

Winter 2013



Upwell Parish Council

Community Magazine

Inside this issue :

THE SISTERHOOD

This was started in 1938 by Mrs. Wanless, the wife of the Minister at the time, and initially had a membership of 35 ladies. Its purpose was to provide a place where ladies could meet once a week for fellowship – a social afternoon – which is still the case today, but with a few variations. Speakers are still invited and tea is still served over which the ladies can exchange news and enjoy a chat, but certain aspects of the fellowship have disappeared with the passage of time. One lady used to provide a ‘pedlar’s tray’ filled with various bits and pieces that the others could buy. There was also, until a few years ago, an auction sale which was good fun and, like the pedlar’s tray, helped to boost the Sisterhood’s funds.

The main benefit of the group is to provide companionship for those who might otherwise be lonely, and the ladies meet occasionally for meals – always a dinner in the summer and a lunch to celebrate the Sisterhood’s anniversary. They don’t all come from Upwell; some are from Outwell, Lakesend and even Welney, though transport for these members is an ongoing problem. All birthdays are remembered with a card and a pretty handkerchief; and special birthdays are marked with a bouquet of flowers.

The above information was provided by Margaret Barnard, who has been a very enthusiastic member of the Sisterhood for the past twenty five years, making her the longest serving member at the moment. Among her contributions is the provision of the birthday cards and hankies and, when anyone is ill, she visits them – something she thinks is very important. She has been the Chairman but is currently Secretary and Treasurer, quite a responsibility. The Chair is now held on a rota basis by six people.

Up to 1981 the meetings were still held once a week, but since then, owing to a drop in membership and the difficulty of getting speakers, they now take place fortnightly on Thursdays at 2.30 pm from September through to May when they close for the summer. The membership currently stands at 19, but Margaret stressed that new members are always welcome. As well as socialising, the ladies like to contribute to the Church and gifts over the years have included teaspoons, pulpit carpet, tablecloths, cups and saucers, organ screen and aisle carpet with the most recent purchase being a sound system. They also decorate a windowsill in the Church at Christmas and on other special occasions and, although others would be willing to do this, the task often falls to ‘Barney’ as she lives close by and enjoys doing it.

Barney made a promise to Mary Hancock that she wouldn’t let the Sisterhood go and honouring that promise is very important to her. She hopes it will continue for a long time into the future and I’m sure all the current members hope so too.



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear All,
Welcome to the winter edition of the Community Magazine.

First of all I would like to lay a rumour to rest! The previous edition of this publication was delivered with a serious printer's error, which they corrected at their own expense and delivered a second batch as soon as they could.

The pile of magazines that were put out for recycling were the first batch and not as has been suggested a thousand spare copies that were being thrown away! The advertising covers the printing costs and this magazine costs the Parish Council little or nothing.

Some good news: Norfolk County Council Highways are due to start resurfacing the footpath on Town Street from the shop to Newbridge in the week commencing 10th January. This date will be subject to the weather of course and any over runs that it may have caused on previous jobs, but at least we have a date and can look forward to being able to walk it without tripping over. We understand that all the new footpaths are to be constructed shortly, including the one at the bottom of Lowside.

The Parish Council will make a decision about the LED Streetlights at our December meeting. We have delayed doing so in order to be able to visit other villages where they have already been installed and so have a better understanding of what they will really be like if we have them put in here. The N.C.C. Parish Partnership budget for the current year has been reduced from a million pounds to £200,000 with only 50% funding on offer, and bids for further LED streetlighting will not be accepted so it has been decided that it is not practicable to put in a bid for a different project in this financial year.

With great regret I have to tell you that the Cobley family, including our Clerk, Kate, have had to move away from the area for family reasons. Kate will continue to work remotely for the Council in the short term and we are expecting our Assistant Clerk, Kate Bennett, to take over from her in the New Year. Kate has been a wonderful asset to the Council and the Community for many years and she will be much missed. Those of you who used to contact her on her home number will realise that it has been disconnected. However the messaging service on 01945 774272 will continue to be monitored every day and her email address remains the same.

I would like to close with my usual thanks to our Contributors, Advertisers and Distributors and offer best wishes from all members of the Parish Council for a peaceful Christmas and New Year. With regards,

Prue Lester

Christmas Church Services In Upwell

DATE	SERVICE	TIME	LOCATION
22 nd December	Carol Service	2.30pm	Lakes End Methodist Church
22 nd December	Carol Service	6.30pm	Upwell Methodist Church
24 th December	Communion Service	11.30am	Upwell Methodist Church
24 th December	Crib Service	3.00pm	Outwell Methodist Church
25 th December	Christmas Day Service	10.30am	Upwell Methodist Church

St Peter's Christmas Services

- 22nd December Carols by Candle light, traditional carols and readings. 6.30pm
- 24th December Crib Service 6.00pm followed by Mulled Wine and Mince pies.
- Midnight Mass at St Clements Outwell 11.30pm.
- 25th December Service 10.00am
- 29th December Joint Service at Upwell 10.30am.



Christmas Quiz

1. The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, London is an annual gift from which nation?
2. According to the Christmas carol, "Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen". On what date does the Feast of Stephen fall?
3. From which country did Saint Nicholas originate?
4. If a person was given all the gifts in the song "The Twelve days of Christmas", how many gifts in total would they receive?
5. What Christmas item was invented by London baker Tom Smith in 1847?
6. In which ocean does the Australian territory of Christmas Island lie?
7. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents" is the opening line from which classic novel?
8. If you were born on Christmas day under what zodiac sign would you be?
9. From which country were turkeys introduced into the UK in the 16th Century?
10. What is the name of the German/Austrian yeast cake often served at Christmas?
11. Which Disney animation, based on a T.H.White book was first released on Christmas Day in 1963?
12. In "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" why was The Grinch so mean?
13. Who is said to have introduced the Christmas tree into the UK?
14. What were the names of the three wise men?
15. Which plant associated with Christmas has the Latin name "*Viscum Album*" ?
16. In which Bond film does the character Dr. Christmas Jones appear?
17. What Christmas item was first commercially designed by John Calcott Horsley in 1843?
18. What is the name of The Simpson's pet greyhound?
19. Who were "Walking Backwards to Christmas", in song in 1956?
20. Which is the only book in The Bible to mention the arrival of The Magi at the birth of Christ?
21. Featuring among others the songs "My Funny Valentine" and "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered", what Rodgers and Hart musical opened in New York on Christmas Day in 1940?
22. What is the name of the sweet Italian bread often served at Christmas?
23. In which year in The Queen's Speech did Queen Elizabeth II the past twelve months as a "*Annus Horribilus*"?
24. Born on Christmas Day in 1954, she had hits with such songs as "Walking on Broken Glass" and "No More I Love You's," what is her name?
25. Who was crowned King of England on December 25th 1066?

Answers on Page 9

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Well Creek Trust News

Autumn 2013

The Well Creek Trust has been active once again this autumn on behalf of the community and for the enhancement of our local environment.

The major project of refurbishing the Salter's Lode Visitor Moorings at a cost to the Trust of £2333 was finalised in



November – see picture of new safety-decked moorings.

The Trust provided the materials and the Middle Level Commissioners provided the labour to complete the work. This attractive improvement to the mooring facility will present a welcome to visiting boats from the Ouse upon first entering our local waterway as well as a much needed safe facility for all users.

Another project is planned over the winter period to replace local information boards at the lock moorings, Upwell Church mooring and Outwell Basin, providing information for visiting boaters on local amenities and places of interest. These will be encased weather-proof aluminium at a cost of around £500.

Upwell Church moorings are continually being improved aesthetically and the floral display this year has been much commented on by both visiting boaters and local people. It provides an attractive leisure facility in the heart of the village.

The Trust also undertook its annual task of bulb-planting on 23 November with volunteers augmenting the already wonderful displays with additional planting. The Trust carefully selects those areas which are identified by photographs in the spring as needing some supplements and where practical annually undertakes this task. We know it is very much appreciated as well as widely photographed by many. See photograph of a few of this year's volunteer team.

Our AGM will be held at Upwell Village Hall on Thursday 6th February at 1930 hrs and our guest speaker will be local Historian, Bill Smith, speaking on "A Pictorial Journey down the Wisbech Canal". Members and prospective new members are most welcome to join us.



UP & OUT *Ladies Running Club*

Up & Out Ladies Running Club

Now in its fourth year, the Up & Out Running Club members are keen to attract more ladies to join and realise the benefits of regular running. As well as improving fitness, running also helps you to control weight and de-stress. Plus the added bonus of joining a club is that you also get to meet people and make new friends.

The ladies are quick to say that they are definitely not athletes and that they would never have managed to run without the support of the rest of the members. The club likes to point out that its members are all ages, abilities,

shapes and sizes and everyone is welcome to come along and get started.

"We are all pleased to think we are doing something to keep ourselves healthier and in shape but it's the fun and social side of the club that keeps us coming back week after week" says Club Member Louise Larkins.

Anyone interested in having a go at running is very welcome to join the ladies for a few sessions to see how things go. The Up & Out Ladies Running Club meets at 6.30pm on Tuesdays at Upwell Village Hall and annual membership, if you decide to join, is £10.

If you are worried you have not run in a while, the Up & Out Ladies Running Club will be working in partnership with the Borough Council to host a six week course for women at just £12, starting in March. You will find the beginners' course a welcoming and friendly experience. You will only run according to your own capabilities and will feel healthier and fitter. You will be shown how to run safely with warm-up and cool-down stretches, and will be surprised and delighted by your weekly improvements. The course progresses slowly; no-one is ever left on their own.

For more information contact Lou Mayer on 07979 212595 or lmayer350@btinternet.com

12th Wisbech (Upwell and Outwell)

Beavers

We have had an enjoyable term and welcomed seven new beavers into our colony. Beavers is scouting for children between the ages of 5 3/4 years up until the first full term after their 8th birthday.

The term began with a sleepover, the theme being pirates. During our time together we learnt about the Cayman Islands through various crafts and other activities. This was the first time some of the beavers had slept away from family and they were all really good and well behaved. Well Done Beavers.

Our badge work programme this term has consisted of :-

Creative Activity – sewing and pyrography

Safety Activity – water, home, garden and stranger danger.

My Faith – exploring the church, singing songs, writing a spider prayer and watch a DVD story about The Good Samaritan.

Nights Away- The beavers who slept have all gained their one night away badge.

Promise Challenge – to complete this the beavers have made some flowers for the church Harvest Festival, brought in tins of food for the food bank in Wisbech, and completed their my faith badge. They also attended the church parade on Harvest Festival Sunday when their Colony Flag was dedicated during the service and all beavers renewed their promise.

As a colony we have decided to set ourselves a new challenge: for the first time we are working toward the



With the first day back at school after the summer holidays being a Thursday I wasn't sure how many of the cubs would attend a meeting the night before, what with all the early baths and last minute home work. So we had an informal meeting for those that who wanted to come for some outside cooking. 7 Cubs came, bringing with them their frying pans and ingredients for cooking over open fires. We also made campfire pizzas which went down very well and baked apples in the embers to go with custard. All those who attended really enjoyed themselves with a couple of the parents staying on to help out too. On the 11th September the pack started work on the Naturalist Badge - one which we hadn't done for a couple of years and which I split over three weeks. The pack started by going on a "bug hunt" in the gardens, collecting spiders, earwigs, wood lice and

Faith Partnership Award. This is an ongoing award which we will complete by July 2014. It has involved the Beavers looking at poor people across the world. We have had work sheets about Present Aid, and are saving up our pennies to buy things for them. At present we have saved enough money for a goat and the Beavers have decided they would like to save up for some ducklings next.

We have taken part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade at Upwell and as the Beaver Scout leader I was extremely pleased with all those who attended and how smart they looked.

November 27th brought us to our presentation evening for this term when we presented all the Beavers with their badges and three special awards were given out: the Chief Scout Bronze Award (the highest award a Beaver can achieve) went to Seth Mayer, Harriet Culley and Robert Pearson.

We also said our goodbyes to Jamie Bambridge and Harriet Culley as after Christmas they continue their scouting journey into cubs.

Our two December meeting were held at Upwell as group events December 4th being a Christmas Fair and December 11th a Christmas disco.

We look forward to seeing all our Beavers back on January 8th 2014.

From all the leaders at Beavers we would like to thank you for all your support during 2013.

Deborah Crook 07513993526

other creepy crawlies before examining them with magnifying glasses. The Cubs then made plaster casts of leaves they had also collected and recycled plastic pop bottles into bird feeders. The following weeks we assembled some insect houses, which resembled small open fronted bird boxes filled with cut up garden canes. These looked really good and should provide shelter for lots of garden insects.

On October 2nd the Cubs worked on their Home Safety Badge. The requirements for this badge aren't too extensive so we were able to do it in just one evening. The pack split into sixes moving round a series of bases, one looking at dangers in the kitchen by going in there and spotting lots of pre-arranged dangers. Trailing extension leads, matches left open, paint and thinners, saucepans with handles hanging over the edge of the cooker, knives and chemicals and bleach left where they shouldn't be. We then held a fire drill with all the Cubs mustering outside when the bell was sounded. The rest of the evening we made some safety

/over

posters and did some safety word searches

The following two weeks Phil Shepherd, Ray Lamacq and Richard Bradley from the Peterborough Astronomical Society visited us for the Astronomer Badge. Ray set up a large telescope in the car park with which we were able view the moon, and there was plenty of gasping from the Cubs when they had their turn. Phil and Richard stayed in the hall to give a talk on comets, the planets, solar eclipses, constellations and how to find the Pole Star. On week two we started by making models of the solar system with polystyrene. Phil set up a real time projector and we had our own planetarium in the hall. This was amazing to see as you could not only zoom in and out to see the different stars but fast forward it to different times of the night or weeks of the year. Phil and his team really put on a great show for the Cubs.

We held our conker championship at the end of October, with the Cubs competing for the coveted prize of the "gold conker" The sad thing was so many of the Cubs hadn't ever played conkers before. Congratulations to Alfie Cook for winning this year's competition.



Scouts have been very busy since the Summer Holidays. The autumn Camp proved a great

success and everyone enjoyed the map hike and the RNLI at Old Hunstanton. We were very proud of our adventure campers who were brave enough to camp one night under a shelter they built themselves. Well done to the 4 brave Scouts, 1 of them a newly invested one!

The Campfire Investiture of 3 new Scouts was quite special and much fun was had by all.

We took part in the Outwell Parade on the 6th of October which celebrates harvest festival. Our new flag was dedicated during the service which we are very proud about.

During the last few weeks we have been completing the photography, IT and Heritage badges, during which we have researched facts about the war memorial in Upwell, and have lent a helping hand with some gardening preparing for Remembrance Day. Thank you Prue Lester for all your help with our efforts.



The following week was a games evening with the Cubs making and laminating a snakes and ladders board before sitting down to play this classic game. On November 13 we looked at traditional Scouting skills with the Cubs being given a length of rope and instructions on 6 basic knots and lashings. After practising a clove hitch and a square lashing the Cubs split into groups of 5 to lash together stretchers made from poles, before carrying each other around the hall. In the run up to Christmas we have two craft evenings where we prepare things for our Christmas Fayre. Then it's our Christmas Party and disco on the 11th, which this year is going to have a Dr Who theme to coincide with the show's 50th anniversary. Looking ahead to next year, I'm already planning the programme with two camps, outside cooking, a visit to Peterborough Mosque and Wisbech castle. We are looking for Adult volunteers to help out at pack meetings: if you are free on a Wednesday evening and want to join Scouting's Big Adventure you can contact us via our email 12thwisbechscouts@gmail.com

Akela.

We have also been busy fundraising and thanks to the great work of Cubs and Scouts a total of just over £500 was raised during our Bag Pack at Morrisons in Wisbech where everyone worked really hard. Afterwards we much enjoyed the Onesie Party Sleepover .

Remembrance Sunday was indeed a proud day for Scouts. Not only did Scouts proudly parade their flag to honour the fallen but also took active part in the church service, delivering a beautiful reading. Upwell and Outwell can be proud of their scout Troop.



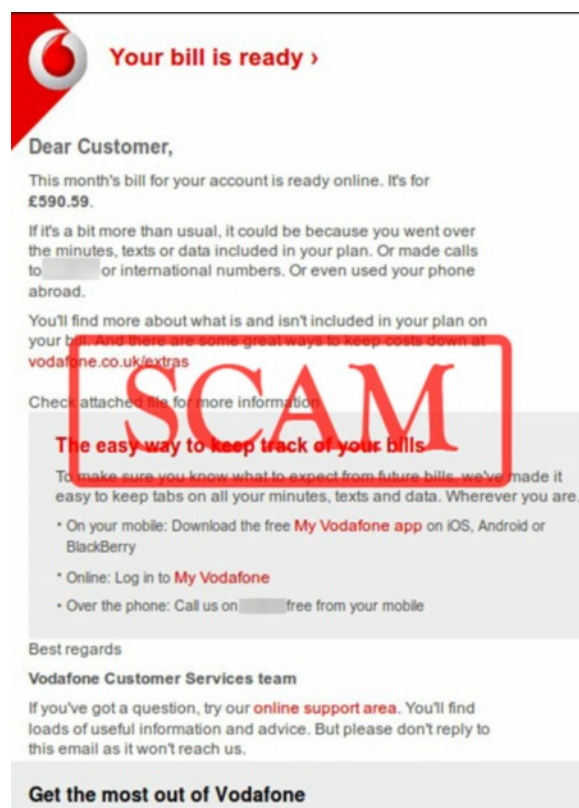
Now we are looking forward to Christmas - the year has flown by. Currently we are busy with wood work, constructing key boards in the shape of houses which with a little

help, we are shaping, sanding, decorating and experimenting with Pyrography, learning new practical skills.

Soon we will go Carol Singing again by popular demand and this time include Outwell into our Route.

We are always welcoming new Scouts and Adult Helpers. If you would like to try out scouting or have a bit of time to spare and would like to help providing young people with lots of opportunities to develop their physical, emotional and personal potential you can get in touch via email : 12thwisbechscouts@gmail.com

Scam Alert – Email claiming to be from Vodafone – 26 November 2013



Norfolk Trading Standards are warning about a scam email claiming to be from Vodafone.

The email (pictured left) states your bill is available online and 'it's a bit more than usual'. It then states your bill is approaching £600 this month and says that the attached file contains 'more information'

The email is not from Vodafone and the attached file if opened contains malware designed to harvest personal and financial information from the computer.

If you receive this email delete it without opening the attached file.

You can get advice on protecting yourself from viruses and spyware on the Get Safe Online website

If you receive a scam email like this you can report it to Action Fraud via their online fraud reporting tool or to Citizens Advice consumer helpline via their online reporting form

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UPWELL VILLAGE HALL NEWS & EVENTS

The warm, mild days of autumn have faded and once more we return into the busy winter months. With Christmas fast approaching, the hall is once more holding various festive activities. The Christmas Craft Fair held by the committee back in November, was again buzzing with a vast array of quality craft stalls that drew in the crowds. The hall committee put up the Christmas decorations on Saturday 2nd November prior to the Craft Fair to give it that extra special atmosphere, as you can see, they done a great job. The tree is due to arrive on the 7th December and the transformation will be complete.



Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 31st December – ‘New Year’s Eve Dance.’ 8pm to 12.30am. A cold meat buffet with desserts. Dancing to the band ‘Get Back.’ Tickets are £25.00 each. For further details, please contact Ros Shorting on 01945 773604

New ideas and events have been discussed for the new year but still need to be finalised such as an evening talk hosted by some of our local authors, a return of ‘Gardener’s Question Time’ (last held on the 9th May 2001,) a ‘Race Night’ in conjunction with the Wisbech Lions and much more.

If you would like to book the hall for your own event, please contact Dee Harrison on 01945 773735. It just leaves me to say on behalf of everyone on the Village Hall Committee, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

200 Club Winners

It is the time of the year once more when 200 Club Tickets are available to purchase for all the 2014 draws. For a one of payment of £12.00, your number is then in the barrel to be drawn on a monthly basis meaning you could be one of the 40 prize winners throughout the year. Most months have prizes of £25, £15 & £12, June has an extra draw of £50 and December is the big one everyone wants to win of £500! A wonderful financial bonus in time for Christmas. So what are you waiting for? Please contact any committee member to buy your ticket. These are the latest winners:

Sept	Ticket	Winner	Prize	Oct	Ticket	Winner	Prize	Nov	Ticket	Winner	Prize
1st	150	Sylvie Short	£25	1st	18	Brian Fisher	£25	1st	29	Jill Murfin	£25
2nd	106	Norman Wood	£15	2nd	109	Sue Waterfield	£15	2nd	43	Keith Harrison	£15
3rd	26	Peter Medlock	£12	3rd	180	A Haycock	£12	3rd	127	Mr R Morton	£12

WE WERE CALLED.

The hillside with sheep,
And stars.
The night, velvet black - and those stars.
Bright points of light high above.
And the air, cold and sharp as needles,
White clouds plumed from our mouths
As we huddled together trying to keep
warm,
Or paced about, alone with our thoughts,
Our fingers raw and cold as stone.

When it came it was sudden
Unexpected, yet familiar - as though we'd
been waiting for this moment all our lives.
Shards of light pierced the velvet
blackness like glass,
Gleaming white and gold,
Shining like steel in sunlight.
And the faces when they came
Shone with a dazzling beauty beyond words.

We shrank silently to the damp earth.
'Will you come?' they called. 'Will you come?'
'Yes,' we said.

We were called.

1. Norway
2. Boxing Day, the day after Christmas Day, 26th December.
3. He is said to have come from Turkey
4. The gifts would total 364
5. Nothing to do with baking it was Christmas crackers.
6. There are 2 Christmas Islands, but the Australian one lies in the Indian Ocean.
7. Written by Louisa May Alcott, the lines come from "Little Women".
8. You would be a Capricorn
9. From the USA (or more correctly America as it was then).
10. Stollen
11. "The Sword in the Stone".
12. His heart was two sizes too small.
13. Prince Albert.
14. They were Balhasar, Melchior and Caspar.
15. The plant is the Mistletoe.
16. She appears in "The World is not Enough," played by Denise Richards.
17. The Christmas Card.
18. He is called Santa's Little Helper.
19. Consisting of Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe, Spike Milligan and originally Michael Bentine it was The Goons.
20. The Gospel of Saint Matthew. (Matthew 2:1-12).
21. The musical was Pal Joey
22. Panetone.
23. It was the year 1992.
24. Annie Lennox
25. William I, The Conqueror.

Christmas Quiz Answers

APPEAL FOR WORLD WAR 1 MEMORABILIA

The 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the first World War will be commemorated in many ways next year and I intend to research the lives of those men from the village whose names are listed on the War Memorial. If anyone would like to help with this project please get in touch with me. Also if anyone has any memorabilia that relates to those who served or died in the conflict, it would be very interesting to hear about it with a view to a display come next year.

Prue Lester

Upwell Royal British Legion

A new committee has been elected to run Upwell British Legion. We are offering the premises to groups and societies at a competitive rate.

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Pauline on 01945 773276

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THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL

New AV system has arrived!

Our digital projector, electric screen and PA system are now installed and up-and-running. So, if you need a venue for a children's big screen video games party or for training for your company or presentations for your club or society then Three Holes Hall is the place for you. The use of the audio-visual equipment is included in the hall hire fees. 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).

Sat. 18 January 2014, 10am-1pm Coffee Morning & Three Holes 'Jubilee Celebration' Film Premiere

To celebrate the installation of the AV system we will be screening the film that we made at our event celebrating the Queen's (and Three Holes Village Hall's) Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and we are also aiming to launch a film club. Look out for more details in local press and the January 'Welle In Touch'.



160 Club – would you like to join?

The new year for our 160 Club starts on 1 February 2014. If you would like a chance to join and win prizes between £5 and £100 throughout the year and also help raise funds to keep The Hall running then contact Sally on 01945 773418.

160 Club –October Winners

£20 Jamie Stott Outwell; £10 Tony Shaw Upwell; £10 Brian Ranger Upwell; £5 Beryl Wenn Three Holes; £5 Jane Sutton Outwell; £5 the late Reg Deptford Three Holes; £5 Diane Wilson Three Holes; £5 Nancy Allen Upwell; £5 Richard Forth Upwell.

THREE HOLES BOWLS CLUB

Three Holes Bowls Club has regular match fixtures between now and the end of February next year and also a presentation tournament coming up on Sunday 16 March. The Club is always pleased to see new members – just call Yvonne Drew on 07716 421563 or Hazel Medlock on 01945 772327

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Christmas Magic

It was Christmas Eve. Chloe sat on her bed with the duvet wrapped around her staring out of the window. The frost had been sharp and so hard it stayed all day, a white crust that sparkled as the sun slowly set, dropping into the black soil of the fens and throwing orange fingers across the sky soon to glow with that strange evening light, turning friendly old trees into twisted, scary shapes; held there, stark and black, until everything sparkled again under the light of the moon.

"Here you are, Chloe, put your stocking up....and why are you sitting here in the dark? Silly mare."

In one seamless movement Chloe's older sister, Emma, came into the room, switched on the light and flung a stocking in Chloe's general direction. It landed on the floor near the bed and Chloe, roused from her reverie by the bright light, bent to pick it up.

"What were you doing anyway?" Emma asked, carefully arranging her stocking at the head of her bed.

"Oh, just thinking...you know." she glanced back out of the window then looked across the room at her sister. "Em....Do you believe in Father Christmas?"

"Yes, of course I do. He rides around on a sleigh, manages to get to every house in the whole world with enough presents for everyone and goes down chimneys - even though most houses haven't got one! Honestly, Chloe, what are you like?"

Both girls giggled then Chloe leaned over towards her sister,

"When did you first know he wasn't real?"

Emma thought for a moment before she replied,

"It was that year when I got up to go to the loo on Christmas Eve and our stockings had gone. I was upset and went to find Mum to tell her and she was in her bedroom trying to fill them up with presents. She was getting all tangled up and looked really embarrassed when I walked in. She just sort of grinned and tried to hide them, but she knew I'd sussed it out. I suppose I half knew already as Sharon-know-it-all-Matthews had been going round

in the playground saying that everyone who still believed in Father Christmas was just a silly kid." She paused then continued, "The funny thing was...I wanted to believe...it was like I had to let go of something special, and if I said I didn't believe it would be gone for ever."

Chloe bounced up on the bed,

"Yeah, I know what you mean. Do you remember that year when I told Dad I could hear bells ringing and the sound of hooves on the roof?" She paused and looked out of the window again, then back at her sister, "The funny thing was, Em, I did hear them...I'm sure I did."

She spoke softly but Emma had jumped up and crossed the room where she was 'busy' tidying a drawer. Chloe knew what she had done. Neither of the girls had mentioned their father since the day he had left. If only...if only he would come back. Sharon Matthews had had something to say about that too, hissing 'your Dad's got a girl friend,' into Emma's ear until she threatened to smack her in the mouth.

"Go to sleep, Chloe, you're too old to believe in things that aren't going to happen." She spoke more harshly than she intended and leapt into bed quickly, turning her face away from her younger sister.

It was three o'clock in the morning and Chloe was suddenly wide awake. She blinked as a shaft of moonlight pierced the inky blackness all around and tiny silver stars floated in on the moonbeam then popped and disappeared like little bubbles. She hugged the duvet around her and became aware of a sound like hundreds of tiny bells ringing far away - tinkling... twinkling....She couldn't move. Was this real? A dream? Then a voice, scarcely audible, but as clear as the bells said,

"You're never too old to see visions and dream dreams...never too old to believe."

And then below in the darkness she heard the garden gate...the key in the lock...the front door softly closing and knew that he had come home.

She closed her eyes tightly and waited for morning.



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FOR JACK RUSSELL FANS

Local artist and printmaker, John Richardson, has spent this year working on a hand produced book for all Jack Russell fans. He writes:

I have always been a Jack Russell Terrier fan, enjoying watching their idiosyncratic ways and seeing how their characters developed over the years. I would add that for the last twenty years we have owned four Jack Russells, Pike and Rufus, both sadly no longer with us and now two Parson Jack Russells, Minnow and Barney.

Pike, our first Jack Russell, was a demon ratter who put everyone, me included, back in their place and even starred on the pages of *Waterlog*. We acquired Rufus who became a fantastic family pet as well as a guard dog who could start a fight in solitary confinement. Minnow joined us courtesy of our friend, John Andrews and she is a feisty dog who has also become a supreme ratter. After Rufus' demise at the ripe old age of 18 years we re-homed Barney who devotes his time to stealing anything



edible, particularly Bramley cooking apples but guarding is also another prime directive. All four dogs have enjoyed lolling in front of a woodburning stove and have sat and stared at it, barking to have the fire lit when they decide it's getting cold.

When we were holidaying in Snowdonia in the early nineties the first idea for the book arrived in sketchbook form and then it just developed naturally into a diary and character study. The characters and types in the book are both real and fictional and work is now underway on Volume 2 which will once again be a limited and signed edition of three hundred and fifty.

John Andrews, or Andrews of Arcadia, has written a brilliant introduction to the book which contains fourteen two colour linocuts and one single colour linocut all printed from the original blocks with all of the text hand set and the whole book printed letterpress from front to back. The book costs £30.00 plus £1.95 P&P in the UK.

Contact John Richardson on jarsue159@btinternet.com or through www.thetwoterriers.blogspot.com for more information or, alternatively, you can use the old fashioned telephone to make contact on 01945 773850.

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