

Membership

What does your subscription pay for?

Any household is welcome to become a member of the Upwey Society. Your greatly valued subscriptions enable us to create this regular newsletter, contribute towards the general administration costs of the Society and help with the running of events throughout the year.

Regular Upwey events include Upwey Open Gardens, the Upwey Big Affair and the Upwey Fireworks. We also organise smaller events such as the wine challenge, scavenger hunts and a variety of talks. The Society has recently become involved in the organisation of regular litter picks (you may have seen our lovely volunteers walking round the village in their high-viz vests) and spring bulb planting. Sometimes we are asked to comment on planning applications and are consulted on things like the Neighbourhood Plan.

We could run more events if there is interest and volunteers. For example: a monthly bookstall / plant sale/ seed swap / cake stall, regular social evenings, monthly book club, monthly board games evenings. The list is endless. And it is a good way to get to know the other residents of Upwey.

Becoming a member is easy.

We have not been collecting subscriptions for a few years, but now that we want to become even more active we would love previous members to renew your membership and new members to start your membership of the Upwey Society. It's only £5 per household per year.

Joining is straightforward.

For those of you who prefer online banking you can pay using the bank details below, or, better still, set up a standing order so that you don't have to remember to renew in future years! Please remember to put your surname, first name initial and address in the reference box, or we won't know who has paid.

Bank Details: The Upwey Society
Sort code: 30-99-56
Account number: 00355679

If you can then send me a quick email, it is a lot easier for me to acknowledge payment. I can be contacted by email on:

admin@upweysociety.org.uk

Or, alternatively, you can fill in the membership form in this newsletter and put it with £5 in an envelope, then put it through my letter box. My address is: 40, Elwell Street, Upwey. DT3 5QF

THANK YOU,

Diane Crumbleholme

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



- AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023 -

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Message

FROM THE CHAIR

This is our first newsletter for quite a while, with now being a perfect time to reflect on a busy summer. It's also the first since our Annual General Meeting in March, at which I was elected Chair. So, I thought I'd grasp this opportunity to offer a few thoughts about the Upwey Society's future.

The Society was formed in 1974 – almost 50 years ago. Its object was “to maintain and improve the amenities and natural characteristics of Upwey; and to provide social and informative meetings for the benefit of all villagers” . The words have been updated and added to a bit, but basically that object has not changed.

But other things have. A simple example. Newsletters like this were probably the main source of information about local affairs – events past and planned, local societies and so on. Now, social media, and the internet generally, provide a constant stream of information that the majority of people (though by no means all) can, and do, access. The Upwey Society has changed a bit, too. The primary object, above, was to conserve and improve the character of Upwey. The second was to provide social and informative meetings.

In practice over time the two have switched places. Events like Open Gardens (with its new addition, the Scarecrow competition), the Upwey Big Affair and the popular November bonfire and fireworks are at the heart of the committee's work.

The pandemic inevitably meant that we lost some of our impetus. Most of our events couldn't happen, and we decided not to collect membership subscriptions. We're back and up and running now. But that means we need to refresh our membership lists and start collecting subscriptions again (at a very modest £5 per household). We want our membership to be truly representative of all parts of Upwey, with as many households as possible.

Alongside revitalising membership, we want to find out what members want from their society. For example, we can do more on the social side, if there is interest and there are people willing get involved. And we need to think seriously about what “maintaining and improving” Upwey means in practice. How active should we be in commenting on planning applications, for example? And when we do comment, how can we fairly represent our members' differing views?

Membership

Name	
Address	
Email	
Mobile (optional)	
How would you like to receive the Upwey Society Newsletters (please delete as applicable)	Digitally / Printed copy

Upwey's

BAKING QUEEN

LIZZIE THE
BAKING BIRD



I have lived in our beautiful village for over 20 years, baking for at least 16 of them. An obsessive cook for more years than I care to recall - I reckon I was 3 when I was cooking whilst bugging my Mum's every step in the kitchen. I'd been cooking on a relatively casual basis, when my partner (Brian Cleverton) suggested that I sell the output of my extreme baking! So I undertook with a considerable amount of nerves, my very first show. It was Melplash Agricultural and I was staggered that people enjoyed my food and in fact they even bought it.

Many years later I find myself in a bakery (thanks to Joe and Sam Foot) at Higher Ashton Farm on the road to Martinstown. I mainly use it to do my cooking and I open up on Friday mornings 10 am- 12 noon for anyone to come and buy bread or pastries, pasties or sausage rolls, cakes and tarts. I think the weirdest but most rewarding time, was during the pandemic. I worked Monday to Friday providing boxes to those that needed it - boy it was busy. But the truth was that I still need to make some money and I opened up on Saturday mornings outside the house and sold bread, cakes etc.

I can recall them queued down the street - waiting for a chance to buy what I had - it was a difficult time but it was also so rewarding. When the pandemic finally came to an end I was invited in to The Old Ship Inn by the then new landlord Pete and this is where you'll find

me most Saturday mornings (9.30 - 12). I don't see as many people as I did although I am still busy. I attend Farmers Markets, Food Festivals and various shows! My next major planning is for my Festive Open Day which is Sunday 12 November this year 12noon until 4pm and everyone is invited - I'll be testing out festive breads, cakes, puddings, sausage rolls, nut roast etc. This is at the Old Ship and I also have coming this year people selling (or taking orders for) various craft works including drift wood and make up bags etc ...

So if you'd like to know more check out Instagram: lizzibakingbird or website lizzibakingbird.co.uk
If you're interested on what's going on please e-mail me and I'll send you my newsletter
lizzie.stablecottage@btinternet.com
Tel: 01305 816378
Lizzie (the baking bird)



We really hope that you'll join the Society if you haven't already. It's one of many things that make Upwey such a great place to live with a real community feel. And when you do join - be prepared to be consulted about what you want from it.

Enough looking into the future! In this newsletter you'll find photos and articles about events since the last newsletter. Those events involve a huge amount of organisation by the committee and the Society's many friends and supporters. My personal thanks go to everyone who has made the summer's events such a success. And I'm really looking forward to the fireworks!

Tony King

p.s extra thanks are due to Sarah Phelan for design of this newsletter.

KEEPING UPWEY TIDY

Our first litter pick was just before Open Gardens back in July, and a big thanks to all who turned out on the day. We also did a quick litter pick on the day before the Upwey Big Affair.

The next one will be on **Saturday 28th October**, with light refreshments available at the end.

If you are interested in taking part please contact John Simpson on 07824 997757 or email upsoc@upweysociety.org for more information.



Open Gardens

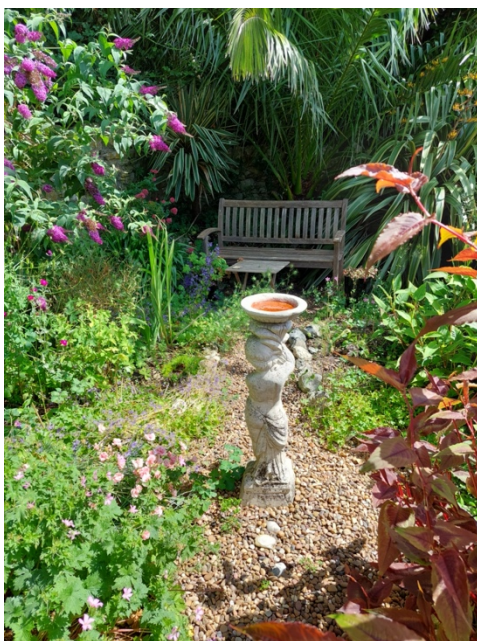
On the 24th and 25th of June, once again many of the wonderful gardens of Upwey were thrown open to visitors. All owners of the gardens had been working tirelessly day, and sometimes night, to ensure their gardens were amazing, interesting and attractive, with various quirky features. With 25 gardens of all shapes and sizes; including front gardens, courtyards, small cottage gardens and larger formal gardens, there really was something for everyone to enjoy and be inspired by. We welcomed hundreds of people from all over, with some travelling many miles to see the beautiful gardens on display. For the second year running we provided our free hop on, hop off taxi service to enable easier access to the hilly bits!!!



Our Tea Gardens this year were held at the Old Mill and were an experience not to be missed. We give heartfelt thanks to Sue and Richard for allowing us to enjoy the use of their tranquil, restful gardens for our visitors' refreshments. As well as the wonderful cream teas and cakes, there were various craft stalls and a cake raffle.

Among our village attractions, there were also the glorious vintage cars which received great admiration and lots of attention. Many thanks to all those exhibiting their vehicles for us to enjoy.

Both days went off amazingly well with everyone having a fantastic time and, to top it all, the weather was extremely kind to us with glorious sunshine. Roll on Open Gardens 2024 - hope you are all getting ready!!



UPWEY MUSIC

Formed in early 2022, Upwey Music is a small charity with the aim of promoting and supporting music performances in Upwey. To date it has arranged 16 performances.

From the start the trustees decided that they wanted to cater for all tastes, so there have been groups of professional classical musicians, bands, jazz, choirs and folk musicians. As a not-for-profit body, Upwey Music aims to support younger or less well-known performers as well as crowd pleasers.

The original idea was to make use of our lovely St Laurence Church on a commercial basis. It's a beautiful building with great acoustics. But later this year Upwey Music is branching out to support one concert in the Old School Village Hall.

On 13 October acclaimed Irish musician Daoirí Farrell (think "Derry") brought his take on Irish folk to St Laurence, Upwey. A holder of two prestigious Radio 2 Folk awards, Daoirí is an exceptional singer and bouzouki player, with an international reputation.

Tickets for future events are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk or phone 07960 471170.

On 5 November there's a free concert in the church by recorder group "Serendipity" (donations welcome).

And on 15 December Upwey McIntosh Wilson will be playing their annual Christmas gig in the Old School Village Hall. Tickets will go on sale soon.



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 for our designer at upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk



Paul Kelly, Amateur photographer



Deborah Leech,
“Over the Garden Wall” Mixed media on canvas. Inspired by the hollyhocks at the top of Elwell Street.

YOUR COMMUNITY

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. We will aim to include as much as possible in each issue. 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 – We look forward to hearing from you.

Scarecrow Competition

As well as our Open Gardens, on the 24th and 25th of June we also held our Scarecrow Competition.

If you walked around the village you might have been tempted over to the dark side by Darth Vader, or got caught up with Spiderman. The Flintstones were out and about in their car and Boris was on his bike! Edward Scissorhands was ready for anyone wanting a haircut; luckily there was a nurse just down the road. And if a game of cricket isn't your thing there were those taking it a bit easier; Monty Don, a book reader, a sea swimmer and even Father Christmas.

With others dotted around the village there really was something different everywhere you looked.

The judging was difficult, but big congratulations to this year's winners:

- ☐ Most Amusing - Boris on his bike
- ☐ Scariest - Sally's Yard
- ☐ Best Overall – The Ashes

A big thank you to everyone who got creative and took part, they were all brilliant. We are really looking forward to next year and, hopefully, more scarecrows around the village.



Upwey Big Affair

In early August the Society hosted the 2023 Upwey Big Affair. Months of hard work and planning were at the mercy of the weather gods, but boy did they smile on us.

A lovely, sunny day saw thousands of locals and visitors alike enjoying all that the day had to offer. We are only able to put this on because of the brilliant support from Kerry and everyone at Upwey House and our heartfelt thanks goes out to them. This year we considerably expanded from previous incarnations and everyone was able to enjoy some great food from local favourite A-Yum Yum Thai and delicious pulled pork from Bigger Bites Dorset. A Mad Mitch Ice Cream van provided the essential summer treat and the great team from the Old Ship in Upwey kept our thirst at bay.

There were plenty of activities to enjoy from the bouncy castle to the carnival favourites. Seeing the joy on our little ones' faces when they got up close and personal with some amazing Alpacas made the effort all worthwhile. Red Watch found some time in their busy schedule to bring their fantastic fire engine and the kids (and a few parents) had a great time with them.

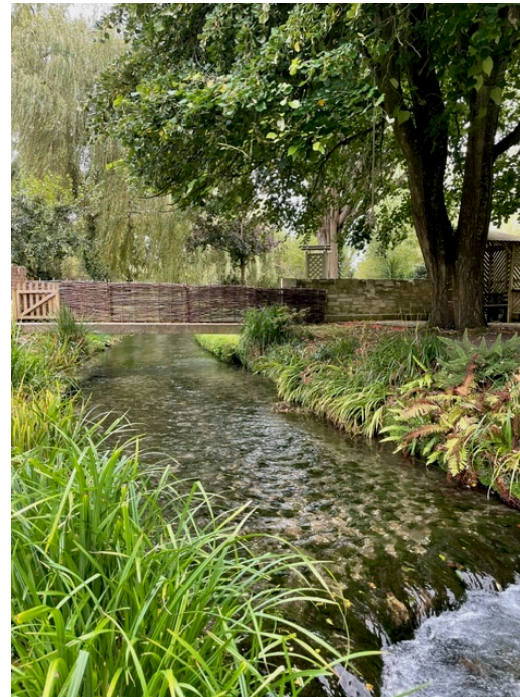


The Society are really grateful to so many local, talented artists and crafters who came along and demonstrated their skills and wares, some for the first time which was great to see.

The music was provided by Weymouth Concert Brass and the ever present Katz but we were also treated to a great set by local crooner Neil Coad, once again showing his talents.

The kids also seemed to enjoy the traditional tug of war, a hard-fought affair this year. The adults, however, were a different matter, not that I'm a sore loser, but there were definitely some shady shenanigans going on with team selection!

Whilst those members of the Upwey Society who are most directly affected by potential flooding are already aware, please note that the Environment Agency does operate a Flood Alert System which we highly recommend.



Should you wish to receive this free service, by phone, text or email, please visit www.gov.uk and search for "sign up to flood warnings".

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



River Wey Society

The summer weather was not kind to us this year and we had to cancel both our riverside picnic and visit to the Dorset Wildlife Trust. That said, many of our members both contributed to and much enjoyed the Upwey Open Gardens in late June.

On the admin front, we have again been commenting on Planning Applications and importantly working with other groups to establish the Green Spaces which will be included in the latest revision of the Local Plan. Our vision is that we should try to link these spaces together via the Wey Valley Walks, so that there are a number of spots along the route to Weymouth and return, where people can tarry awhile and enjoy the tranquil river valley scenes.

Looking ahead, we are planning to plant a tree in Ron's Meadow just to the north of the disused railway in Broadway to mark the succession to the throne of



King Charles III. This is likely to be in the late autumn. At the same time we hope that after much RWS effort and several false starts, the Environment Agency will have completed the restoration of the river bank in Littlemead. This will make the footpath down the west side of the relief channel very much safer, and as already mentioned help the linkage of the all-important Green Spaces.

We changed the raffle this time with fewer, but higher value, prizes so very generously donated by local businesses; Little Waddon Vineyard, Came Down Golf Course, Howleys Toys and the Three Chimneys in Weymouth and the beautiful Moonfleet Manor, to name but a few. While the winners walked away with some awesome gifts, everyone who attended and contributed to make it such a great day were the real winners.

A huge thanks to all who came and all who helped organise and supported on the day. We'd like to put on even more next year so would be really interested to hear any ideas for things that would enhance the 2024 event (along with any offers to help). Please leave a comment on the Upwey Society's facebook page or drop an email to the address on this newsletter.



Fireworks

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
6PM
WEST FARM

Well folks, after the most successful 'Big Affair' in the fabulous fields around Upwey House and the perennial Upwey Open Gardens, our thoughts at the society turn to Bonfire Night. With Autumn comes the shorter days, cooler temperatures and the endless south westerlies. Bonfire Night has been a society fixture since antediluvian times, giving us an opportunity to brave the dark nights, meet up with each other round the fire and marvel at the pyrotechnics.

Over the years, a number within the local community have expressed concern about the noise levels and disturbance to both domestic and farm animals. As a society, we have listened and tried to respond. Last year we had a low noise display that was well received, striking a better balance between those concerned about animal welfare and those who enjoy the bang of an explosive display.

This year we have moved the display away from its recent home of Westbrooke Farm, to West Farm, located at the Bincombe side of the bypass. This was suggested by Sam Foot who has been such a supporter of the event over the years; without the use of Sam's land this much-loved event would not

have been possible and for that we are extremely grateful.

Obviously, a change of venue presents new challenges for the society in terms of marketing, preparing the fields, different layout of the site, organising the food, marshalling and generally ensuring everyone has a fabulous time. The Society Committee are busy with this year's preparations and would welcome any volunteers to help marshal the evening.

We hope you can join us on what promises to be a spectacular community evening of friends and fireworks. As always, there will be a small charge for entrance, with the usual on treats on sale.

Whilst the Upwey Society exists within a modern world, it is not necessarily part of it, so please bring cash.

Finally, can I ask that you do not bring sparklers, please wear suitable footwear, respect the fact that this is a working farm and, above all, have a wonderful evening.



Reflections

BY EVE PRICE

It was a cold, wet and generally miserable night in London on June 1st 1953 but that didn't matter!

My two girlfriends and I, all of us about 14, arrived around 8.00pm in Northumberland Avenue, as near as we could get to Trafalgar Square. We found ourselves a place on the pavement, spread out our groundsheets and settled down, sort of, for the night along with thousands of other people from all over the World. Sleep just didn't happen - the excitement and anticipation were far too great to miss a single moment.

Tomorrow would be the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and we were there to see it all, at least the Procession to the Abbey. As we waited there was singing, story-telling, clinking of glasses and sharing of buns from Lyons Corner House. Then, at about 2.00am, the news came through that Everest had been conquered! That the British Expedition had been successful, and we, the Brits, were on top of the World! A long time later I learnt that the news had been saved up especially for this night - you could keep secrets in those days.

Came the dawn, not sunrise - just a lightening of the sky, and the day began. All night there had been a police presence amongst us but, of course, not a suggestion of trouble; now, however things started to happen. First the street cleaners and rubbish collectors, followed by officials of one sort and another all doing whatever were their appointed tasks. Then the sound began. Martial music stirred us all as it drifted from everywhere.

At last, the Procession! Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, all in perfect formation, cars, then carriages drawn by shining, extravagantly-dressed horses - we tried to identify the occupants from the printed sheets given to us but it became quite hopeless and we just cheered them all on.

An extra fanfare, the moment had arrived - Her Majesty the Queen passed by in her golden carriage on her way to her Coronation. All over (for us) Not quite. We ran round the corner to Charing Cross Station, caught the train home and arrived in time for the party! Wonderful! Unforgettable! Now we have King Charles III and Queen Camilla. God bless them.

A message from your local councillor

The main community issue recently was the meeting between some residents and Wessex Water concerning the seepage of ground water into the sewer system and its emergence up manholes along Church Street and Watery Lane in particular. Wessex Water have commenced a six month programme of sealing manhole covers and relining the sewer pipe from Friar Wadden Road to the bottom of Church Street to prevent surface water ingress into the sewer pipe.

I receive a few complaints about a council service, or lack of it which should initially be directed to the relevant section of Dorset Council. To do this, log on to <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/home> where you can select the appropriate service to click on. If you register a comment or complaint, you will be given a number which can be used to follow up progress at a later date. If you are not satisfied with

the response after say two weeks, then do please contact me, preferably by email, with the relevant number you were given and I'll chase it up.

Another web page members may find interesting is the Dorset Explorer facility which contains a wealth of information obtainable by selecting layers to cover a map.

It can be found on www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorsetexplorer

Howard Leggy

DORSET COUNCILLOR AND
WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCILLOR

Calling all volunteers

Volunteers are essential in helping the Upwey Society put on the yearly events that are so popular with locals and non-locals alike. So, if you are willing to help out every now and again, and are happy to have your name and email contact added to our volunteers' database, please contact the society on the email below. Please head up your email "Volunteers" to: upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk

Your email will not be used for any other purpose.

The Upwey Society Committee is made up of only a small group of people so we really appreciate any help offered. Thank you.

ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE THAT IS A WINE CHALLENGE?

If you think you know your wine, or just enjoy a glass every now and again, why not come along to our Wine Challenge evening on **3rd February 2024** and give your taste buds a treat.

You can book as a team, or on your own and join a team on the evening. Our compere will introduce you to a number of wines and all you have to do is guess which one is which. Easy, right!!

This is a relaxed and enjoyable evening and gets booked up really quickly, so make a note of the date in your diary and further information, including how to book your place and cost, will be available on Facebook nearer the time.

ST. LAURENCE

Time was, still well within living memory, when children brought gifts of fruit, vegetables and flowers to the Harvest Festival, thanksgiving for “all good gifts around us, (are) sent from heaven above” to celebrate the harvest and assurance of food throughout the winter. Things have moved on and, in truth, most of us would find it pretty hard-going to return to those days, especially when Mr. Tesco is just round the corner.

So, at St. Laurence's, as in so many churches these days, the harvest is celebrated with a nice lunch in the village hall. For this year's effort, some 20 parishioners enjoyed home-cooked, and largely home-grown, food with cider to wash it down in the Old School Village Hall: all thanks to Betty Sutcliffe and her crew.

At St. Laurence's in Upwey we are a small, but loyal and somewhat ageing, congregation doing what we can to keep this ancient place going. No-one can deny its physical presence though its original purpose may not appeal to the majority. We think, as do most people, it is well worth keeping it alive and functioning for the community in various capacities, not least its historical significance – it is our local museum.



If you've time to spare in the village some day, go in and have a look around: there are some useful hand boards with a brief history of the church, its stained glass, its carvings and sculptures, its memorial plaques and much more. The door is always open during daylight hours. And we have a car park! And we've got new heating!

Nowadays we often team up with St. Nick's on the Dorchester Road where there are all sorts of goings-on. Amongst these will be our Christmas Fair at the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 25th November – watch for posters. Then the Christmas “Carols by Candlelight” is always a major village event: watch out for posters.

And, of course, you are all always welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 11.00 for traditional services. Summoned by bells rung by our lively ringers.

Since the last issue, the guttering to St. Nicholas Church has been repaired and restored. The next phase of restoration is two of the stained-glass windows and grants have been applied for. The events held continue to raise more money towards the much-needed repairs and for local charities. #Willdoes received £770.87, Weldmar Hospice received £402 and the last Quiz Night raised £660.80 for MV Freedom. Once again, many thanks to all those who volunteer their time in making these & future concerts/events successful. To help with the charity and community work at St. Nicholas, Weymouth Town Council kindly gave a grant of £2,850, which enabled the church to buy the tables and chairs needed.

There are now three Outreach programmes, a Toddlers Group starting in October & Youth Group starting in January. The Lunch Club started in September. The National Lottery Fund has just granted £10,000 towards a kitchen and storage area to be built in the old Sunday School room for the St. Nicholas Lunch Club, which is held on the second Tuesday of the month 11.30am-12.30pm. Please book in advance for catering purposes by calling Susana on 07944617553 or email susanamalik@yahoo.com.

ST. NICHOLAS

Asda, Weymouth, has also kindly donated kitchen items and Dorset Council have donated £1,000 for kitchen equipment and crockery to be purchased. This is wonderful and will benefit all groups.

The first lunch on the 12th of September was a success and enjoyed by those who came.

CHARITY EVENTS

All held at St. Nicholas Church
For tickets, please contact Susana on 07944617553 or by emailing susanamalik@yahoo.com

Saturday 11th November 3-5pm
Salvation Army concert for S.S.A.F

Saturday 25th November
Christmas Table Top / Jumble Sale

Saturday 2nd December 2-4pm
Mummers' Play and Songs, with Sue Virgin giving a talk on the history of Broadwey for Age UK (Weymouth)

Thursday 14th December 7.30pm
Dorset for Singing Choir

Saturday 20th January 7pm
Burns Night

Saturday 24th February 7pm
Charity Quiz Night for the National Coastwatch Institution - Portland Bill