

Save the date

- UPWEY SOCIETY DATES -

UPWEY AGM
Upwey Old School Village Hall, Church
Street DT3 5QE
9 March 7.30pm

UPWEY OPEN GARDENS
Upwey Village Properties
24-25 June

UPWEY CONCERTS
All at St Laurence Church
Chambermusicbox 4 June
Ninebarrow 30 June
Sunset Café Stompers
11 August
Daoirí Farrell 13 October

- VILLAGE DATES -

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM
Upwey Old School Village Hall
13 March 7pm

BUDHS
(Broadwey, Upwey and District
Horticultural Society)
St Nicholas and St Laurence Primary
School
Meetings held first Thursday of each
month 7.30pm

BUDHS SPRING SHOW
Memorial Hall, Victoria Avenue
18 March 2pm

PREPARATION FOR WELL-DRESSING
Upwey Old School Village Hall
27, 28, 29 April all day
Everyone invited to join in creating the
picture using all natural materials –
a lovely relaxing thing to do!

INSTALLATION FOR WELL-DRESSING
Upwey Wishing Well
30 April

POTTERY AND ART EXHIBITION
Upwey Old School Village Hall
20 May – 4 June

CRAFT FAIR
Upwey Old School Village Hall
15 – 23 July

COFFEE MORNING FOR
ST LAURENCE CHURCH
All welcome by Mr and Mrs Sutcliffe
No. 30 Elwell Street
21 February 10.30-12 noon

COMMUNION SERVICE
St Laurence Church
Tuesday Mornings at 10am



Bringing
people together

IN THIS ISSUE

Neighbourhood Plan
Upwey Music
History and Horticulture



Message

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Fellow Upwey Society members,

Can I first say that I hope that you all had an enjoyable festive break and are looking forward to 2023.

Last year was a hard year for everyone and that included our Society. As with all we had to deal with COVID still and the pressure on people's finances, however during the course of 2022 we did survive and managed to make a donation of over £4,000 to the local food bank. We held other events and we found that the ones held outdoors were better supported than those held at The Village Hall.

At this point I would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers who assisted in the running of these events, without these people the Society would not exist.

I was pleased to attend the food bank with our President, Evelyn Price when we gave the cheque to them, it was mixed emotions as I felt that we should not have food banks, however the fact that the proceeds from Open Gardens was being donated to them, made me proud of our Society.

I am looking forward to the coming year and new challenges will face us, I am sure we will cope with these in our usual manner. The first event or AGM is on the 9th March at the Village Hall. This will be my last time as a chairman as I have been in that role for the past four years and I think that is enough time. The new chairman will be elected then, so come along and vote on this and other matter you could even ask questions of the committee and hopefully get answers!

We always look at planning issues as these do affect Upwey, at the present time there are proposals for a Solar Panel farm from Chickerell up to Upwey, most of this is actually outside the area of Upwey but we will look at that most closely.

In late November we planted over 2,000 bulbs just to make the area even more attractive, it was good to see new people out with their spades!!

KIND REGARDS

Mike Davis

Reflections

2022 was a bumper year of successful community events.

The Big Affair in the summer was a huge hit bringing so many families of the local area together. Several fantastic concerts took place in St Nicholas Church and in November, the fireworks night went off with a tremendous bang, despite the drizzly conditions.

If you have an idea for an event or would like to volunteer to help out at one, please do get in touch.

We look forward to seeing you at another event soon!



Community

MATTERS

Hello everyone and a warm welcome into 2023.

Water has been the recent most serious news in Upwey; with sewers backing up in Watery Lane and surface water using Church Street as a way out.

The former is the responsibility of Wessex Water and several residents have recently been in contact with them following a claim by them that there had only been two complaints lodged in the last few years. So, if you witness a problem of sewage on the surface, please tell them on 0345 600 4 600. They should have completed a CCTV survey by the time this newsletter is circulate with the results expected in the summer.

The other problem concerns Church Street where surface water drainage uses the road to get away. Back in April, I met with representatives from the River Wey Society, Highways, Dorset Flood Risk management and the Environment Agency on site following which road sweeping was intended to be done more frequently and drainage into culverts improved. The EA was going to check with landowners about management to slow the flow of water off farm land and Dorset Council would look into some drainage issues off neighbouring privately owned land. I am still of the opinion that culverts may need to be re-designed.

Highways disagree with me following a survey last year. What to do about outflow from the spring in the Grain Store area remains a problem.

Another issue concerns speed limits. I have received a request for a 20mph limit along Watery Lane but Dorset Council has adopted a policy to allow communities to more easily (less bureaucracy and cheaper) get community speed limits rather than just local ones. Consequently, Weymouth Town Council will be considering what to recommend as a result of this new policy with a general view that maybe the whole of Weymouth should be 20mph except for main radial roads. This poses the question, is the Dorchester Road a main road or a local one now? Should it have a speed limit of 20 or 30 mph? There is one big problem however: Dorset Council has not allocated sufficient funds for all possible suggestions to be considered, let alone implemented.

One other point of interest has been the last consultation period from the Parliamentary Boundary Commission has closed. Their recommendation leading to that exercise was to transfer Upwey and Broadwey from South Dorset constituency to West Dorset. The final decision is due in the summer. Their final decisions seldom change the penultimate recommendations.

Howard Leggy

DORSET COUNCILLOR AND
WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCILLOR

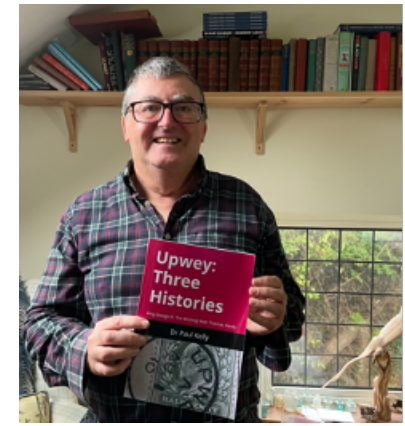
Upwey

THREE HISTORIES

Local resident Dr Paul Kelly PhD has written and self-published a book about the history of Upwey. I spoke with him to find out more.

Paul had already become an amateur historian the first Covid lock-down struck, having published his first book, King Alfred: A Man on the Move, in 2019. However, the lock-down meant that Paul started to look more closely at historical matters much closer to home, which he had been wanting to do for some period. He knew about King George III's summer stays in Weymouth and wondered whether the King ever visited Upwey.

Paul went on to describe the book: "This book looks at the local history of this Dorset village through three lenses that at first may appear unconnected. However, King George III visited Upwey's Wishing Well, and when researching the latter, I found that Thomas Hardy went there too. This led me to wonder what else in Upwey might be connected to Thomas Hardy, and what I found seemed to me to be surprising. Another surprise, to go back to George III, was the extent of his visits, and particularly those of his wife, Queen Charlotte. Indeed, these were not the only royals to visit The Wishing Well.



I have tried to make the book relevant to visitors as well as people from the locality. Hopefully it will add to a sense of place for people in this lovely village and will provide the pleasure that comes with knowing more about one's surroundings."

There were perhaps three or four things that surprised me most. One was coming across the transcript of a letter indicating that Thomas Hardy had been at the Wishing Well, another was finding that one of Thomas Hardy's aunts owned with her husband the Royal Standard Inn on Dorchester Road and the other was the number of times the Royal family came to Upwey in the time of George III. It was also interesting to find in the course of the research a connection between T.E. Lawrence and Upwey.

The book is available on Amazon, price £12.99

THE

Horticultural Page

UPWEY OPEN GARDENS

Each year Upwey hosts the wonderful Open Gardens event.

We are hoping to publish a list of gardens and further details in our next issue. This is a call for all who would like to be involved and open their gardens to the public, please contact upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk.

We would love to have as many properties as possible join in and we also need volunteers for the event to succeed so please put yourself forward if you wish. Volunteering is a great way to meet others in the community and get involved in further projects.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

Following on from last year's huge success, Upwey Society are planning to run the scarecrow competition at the same time as the Open Gardens. Put the date in your diary and get stuffing! Last year's winners won a cream tea for four at the Wishing Well and your involvement helped raise much needed funds for the Weymouth Foodbank. Entry details will be in our next issue.



Church

AND VILLAGE NEWS

St. Nicholas Church has a huge range of events planned for this year! These events are being held for community connection but also to importantly help raise much needed funds to repair the Grade II listed church and a local charity.

Dorset Historic Church Trust has donated £10,000 & the Erskine Muton Trust £5,000. Which means that the bell tower is now repaired & the two bells (cast in 1861) are in the process of being repaired by Nicholson Engineering in Bridport & are due to be lifted back up & placed in the tower sometime in February.

CHARITY EVENTS

All held at St. Nicholas Church

11 February 7pm

Alan and Gill McIntosh concert for Wessex Heartbeat

11 March 7pm

Concert with Dorset Wrecks for Fishermen's Mission

22 April 10am-4pm

Spring Fayre with stalls outside, weather permitting

29 April 7pm

Quiz Night

6 May Daytime

Coronation event for The Princes Trust

They haven't been rung for over 5 Years. St. Nicholas plans to hold a special service once they're back up. The wrought iron guttering is due to be repaired & where necessary replaced. Then the next urgent repairs are to the stained-glass windows.

What has come out of all of this, is how communities are helping each other. The other three churches (in our Vicar, Philip Elliott, Benefice - St. Laurence in Upwey, Holy Trinity in Bincombe & St. Nicholas in Buckland Ripers) all will help when asked. The Memorial Hall in Victoria Avenue, kindly donates the tables needed for the Quiz Nights. Upwey Village Hall lent cutlery for the last Quiz Night.

A gentleman designs the posters and people outside the church offer their time to help. The performers so far have given their time free of charge. All of this is just wonderful.

RECENT SUCCESSFUL EVENTS HAVE RAISED SO MUCH FOR LOCAL CHARITIES:

Sea Song and Shanty Concert raised £377 for the Weymouth RNLI. The Quiz Night meant Littlemoor Food Bank was given £400. A Salvation Army concert in November raised £350 for the Veteran's Hub Weymouth. A second Quiz night more recently raised a massive £521 for Julia's House Children's Hospice.

Upwey

IN PICTURES

Our beautiful village is easy to take for granted. If you are a budding amateur photographer and you would like to send in photos, or a local artist who would like to submit a picture of your works, please send your submissions to our designer at sarahmphelan85@gmail.com
We would love to have a double page spread for the next issue!

Di Pattinson, Felt and Textile Art
inspired by Hedges behind
Westbrook.
di@feltandtextileart.co.uk



Bringing people together

Hello everyone, I hope you approve of the new look Upwey Newsletter! We want to create a really friendly and fresh take on local news and events. This is your newsletter, so please feel free to email anything you would like to include. It may be a local group you run, some interesting facts you have found out, a local issue you would like to discuss or a fantastic photograph you've taken recently. As always, any new members or folks wanting to volunteer for the fab local events held, can contact the Upwey Society at upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk.

We would love to include as much as possible in each issue –
I look forward to hearing from you, Sarah.
sarahmphelan85@gmail.com

UPWEY MUSIC

So many wonderful events to come from Upwey Music - so much so, we had to dedicate a page to them! We hope you join us at one soon.

Chambermusicbox, 4 June

Brought to us by "Concerts in the West" on Sunday 5 June, we welcome Chambermusicbox, a string and oboe quartet, playing works by Mozart, Schubert, Elgar, Sibelius and others. Tickets £18 from <https://tickets.concertsinthewest.org/> or on the door.

Ninebarrow, 30 June

Ninebarrow are a multi-award-winning folk duo, who are impressing audiences across the country with their innovative and captivating take on the folk tradition. Described by Mark Radcliffe as sounding like 'two halves of one voice'; by Seth Lakeman as 'a fantastic duo'; and by Kate Rusby as 'absolutely amazing.' Jon Whitley and Jay LaBouchardiere combine breath taking vocal harmonies and melodies, delivering songs that are inspired and rooted in the landscape and history of the British Isles. Their latest album, 'A Pocket Full of Acorns' was released to widespread critical acclaim including coverage on BBC1s Countryfile and BBC Radio 4s 'Front Row'



Sunset Café Stompers, 11 August

On 11 August we are delighted to have the splendid Sunset Café Stompers back at St Laurence, bringing us golden age jazz from Chicago, New Orleans and New York. No one who was at their heart-warming, foot-tapping performance in 2022 will want to miss this one!

Daoirí Farrell, 13 October

Singer and bouzouki player Daoirí Farrell holds two prestigious BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and has performed live at the awards ceremony at London's Royal Albert Hall, as well as receiving three nominations in the RTÉ Folk Awards. He has toured and played festivals in the UK and Europe, as well as Canada and Australia. He has also toured with the all-star Transatlantic Sessions. Daoirí's fourth album, *The Wedding Above In Glenree*, recorded with Trevor Hutchinson from Lúnasa/The Waterboys, is released in February 2023.

NEWS FROM THE

River Wey Society

Post covid, the River Wey Society is now back on song with society events and dealing with environmental issues during the varied weather patterns of this winter.

We held a well-attended members meeting where the Environment Agency (EA) also explained the critical differences between ground water and surface water and how they each affected flood risk in the Wey Valley. This was certainly timely as on 16th January Upwey experienced 36mm of rainfall overnight. Happily, despite close calls, our procedures worked. The EA flood alert was received in good time and our volunteer River Watch Officers all reported that to their knowledge no homes in the Wey Valley had been flooded. There were some close calls!

That said, the RWS is very aware of the problems facing the residents of Church Street and

we support the efforts of locals and the Upwey Society to hold the responsible officials to account.

The good news for Upwey is that following clearance work by the EA and the RWS, blockages in the complex waterways around Island Garden Nurseries have been avoided and the main river now flows unimpeded. However, further south down Watery Lane we have again been exposed to the overloaded sewage system polluting the area with untreated raw sewage. Again, the RWS and local residents are doing all we can to get Wessex Water to upgrade the system which of course is under yet more pressure with any building development in the upper Wey catchment.

For those who enjoy a stroll down the valley, you will know that the footpath from Mill Street to Littlemead has been severely degraded for some time.

The RWS developed a plan, fully funded, to repair the bank but recently the EA has taken the lead and responsibility to complete the work by next spring. This should then provide an uninterrupted walk from Upwey to Weymouth. If you wish to know more about these footpaths, we provide the Wishing Well with maps of the complete River Wey Walks.

Looking ahead, the RWS will be planning further events in the spring and summer and we will hope again to support the Upwey Society's open gardens in June.

Finally, If you wish to keep up to date with our activities, please see our website www.riverweysociety.co.uk

Bob Turner

CHAIRMAN OF RWS



Community MATTERS



THE SILENT SOLDIER

In 2018, following a donation to the Royal British Legion from the Upwey Society, Upwey put up a

“Silent Soldier.” Part of an initiative to commemorate the fallen of the First World War which ended 100 years earlier. The soldier stood by the river near the corner of Church Street and Stottingway Street for three years. Unfortunately, it suffered some damage through vandalism, kindly repaired by a local resident, it was beginning to show its age as it was never intended to be a permanent memorial. So, in 2021 we took it down, aiming to bring it out each year around Armistice Day, 11 November.

In 2022, the silent soldier went up on the small green at the junction of The Ridgeway and Dorchester Road. The Upwey Society acquired a beautiful wreath from florists P&M Read to accompany him. After a week or so, the soldier was returned to safety.

Planning thoughts

A number of people have asked how the Society decides which planning applications to comment on and which ones to leave. First, I ought to say that none of us on the Committee is expert in planning matters, though we are learning fast. We become aware of applications usually via the Planning Portal (<https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>) or sometimes a resident highlight something we miss.

The first thing we do is check that the application sits within the Upwey boundary (as defined in the Upwey Society's Constitution). If it doesn't, we are unlikely to comment as a Society. Next, we look at the application and see if, in our opinion, it falls within development allowed within current plans/rules/guidance. If it does, we generally will not comment. If it doesn't, for example new housing outside of the development boundary, a couple of us will work on a comment which we will pass through the committee before submitting to the planning team. We honestly do not know if our opinion holds any more sway than any other public comment. We certainly are not consulted by the Council formally.

Occasionally, as was the case with the Chesterfield Place application some time ago, the issues are so important to a number of residents that getting professional planning support is a good idea – particularly as it's what any developer usually does. Our biggest challenge is striking the right balance



between supporting (or at least not objecting to) sustainable development that anyone with children or grandchildren trying to get on the property ladder will understand is needed, while at the same time trying to avoid anything that harms the character and semi-rural nature of the village so many of us love. Keeping the balance is only likely to get tougher.

Moving on to current planning matters, the two big current issues are the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan and a proposed solar farm.

Since the local government reorganization of 2019, Weymouth Town Council has legally been equivalent to a parish council, with very limited powers.

The main planning framework is set by Dorset Council – but that is a “big picture” plan that does not go into detail about Weymouth – and certainly not Upwey. So, Weymouth Town Council is in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan that will have to be taken into account when Dorset make planning decisions.

We need to make sure that Upwey, which has a character very distinct from the town does not get forgotten in the process.

It's great that knowledgeable residents who care about the village have stood up to help and we encourage anyone interested to have a look at <https://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/weymouth-neighbourhood-plan>. The more comments received, the better the plan is likely to be in representing the multitude of views out there.

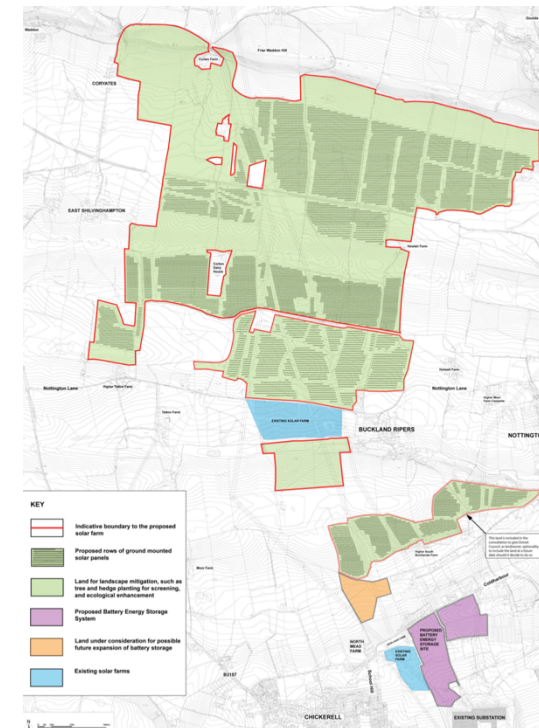
The second item, the proposals for a solar farm, is outside, but likely to affect many. As proposed it is huge: a 57-acre area sitting just to the West of the village. It stretches from Westbrook Farm, West to Corton Hill South to Nottingham Lane, with smaller additional sites proposed closer to Chickerell Centre and Coldharbour.

The committee hasn't yet discussed what our strategy might be with regards this. Recent events have shown that we need to develop more local, secure sources of energy but careful consideration will need to be given to adverse impacts the proposal may cause. For anyone interested here is a link to the website that holds the latest info. <https://chickerellsolarandstorage.co.uk/>

Should you wish to get in touch about the information above or notify us of an application you'd like us to discuss please feel free to contact us. Details are on the website <http://www.upweysociety.org.uk/contact-us/>

Chris Emblen

UPWEY SOCIETY



Development consent order timeline



Upwey kids club

COLOUR OR PAINT

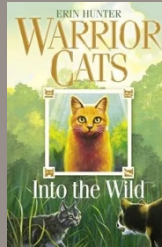
UPWEY SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you go out and find all
these spring treasures?

- Bumblebee
- Squirrel
- A puddle
- Daffodils
- Ladybird
- Something smelly
- Butterfly
- Spider web
- Something making a noise
- A feather

BOOK REVIEW

Warrior Cats
By Erin Hunter

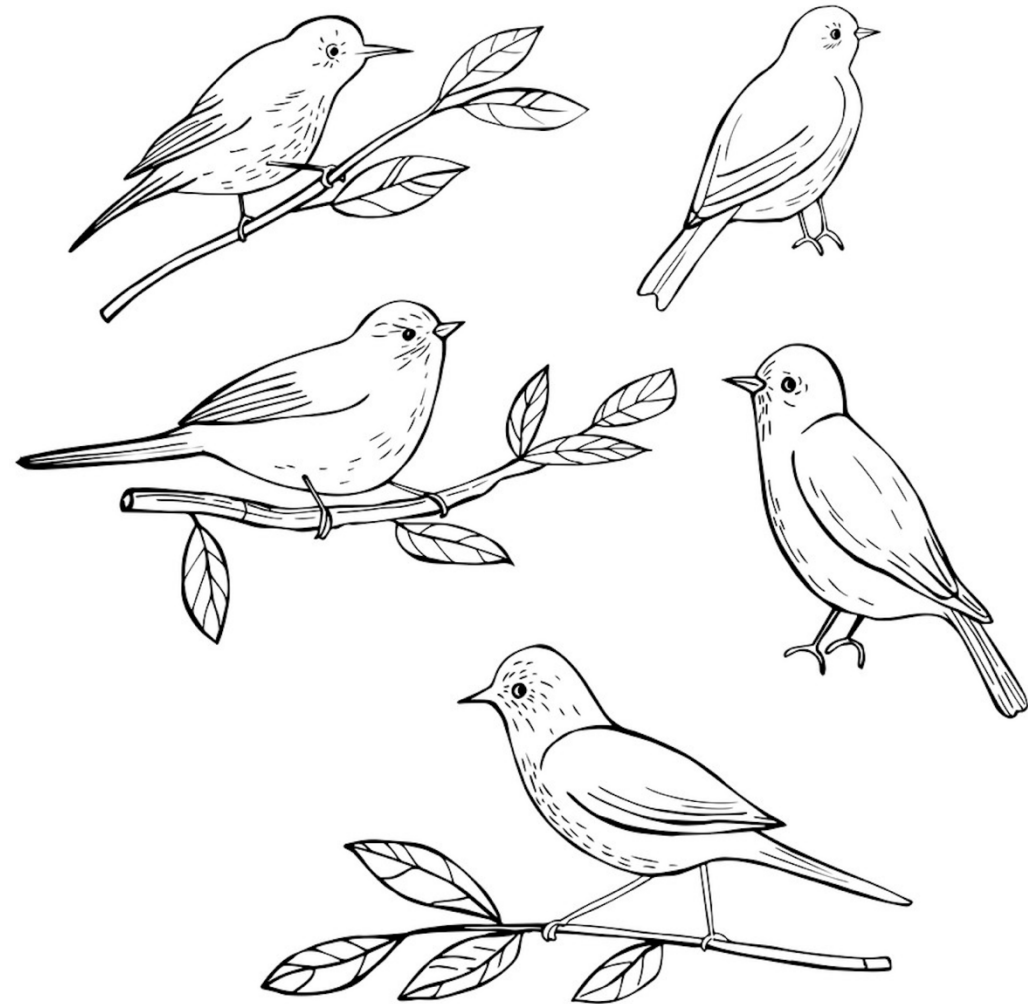


“This set of books all starts with a domestic cat called Rusty who joins a clan of wild cats. He soon finds out there are other clans but not all are friendly! The book is dramatic, with battles and Rusty has to learn how to live by the warrior code. I recommend these books to anyone 8+ who likes animal stories.”

By Amelia Rose, aged 10.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM THE CHILDREN OF UPWEY

If any of your little ones would like to contribute, please do get in contact with sarahmphelan85@gmail.com



CHILDRENS GROUPS

Baby Sensory | Upwey & Broadwey Memorial Hall | Fridays 10-11 am
6-13 months 1.30-12.30pm Birth to months
See also Bincombe Valley Childrens Centre DT3 6AY