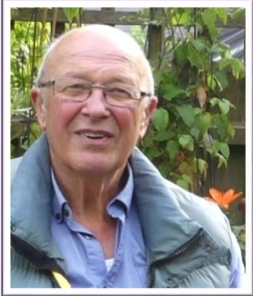

October 2022

Upwey Society Newsletter



A Message from the Chair

We have come to the end of what has been a very hot and dry summer, but over the past few months the Society has been very busy and we hope you've managed to attend some of our events.

There was the very successful 'Open Gardens' in June with 29 gardens open and the weather was wonderful. Many people attended over both days and the profits from the event were subsequently presented to Weymouth Food Bank by our President, Evelyn Price, in the sum of £4,005 – the Food Bank was delighted. Many thanks to all involved for this wonderful total. Next year's will be 24/25 June, and we hope it'll be an even greater success.

Then in August, we held the 'Big Affair' in the grounds of Upwey House, again a really well supported event, which between 600 and 700 people attended. Once again we were blessed with glorious weather.

On the 24th September a 'Call my Bluff' wine quiz and supper was held at the Old School Hall, and of course the Fireworks will take place on the 5th November.

We have continued to look at any planning matters when they arise and liaise with our local councillor Howard Legg on traffic and other issues.

As you can see your committee has been busy putting on these social events as well as looking at other matters that take place in the village. My thanks go to them all for the hard work they put in. We are still looking for someone to take over the creation of the production of the newsletter so if you are interested please put yourself forward.

With all good wishes - Mike Davis, Chair



Upcoming Events

November 5

Bonfire and Fireworks

December

Christmas event (wait and see!)

Can you help?

We welcome willing hands to help with the events we organize. And we need new people to keep those events going into the future – including people willing to join our committee.

If you'd like to help make sure that things like Open Gardens, the Scarecrow Competition and Firework Night keep going, please get in touch at upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk.

Reflections on 2022 – what a summer!

Platinum Jubilee



The Platinum Jubilee festivities in Upwey at the beginning of June – ‘Party in the (Car) Park’ – were skilfully negotiated between the showers! The old adage “KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON” has never been more tested! There were picnics, brollies, flags, and the fabulous KATZ who kept us dancing until dusk. Naturally the weather cleared and was perfect the next day.

Sadly, since celebrating this wonderful event, the Queen has passed away. What a legacy she has left us!

Open Gardens



Later in June, 29 gardens around the village provided the perfect, very warm, weekend for both gardeners and non-gardeners alike to enjoy a stroll at this year’s Open Gardens event in support of the Weymouth Food Bank. Everyone had a great time, and covering the village was made easier this year by the addition of a minibus service which proved very popular. The other new idea for this year was a Scarecrow Competition, and the array of ideas that were turned into ‘reality’ was quite remarkable. The inimitable tea garden at No. 104 Church Street was probably the busiest spot in the village, but ice-creams at the top of The Ridgeway were also sought after. It was great to see the vintage cars return – the triangle at the bottom of Stottingway Street was mowed just for them!



The Big Affair



And as for the Big Affair...well, this was another wonderful day! The large field just over the bridge into Upwey House provided the perfect spot for an enormous summer picnic at the beginning of August. There were stalls selling a variety of items, as well as food and drink, and activities for adults and children – bouncy castle; coconut shy; welly-wanging and the always popular tug-of-war. KATZ joined us again, and provided the ideal opportunity for a number of people to dance off the picnic food later in the day. The turnout was fantastic and the committee and helpers did a great job tending the car park and running many of the activities.

The Treasure Hunt

This annual event continues to be very popular. This year the hunt was based around the area of the Royal Standard pub and 12 teams set off in the early evening with their maps and list of questions relating to buildings and landmarks on the route. At the end of it, two teams were announced as the joint winners with full marks and no penalty points. Well done to the Canastanuts and Minnie's Minions! Wonder where next year's route will be?

'Call my Bluff' Wine Tasting

At the end of September a number of us enjoyed a 'Call my Bluff' wine tasting and supper evening in the Old School Hall. The panel gave nothing away as they gave their 'honest' opinions on the six wines they described, and a coq au vin supper was enjoyed by everyone afterwards - with more wine to wash it down!



Music in St Laurence Church

As well as the Upwey Society events in the village there have been a number of concerts in St Laurence Church.

Concerts in the West

Our classical music appetite was fed in 2021 by performances from young musicians arranged by charity Concerts in the West, as part of wider mini-tours. They returned in February this year with the Solem String Quartet, who provided a programme of Bartok, Beethoven and Sunrise - a mixed selection from Purcell, Ivor Gurney and others.

Concerts in the West are back later this year in October and November.

On October 9th the Jubilee Quartet will play works by Haydn, Weber and Schubert.

November 6th brings earlier music from Burrell, Kibble and Gerard, playing pieces by Couperin, Corelli, Telemann and others.

Further information and tickets from <https://www.concertsinthewest.org>.

Music coming up at St Laurence Church

October 7th

Upwey Music presents
Weymouth Concert Brass

October 9th

Concerts in the West
The Jubilee Quartet

November 6th

Concerts in the West
Burrell, Kibble and Gerard

November 11th

Upwey Music presents
**Robbie McIntosh and Friends
with Hannah Robinson**

December 11th

Upwey Music presents
**One Voice Choir -
"Christmas Kaleidoscope"**



Upwey Music

Upwey has a new charity, which has the object of supporting and promoting music performances in the area – and particularly in

St Laurence Church. Originally talked about before the pandemic, it finally got under way this year. The charity has no direct connection to the church, but does want to support the continuing use of a beautiful building – and take advantage of its fine church acoustics.

There have been three concerts so far.

First, in May, there was a delightful performance by local amateur choir, Encore Singers, entitled “Spring Song”.

Next, Upwey Music supported Dorchester Choral Society in one of their outreach concerts. (In this context “supported” really means “ran the bar”!). The Choral Society took us through a number of jazz classics such as Autumn Leaves and Let’s Do it, plus songs and sonnets from Shakespeare set to music by George Shearing. The most unusual piece was the Geographical Fugue, written for spoken chorus by Ernst Toch. This was a very clever and quite sensational piece to sing as well as to listen to.

As a finale, the choir sang the Ukraine National Anthem in the Ukrainian language and a collection was taken for Ukraine, enabling Dorchester Choral Society to forward the magnificent sum of £1,160 for Ukraine via Christian Aid.

In July Upwey Music presented Sunset Café Stompers featuring vintage jazz from 1920s and 1930s New York, New Orleans and Chicago. This jazz band is based in Bridport and each member of the group enjoys an extraordinary skill with their respective instruments and musical abilities, as well as having some fascinating musical backgrounds. So it was no surprise to be richly entertained. They’ll be back!

Upwey Music is promoting three more performances this year.

On October 7th Weymouth Concert Brass will be playing a concert on a watery theme, with sea shanties, film music and classical pieces.

On November 11th exceptional guitarist Robbie McIntosh (the Pretenders, Paul McCartney and many more) will be playing with a stripped-down version of his usual band, supported by talented singer/songwriter Hannah Robinson.

And on the afternoon of 11 December there'll be a Christmas concert from One Voice Choir, with popular songs, madrigals, carols and more (including the chance to join in the singing!).

For more information see Upwey Music's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MusicUpwey). Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/upwey-music.



A little bit of history

One of our members, Dr David Thomas, now lives in Solihull and recently renewed his subscription, at the same time emailing some interesting photographs related to a winter experience back in the 1950s, as well as a reference to the floods of 1955. His description and a couple of photos are replicated below for your interest.

'I recently came across some old photos and wondered if any Upwey Society members may be interested so have attached them to this email. The photo of a rather snowy Upwey goods railway station was taken by my friend Alan Bevis who lived in Jesty's Avenue around about the mid 1950's. In the photo titled Abbotsbury Line the person sitting on the rail is Roland Groom, another ex-resident of Jesty's Avenue.'

Dr Thomas vividly recalled scenes of the River Wey flooding following the 24 hour rainfall in mid-July 1955. A Royal Meteorological magazine article reviewed this astonishing event in 1995, noting that Martinstown received 11 inches (279mm) of rain and Upwey just over 7 inches (183mm). All of this happened in just 24 hours. We hope we never see this again.

And another little bit of history

Why "The Big Affair"?

This year we called our now annual (we hope) summer picnic in the grounds of Upwey House "The Big Affair". Some of you might be wondering why.

The name was chosen to reawaken the spirit of the annual Upwey "Big Affair" of the 1940s (if not the amount of work, or the numbers of attendees – read on!).

The first Big Affair was held on August Bank Holiday 1945 in a very similar spot to the modern version. Attractions included a treasure hunt among the trees, riverside teas, a fun fair, and a flower show in a marquee. Among the parades and displays were decorated bicycles (!), skipping and dancing by children, a gymnastic display and more. There were sports including obstacle races, pillow fights (another !) and a tug of war tournament. Entertainment went on into the evening.

That year over 4,800 people attended. So the next year, plans were even more ambitious, and over 13,000 turned up. The event continued for several years, moving to Hurdle Mead.

So it's an honourable tradition that we are carrying on.

(This information and the picture is derived, with thanks, from the fascinating Upwey and Broadwey history pages <http://upweybroadweyhistory.co.uk/>)



Keeping in touch with what's happening

The Upwey Society has a Facebook page. It's www.facebook.com/UpweySociety. We always post information on the events that we organise there, so you can see what's coming up, share an event with friends and family – and often find photos of the events afterwards. (We still have a website, too, but using the Facebook page makes communicating with members and friends easier.) So follow us there, if you can.

As well as our Facebook page, there is a separate “Upwey and Broadwey Community” page. We usually also post information about Upwey Society events there – and there is lots more information about local businesses and other goings-on.

If you're not a member, then why not join?

The Upwey Society's aims can be summarised as

- maintaining and improving the special character of our village.
- arranging meetings and events;
- fund-raising.

As well as the fun stuff, a lot of which has already been mentioned, the Society gets involved with local planning and traffic issues (for example it paid for the speed indicator devices on Dorchester Road and in Church Street) and helps keep the village looking good (we're working on improvements to benches, and we pay for and plant daffodils). But without members, the Society wouldn't exist.

If you join the Society then you can have a say in what it does. As well as people enjoying the events, which are always open to non-members, we'd really like to have as members as much of Upwey as possible – from both sides of Dorchester Road. There's a form on the back of this newsletter. Or you can email us at upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk and we'll arrange for you to join.

Can you help? (Part 2)

As Mike Davis said in his introduction, we would love to hear from anyone who can help produce a newsletter on a regular basis. Please get in touch at upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk

Also

If you have comments on the Newsletter, or material for future ones, do let us know at the same email address.

Want to join the Upwey Society? Here's how ...

I/We would like to join or renew my/our Upwey Society membership	
Name	
Address	
Telephone No.	
Email	

Please enclose the annual subscription of £3.00 per household for the coming year, or £5.00 if you want postal copies of the newsletter. You can give, or send, this form and payment to Glenda Llewellyn at 2 Goulds Hill Close, Upwey DT3 4LG. You can also drop it into the Broadway Village Store in an envelope marked 'UPWEY SOCIETY'.

Thank you if you have recently renewed your membership, and welcome if you have recently joined the Society.