma Smith, Tracey Webb and Adele Broda.

Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday 8th October – 'Evening with Ian King' - Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Once again the very talented watercolour artist will be with us for the evening giving a talk with lots of advice and techniques whilst also painting a picture which can only be won on the night via a raffle. His series on Anglia television called 'King and Country' was very popular. A cheese and wine evening is included in the ticket admission

fee which is £5 for adults, under 16's £3. Tickets will be available to buy in advance from John Spikings Butchers, Brian Tweed Butchers and Navrady's Fish and Chip Shop, Dee Harrison on 01945 773735 or Ros Shorting on 01945 773604. Due to limited capacity please ensure you buy your tickets early.

Sunday 2nd November – 'Christmas Craft Fair'

This very popular annual event will once more be packed with numerous quality stalls bearing a vast array of unusual hand made items ready for gifts for loved ones or just a good excuse to treat yourself, don't miss it! 10am to 4pm.

Wednesday 31st December – 'New Years Eve Dance.' 8pm to 12.30am. A cold meat buffet with desserts. Dancing to 'Sounds Familiar.' Tickets will be £25.00 per person. For further details, please contact Ros Shorting on 01945 773604.

New committee members would be made most welcome.

If you could spare some time volunteering occasionally to help at hall events either serving refreshments, on the door collecting tickets or selling raffle tickets etc, your help would be greatly appreciated plus it's a great way to meet and make new friends whilst helping to keep a community asset running. Please contact Dee Harrison on 01945 773735 for further details. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd October at 7.30pm in the committee room.

Dee Harrison

Recent 200 Club Winners

Jul	Ticket	Winner	Prize	Aug	Ticket	Winner	Prize	Sep	Ticket	Winner	Prize
1st	51	Dick Gooch	£25.00	1st	4	Jake Smith	£25	1st	49	Jill Gooch	£25.00
2nd	115	Helen Spriggs	£15.00	2nd	116	Joan Smith	£15	2nd	1	Sian Morgan	£15.00
3rd	26	Maisie Harding	£12.00	3rd	146	Sylvie Short	£12	3rd	35	Doug Cousins	£12.00



AMERICAN POKEWEED *Phytolacca americana*

Pokeweed, also known as red ink plant, is an unpleasant-smelling perennial. It has red stems and large leaves that are tinged purple in autumn. From mid-summer it produces spikes of white to pink flowers which later develop into dark maroon berries. Be careful with this plant as the berries are highly toxic if swallowed and the sap can be an irritant.

Are you 65 or over? Need information or advice on things to do, getting out and about, staying safe and well or caring for someone, then...

ASK LILY



Living Independently in Later Years
a directory of services, activities, advice and guidance for older people living in West Norfolk

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or by calling 01553 616200



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West Norfolk



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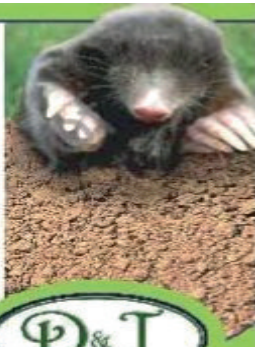
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☎ 01354 740249



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 774272

COULD YOU BENEFIT FROM INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE?

If you can answer 'yes' to any of the following questions you could benefit from independent financial advice.

- 1 Could your savings and investments be working harder for you?
- 2 Are you worried you aren't paying enough attention to your plans for retirement?
- 3 Worried about the wellbeing of your family should the unexpected happen?
- 4 Have you taken out life assurance or an income protection policy in the last 5 years?
- 5 Have you invested money into an investment or pension without a review from the provider in the last 6 months?
- 6 Do you like the thought of a flexible advice service that can fit around your lifestyle and meet your needs?

Why not enjoy the peace of mind that comes from receiving jargon-free advice on the most appropriate financial products for your personal circumstances.

For a free initial meeting contact: **Colin Freer**

T. 07738 120256 F. 08452 991298 E. ColinFreer@thinkpositive.co.uk
Salts Road, West Walton, Wisbech, Cambs, PE14 7ED

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THE 'GOOD' LIFE, WITH ALLAN AND ALEX GULLON

Allan and Alex knew exactly what they were looking for and, after a long search which took them all over Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, they discovered Upwell. It ticked all the right boxes, being near enough to friends and relatives, with good transport links, weather similar to the County they were leaving and even a pub plus other amenities within walking distance. The house and land were just right to fulfil their dream of running a small holding, keeping animals and growing fruit and vegetables – enough to be as near to self sufficient as possible. They fell in love with the house as well as the village and put in an offer which was accepted.

Having been used as grazing for Shetland ponies, much work was needed to reconfigure the land for their needs, dividing it up into usable plots, building animal houses and planting a willow grove, which has become a home for pigs. Although only resident in Upwell since April 2009, Allan and Alex have already turned their dream into reality, producing enough meat, fruit and vegetables for their needs.

“But we can’t grow coffee and toilet rolls,” said Allan with a laugh, though had to confess he did once try to make coffee from dandelion roots which didn’t work out too well,

“It was rubbish!” added Alex, though she did commend him for trying.

The skills and knowledge necessary to make a success of this way of life have been acquired over a period of time through a combination of listening to – and taking – advice from others in the Fenland Smallholders Association to which they belong, trial and error and attending the occasional course. They are a very ‘feet on the ground,’ no nonsense couple who, although confident they could do this, were careful to proceed slowly and not bite off more than they could chew. Alex pointed out that silly mistakes would be paid for by the animals – sometimes with their lives. They already had experience of keeping rabbits and chickens, so started with those and have expanded their livestock to include sheep and pigs, though they don’t breed these but buy them in as newly weaned lambs and piglets which they rear. They were also careful only to introduce one new kind of animal a year.

Daily chores begin with feeding and watering the animals, whatever the weather, and letting the chickens out – though not until 9 o’clock as Archie, the cockerel, is quite noisy! If it is a day when the sheep need attention,

they are lured into a pen from a distant field by rattling some dried food in a tin – a ploy discovered by chance and of necessity, owing to the fact that Allan, according to Alex, is ‘useless as a sheepdog!’ The pigs then have to be fed, both in the morning and later on as if they are given their daily requirement all in one go they overeat and become ill. The food is a proprietary brand as feeding them swill – anything that has ever been in a kitchen – is now illegal.

At the end of the day Allan does the second pig-feed, checks the water and gives the chickens some corn to provide variety in their diet, before locking the animals in for the night. He emphasised how essential it is to provide shelter from the wind, rain and sun for all the animals, and that building these is a never-ending task, particularly as Alex is constantly demanding just one more for some needy creature.

At certain times of the year, mainly the end of July, their produce has to be processed in order to minimise waste and this ripening of some fruit and vegetables coincides with a second sowing of such things as carrots and lettuces etc. It is a busy time for Alex as she is constantly harvesting



tomatoes, sweet corn and beans to freeze or bottle, as well as the soft fruits that ripen at the same time. This busy couple also make wine, and Alex’s latest venture is weaving with their own home-grown willow, so Allan is making a trough in which to soak the wood.

For most of us, looking after three pigs, five sheep, fifteen chickens and thirty giant rabbits, as well as tending all the fruit and vegetables would be a full time job, but this couple enjoy being part of village life. Alex is on the Village Hall Committee, the Governing Body of the local Primary School, the PCC and enjoys being part of the team running ‘Messy Church’ – an event for local children that takes place every other month. Allan is a member of Welle Creek Trust, the Playing Field Committee and Walk Upwell, and still finds time to entertain the locals at the village pubs with his singing and guitar playing.

Living in harmony with nature and sometimes even with each other, Allan and Alex are building an outdoor life that suits them perfectly, relishing the tasks they have to perform, even on cold, frosty mornings. They can’t get away for holidays as often as the rest of us but, as their daughter pointed out, “when you live in paradise, why would you want to go away?”

“Yes, it’s a grand spot,” said Alex, leaning back in the sunshine. Looking around at the fat, healthy rabbits and white sheep, their coats newly washed by the rain, I had to agree.

Sylvie Short

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Upwell Royal British Legion

A new committee has been elected to run Upwell
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The Royal British Legion Upwell

We would like to thank those of you who are supporting the Royal British Legion in its fight to remain open.

Since forming a new committee in October last year, officially elected in January, things are looking rosier but we are by no means out of the woods yet, so that's why I am asking you to come and support the club.

We were opened, years ago, by local people for the local community, and wish to remain open.

We have been granted our liquor licence on the basis that we are a members-only club, so you can come in three times to drink without being a member, then we ask you kindly to fill in forms to join.

Events the Legion hold are different: you can attend without being a member. But to remain open we need your support and your membership.

On the 13 April we held an open day; the Legion Bikers came and it was nice seeing all the motor cycles.

On the 17th May we held a charity event for the 'Wipe your Tears' charity and raised £524 for them. A very big thank you to all that supported this.

Upwell British Legion arranged for war veteran, Roger Swann, to lay a wreath at Upwell war memorial to commemorate the **70th Anniversary of the D Day landing**. A strong turn-out of over 40 members including Mr D Pope and Mrs V Spikings were present. Gareth Crook was the standard bearer. The Rev. Paul Skillings, our local padre, conducted the service, with readings from Mr D Houghton and Mrs V Spikings. Our thanks go to Mr David Gray and his wife Pauline for organising this event on behalf of Upwell British Legion.

We are hosting lots of other events. Posters are displayed in the shops through the village and on the window and inside the Legion hall alongside our opening hours.

We have a lovely veranda so do come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and watch the boats on Welle creek. Tea and coffee are also available.

Thanks for reading this.

Club secretary: Alison

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THE FARMING YEAR – SPRING AND SUMMER

How time flies. Spring came round again and soon departed and now we are into summer. This spring was fairly good, weatherwise, after the mild and wet winter. The winter wheat and oilseed rape crops looked in fairly good condition after the winter weather. The land has started to settle and dry, so farmers are making a start drilling and planting crops. The land appears to be coming down fairly well after the wet weather and lack of frosts, which help to break the soil down. Sugarbeet, onions and vegetables are being drilled and potatoes are being planted. The early potatoes appear to be growing well as does the sugar beet but the weather is not too bad, we are having some nice warm days with some showers thrown in, although some are a bit on the heavy side, but the crops seem to be growing well and the prospects look good.

Into July and early potatoes are starting to be lifted and appear to be good and are 2 to 3 weeks earlier than last year. Also the weather appears to have suited other crops such as vegetables and the strawberries which are also earlier than last year and I see some fields of oilseed rape have been combined. They tell me crops are fairly good also some winter barley is being harvested and some winter wheat is also ready which is fairly early and also the wheat looks good. I notice as you ride about a number of fields have been combined.

But then at the time of writing, Friday 8th August, the Fenland area and around had storms and very heavy rain. The most rain I have ever seen fall in such a short time. Some places were flooded and the crops and land saturated so now we have to hope the weather improves so harvest can continue and also hope that it has not done too much damage to the crops. Also I have been told by people around the local area with rain gauges that 3.5 to 5 inches of rain fell on that day. It appears some properties in the area were flooded. I have never known this happen in all the years I have lived here.

Now most of the water that was laying on the fields has subsided and the water in the dykes has gone down. The weather has been better but we still keep having some showers, which keep stopping combining. As I wrote earlier, harvest started fairly early this year but due to the weather harvest is now going to be into September and there still seems to be a fair amount left to do.

I see they have started to lift the pumpkins but the wet has affected some fields and the pumpkins are much smaller than usual. Other crops have also been badly affected by the rain. If the weather settles down and stays dry it will help farmers to finish harvest and also make it better to lift the root crops, so we can only hope we get a fine September and October.

Keith Harrison.

Now That's What You Call Rain!

No-one I have spoken to can remember such an intense downpour of rain as we experienced on August 8th. My rain gauge registered almost 4 inches of rain in the 24 hour period, but the most amazing statistic was that at its peak, 1.88 inches fell in one hour. We have had heavier rain in the past: notably on 26th August 1912, when 7 inches fell on already saturated ground. This devastated wide areas of Norfolk, particularly Norwich.



The recent rain led to the flooding of many properties, as well as a severe test of our gutters and drainpipes. In several cases I saw, the misery could have been alleviated, if not prevented, had dykes not been filled in in the past, and those that are still there kept clear. A sorry lesson indeed. My sympathies to those who were affected: clearing up mud and water must be one of the worst calamities to deal with.

Steve Calton

UPWELL PLAYING FIELD

Registered charity 300425

Oh the good Old British Weather – or not! Our **Summer Fayre** on Sunday 13th July, what can one say? To those who attended and supported us on a wet summer's day, a big thank you; to the stalls that paid, a big thank you; to all our helpers a big thank you. To our sponsors, Fountain Foods, Ray Wilson, Hartley Estates a huge thank you.

You may have noticed, already reported in Welle –in – Touch, we have lost our banner off the bridge advertising our weekly carboot sale. Highways Department, Kings Lynn do not have it, it has been stolen and reported as such, value £35. The playing field committee cannot afford to replace it, if you have any information about this, it will be gratefully received. The committee are all volunteers and are working for YOUR local community
NOTE: the registered charity number at the top of the page!

Our **August Horse and Pony Show** was held on the 16th. A heavy downpour the weekend before put it in doubt, but the field had dried up sufficiently, so there would be no major hassle with vehicles getting stuck. Sponsors of the show were Upwell and District Coaches, Upwell Post Office, Kerry Motor Services and S.W.G. Engineering. Our thanks to Addy, Hilary, Beth and Jo, Judge Lauren Hopwood and Steward Katie Bourn.

In-hand champion Jess Ogden and Glynn, Reserve Champion Georgia Sharp and Melman II.

Ridden Champion Georgia Sharp and Melman II, Reserve Champion Jo Drew and Joey.

Overall Supreme champion Jess Ogden and Glynn, Reserve Supreme Champion Georgia Sharp and Melman II.

Thanks to Rosemary Ladeji for judging fun classes and Julie Cox, Steward.

Our next show is 27th September. Follow us on facebook – Upwell Playing Field Committee Horse and Pony Show.

Junior Football Training at Upwell Playing Field

Outwell swifts season begins on the 13th of September and training has already started !

We have teams in age groups under 7's,8's,9's,10's and under 16's.

Training is on a tuesday evenings 6pm to 7pm and all are welcome to come and join in the fun and football

The managers are all FA level qualified coaches with CRB checked assistants and we provide a friendly and safe environment for all to enjoy.

Anyone wishing to join our club or offer support in any way please come along on a Tuesday evening or contact Barrie Carter Club chairman on 07713506477

We will be holding a **Disco on 18th October** at Upwell Hall tickets £8.00 dancing to Sonicsounds (Barry Carter). Music from the 1960s – '80s, look out for posters.

On Saturday 20th September there will be a **Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning** in the pavilion, - please bake a cake and come along... contact Helen 738981 or Ros 773604.

Work will be carried out on the **skate park** shortly and the benches will also be getting a make-over with new timbers on the seats. These were moved some years ago from along side the bowls club fence. We have been offered a netball /basket ball ring for the youngsters. They have been asked where it should be placed – but NOT on the end of the pavilion! You could offer your services by supplying concrete as I am told it is not good to play on grass!

Some of our **new signs** have been put in place giving information, i.e., 'CCTV 24/7', 'gates locked at any time'. These are in the children's play area, skate park, by the main gate and on the field gates. Please take time to read them.

100 club tickets all sold! If you would like one next year please speak to John Spikings or Ros. **Christmas Raffle** tickets will be on sale soon. Donations of appropriate Christmas items would be appreciated.

	£5	£10	£15
June	Jamie Brighty	Hilary Cox	Glenn Boyce
July	Derek Gooch,	Heather Andrew	Sparrow
August:	Alison Gritton,	Pat Moat	Clive Efford.
September:	Hazel Brown	Clive Efford	Rose Pope

Upwell Playing Field would like to thank Heather for donating her prize back to funds.

To fund our Summer Fayre, Pony Shows and to keep the playing field "afloat" throughout the year during the months April to October weather permitting we hold a **weekly carboot sales** on the field, pitches £5.00.

Dates confirmed for 2015:

April 18th Horse and Pony Show

Summer Fayre 12th July

Ros Shorting – 01945 773604

Upwell Jazz Club 2014

Three Holes Village Hall (Sat Nav PE14 9JY)

Sunday 2nd November
 Guests: Laurie Jacobs - sax
 John Pini - guitar

A very welcome return visit to Upwell Jazz Club by Peterborough-based saxophonist Laurie Jacobs accompanied John Pini on guitar.

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Information from Nigel Smith on 01945 773121

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New Website!!

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website:**

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Upwell Parish Council

**Meeting Dates For
2014/5**

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.

October

6th Full Council 7.00pm

November

3rd Full Council 7.00pm

December

1st Full Council 7.00pm

January

5th Full Council 7.00pm

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**Ofcom request
information on silent and
abandoned telephone calls**

Ofcom, the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries, have requested information from consumers about incidents when they have received silent or abandoned telephone calls.

Ofcom describe an abandoned call as one that is terminated when you pick up the receiver. Instead of there being a person on the other end of the line you may hear an information message from the organisation that was trying to call you.

A silent call happens when your phone rings but there's only silence when you

answer it and you have no means of knowing whether anyone is at the end of the line.

For many people, silent calls can be unnerving or indeed frightening. Almost always there is nothing sinister going on. They are usually caused by companies using predictive diallers or other automated calling systems to make large volumes of calls.

If you receive either of these types of call you can report it on the Ofcom website.

Ofcom also provide a wide range of information and advice about nuisance calls and messages on their website including how to protect yourself and who you can complain about them to.

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