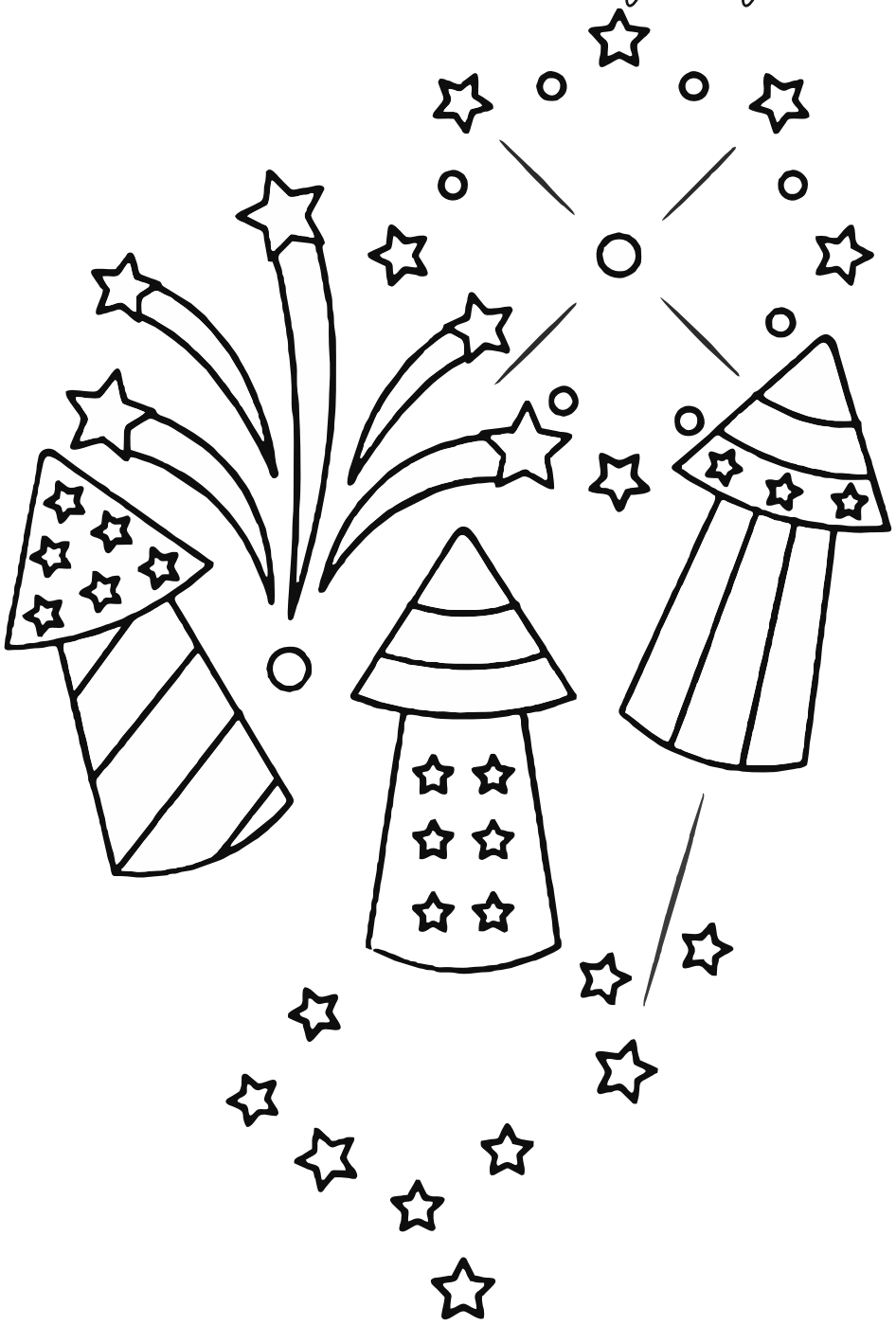
Children's colouring page





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AUTUMN 2025 UPWEY NEWSLETTER

Distributed to all Upwey Households

In this issue:

Looking back at Upwey Events
Future Upwey Society Events and dates for your diaries
Community Information
Local History

Message

FROM THE CHAIR

Autumn seems to have arrived early this year. Fruit trees have been groaning under the weight of their crops, blackberries were ripe weeks before their normal time and, at the time I am writing this – there has been next to no rain for months. Along with the Autumn comes this, the Upwey Society Newsletter, distributed free to all the households in Upwey.

If the downside of the weather has been parched gardens and a poor harvest for the farmers, the welcome upside has been the pleasure of enjoying the outdoors. For us that meant fine, sunny days for both our summer events – Open Gardens and the Big Affair. There are reports on both with photos later in the newsletter but the headline is that they were both well attended and enjoyed.

Running community events is one of the objects of the Society – and is perhaps the most obvious thing that we do. There is an enormous amount of work called for from the Committee – and also from a whole array of helpers and supporters (not to mention all the people who open their gardens to an eager public). My thanks go to everyone who has been involved.

We could always do with more volunteers, so if you are interested in helping please do get in touch. One particular area where we could do with specific expertise is our on-line and social media presence. Our website is old and hard to keep up-to-date. Our social media presence is patchy. We'd like to expend some effort getting that sorted out in the quieter winter months - so if there is someone out there who would like to volunteer their skills, we'd love to hear from you.

Finally, as you will see from a later article, we have started a trial run of talks in the Old School Village Hall over the Autumn. When we were considering the possibility we were told that people were interested in coming along. We have plenty of variety: one connected to Dorset social history, one from two of our members about their travels, and one from a TV personality. So please do support them.

Tony King

Chair
Upwey Society
To contact us about volunteering, please email admin@upwey-society.org.uk

AUTUMN WORD SEARCH FOR YOUNGSTERS

Find and circle the words below. Look for them vertically and horizontally.

Good Luck.

F	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	U	O	W	J	L
Z	R	T	B	J	L	O	P	W	D	G	G	I	U	K
A	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	S	N	O	M	C
Y	G	N	V	C	F	F	A	K	O	P	O	X	P	Q
R	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	G	M	W	E	U
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M	X	N	G	K	C	L	M	E	R	N	O	M	W	N
P	B	O	O	N	H	T	A	W	I	F	I	H	J	K
K	Z	W	V	B	C	E	L	O	O	I	M	W	E	R
I	A	F	A	O	G	E	L	I	N	R	B	E	G	A
N	U	Y	H	O	T	D	O	G	T	E	U	O	O	P
S	A	V	D	T	K	L	W	B	E	E	J	G	I	L
A	F	I	O	S	D	E	S	M	H	N	I	E	P	W
G	P	U	M	L	K	I	D	F	G	O	E	W	A	X

Christmas
Snow
Bonfire
Marshmallows
Hotdog
Fireworks
Jumper
Boots
Pumpkin
Halloween
Witch



Courgette, pistachio & white chocolate cake

If you have a glut of courgettes - as it appears many do - why don't you have a go at this ridiculously simple sponge. The courgette will add little flavour but will make a lovely moist cake that will keep for several days.

Makes 6 portions

110g courgette
100g pistachio
110ml sunflower oil
2 free range eggs
175g caster sugar
175g self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 vanilla pod, scraped of seeds or 1 tsp vanilla extract

Topping
125ml double cream
175 white chocolate
10-12 pistachios

Heat the oven to 180C/gas mark 4. Grease and line a loaf tin with baking parchment.

Grate the courgette into a mixing bowl. Blitz the pistachios so they resemble fine bread crumbs and leave until needed.

Add to the courgette, sunflower oil, eggs, sugar and the pistachios. Beat with a wooden spoon until the ingredients are combined. Add in flour, baking powder and vanilla and mix together. Pour into the loaf tin and bake for 45 - 55 minutes. The cake is cooked when a skewer comes out clean if inserted into the middle. Leave to cool before turning out.

Finely chop the white chocolate and put into a basin. Pop double cream into a bowl and microwave for 1 minute (or in a pan on the hob) until very hot. Pour the cream over chocolate and combine until blended completely. Leave for 15 minutes until the mixture starts to thicken and pour over the top of the cake encasing it completely. Take a rolling pin and crush the pistachios and place on top. Leave to set. Store in an airtight container. You may need to refrigerate when the weather is very warm.

Lizzie sells at Poundbury Farmers Market and Bripdort and you'll see her on 10 August at Upwey's Big Affair

www.lizziebakingbird.co.uk
Instagram: lizzibakingbird

Upwey Society Membership

Why be a member of the Upwey Society? Because you love your village and want to see it thrive! You want interesting events to happen in the village and you want the amenities to be the best they can be. So...

Membership now runs from 1st September each year and remains at the bargain price of £5 per household. As a member, if you give us your email address, you will receive emails about future Upwey Society events via Mailchimp. If you have given me your email address and not received any emails from me, look in your junk email box. We will only use the email for Upwey Society business.

Ways to pay: 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, and first line of your 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

It would be very helpful if you can then send me a quick email. I can be contacted by email on: admin@upweysociety.org.uk

Or, alternatively, you can fill in the membership form below 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.

Name	
Address	
Email	
	By putting in your email address you agree to receive communications from the Upwey Society about its events. It will only be used for Upwey Society business.

Helping out the Society .....

Volunteers are essential in helping the Upwey Society put on the yearly events that are so popular with locals and non-locals alike.
We are always on the lookout for anyone who would be willing to help out every now and again. So, if you 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".

admin@upweysociety.org.uk

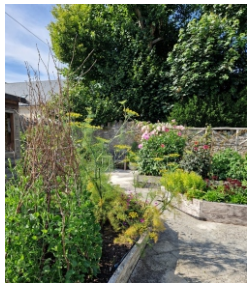
Your email address will not be used for any other purpose.
The Upwey Society Committee is made up of only a small group of people so we really appreciate any help offered.
Thank you.

Upwey Open Gardens

Upwey Open Gardens was held this year on 28-29th June and, once again, the weather was kind to us.

We welcomed hundreds of visitors from near and far who came to enjoy the gardens on display. Some of them coming back again to see how we were faring. There were small cottage gardens, some front gardens that required looking over a wall, large formal gardens and everything in between. The owners had put in a lot of hard work to present their gardens and they enjoyed talking plants and exchanging tips with the visitors.







The teas were once again served in the beautiful gardens of Mill House. Many thanks to Sue and Richard for allowing us to use their grounds and the kitchen. Home-made scones and cakes were served and the visitors were entertained by the Quangle Wangle Choir. For those who fancied something a little stronger, a nice glass of Pimms on a warm summer's day, was just the ticket!

The mini bus was once again provided to save weary legs especially on the hilly bits! It couldn't be missed as it had a large inflatable palm tree on the top!





In the Littlemead area, a concrete mixer and a caravan from The Orchard caravan site in Mill Street was washed down the river. Garages, henhouses and farm buildings were demolished.

Afterwards, the villagers all pulled together and, on Saturday 23rd July, Upwey and Broadwey Brownies held a fete in the Southbrook field saying 'the largest part of proceeds will be given in aid of the Distress Fund for Flood Victims'.
The 11th Big Affair took place on the August Bank Holiday, Monday (1 August 1955), with a gymkhana, flower show, sideshows, fun fair and tug of war. There was also a display by the Cattistock Hunt and the Weymouth Budgerigar and Foreign Bird Club.

Information from Upwey & Broadwey History Collection.

The cottage, (back centre), as the waters subsided. Taken from the railway bridge.



The railway embankment held back the water to a great depth and it poured through the arch scouring out a hole in the road about 12 feet deep, 25 yards long by 15 yards wide and thereafter the road and river were just one mass of rock and stone (Borough Engineer).



Picture shows a lorry which fell foul of the crater.
It's also the place where 12 year old Robin Crump drowned the next day (19 July) whilst out and about looking at the devastation.

By 7.30pm on the 18th the flooding had reached Littlemead, the residents could do nothing to stop the water. Alan James recalls - our neighbour shouted that the river was coming up, we took as much as we could upstairs and just had to wait. Next morning the water was at chest height in the house.





There was an impressive display of vintage cars. Thank you to all of the owners for bringing them along for us to look at.

We hope that the visitors enjoyed Open Gardens as much as the villagers enjoyed showing their gardens.

Hope to see you all next year.

Scarecrow Competition
Once again we held the scarecrow competition on the Open Gardens weekend and, while the numbers were low this year, there were still some exciting entries.

The Mayor, Cllr Caroline Nickinson, very kindly judged the entrants and pronounced the winners:
Scariest Scarecrow – Superwoman
Funniest Scarecrow – Thomas Hardy
Best Scarecrow – Toad Hall
Adam and Eve were highly commended by the Mayor.



Maybe a new competition next year? Suggestions welcome.





Helping to keep Upwey litter free!

The annual litter pick took place in May under grey skies and threatening rain. Slightly less litter was collected - great – but the undergrowth had blossomed so it was hard to see what was lurking in there!
Many thanks to the hardy litter pickers who gave up their Sunday morning to clean Upwey.
It is hoped to do the litter pick earlier next year, perhaps in March. All welcome to join in.

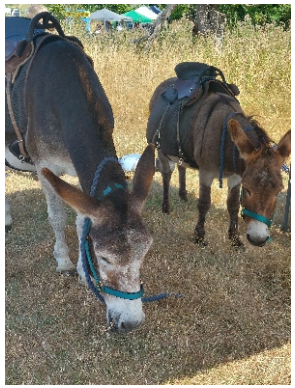
And thanks to those of you who regularly check your own neighbourhood and keep it clean.

The Upwey Big Affair

Once again we were very lucky with the weather on the day of The Upwey Big Affair and the sun shone for us.

As always, we would like to thank Kerry and everyone at Upwey House for their magnificent support; without them we wouldn't be able to put on this event. And also we would like to thank those local organisations who kindly donated some of the raffle prizes.





We had some very popular additions to the line-up this year. The children, and some adults, were very engaged with the Punch and Judy Shows and their shouts of delight could be heard around the field. Donkeys, from West Hills Donkeys, quietly took excited children on rides. The afternoon's entertainment was started off with Poole Me Hearties singing some sea shanties and quickly followed by Seaxa Anglo Saxons demonstrating a few fighting techniques.

Once again delicious food was provided from A-Yum Yum Thai, Bigger Bites Dorset and Lizzie Baking Bird, with a Mad Mitch Ice Cream van offering dessert. Drinks were provided by Cerne Abbas Brewery and Little Waddon Vineyard, who were much appreciated, and thank you to them both for providing raffle prizes.



Some new children's games kept the youngsters happy, and a big thank you to Margaret and Susana for organising them. John's fairground games also kept them entertained and, if that wasn't enough, there was also the bouncy castle. For those who wanted something a little different, axe throwing proved to be very popular, but with varying amounts of success!

We also welcomed back the ever popular Alpacas as well as a number of our local talented artists and crafters. As the afternoon progressed we were treated to a couple of performances from local legends Robbie McIntosh and Steve Wilson. Again they went down a storm and a very big thank you to them.

Finally, the Upwey Society would like to send out a huge thanks to all those people who volunteered to help organise and support us on the day, without your help it would be impossible to run an event like this. And to those of you who came along, we hope you enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of food, drink and entertainment.



Mr Wells (left) clearing up at his cottage opposite the church



Further along Church St (opposite no.104) the weight of the water collapsed the wall

Percy Dominey said “the lights went out because the falling wall had snapped the electricity cable.” Sweets, crisp tins and groceries floated out of Mr Eckersall's shop (no.84) and on down the road.



Further down in Watery Lane, Meadow Cottage was flooded to within an inch of its ceiling.
The Street family escaped just before it was submerged. It was cleaned up and dried out with help from a squad of naval men from HMS Maidstone.

Remembering the Flood of 70 years ago

As part of this year's Upwey Open Gardens Sue Virgin held an exhibition in the Old School Hall of photos and memories of the devastating flood of 18 July 1955.



Alan James (88) visited the exhibition to see his memories on display.



Taking time out to study the display.

For those who didn't get there, here's a brief summary

On Monday 18th July 1955 an active storm crossed the coast and ground to a halt. That rain would normally have moved on, and fallen over a wider area, but instead it fell over one small area in Dorset. This occurred in a month that was very sunny and warm, where some places had had no rain at all during that time.

In Upwey, the heavy rain started at about 2pm and continued until the next day, with the Met Office recording the highest 24 hour 09:00 - 09:00 totals: Friar Waddon Pumping Station 241.3 mm (9.50 inches) and Elwell Street 211.1 mm (8.31 inches). The Elwell Street measurement was made by Roy Shepstone at no. 68.

The flood left a trail of devastation from Upwey right down the river to Weymouth, through Broadwey, Nottington and Radipole. The clear up operation was huge, with all available council workers and the armed forces pitching in to help the locals remove the debris. Families saved what they could, dried out their homes and tried to get back to normal as quickly as possible.

View from the school to the church



View from above the church, looking towards the school



Evening talks ....

Talk by Luke Mouland - Hospital Blues: Nursing in Dorset during the First World War



On Saturday 6th September Luke kicked off our mini-series of talks for this Autumn/Winter with an interesting and moving talk about the volunteers who served with the British Red Cross Society in the First World War. They provided much-needed care for sick and wounded servicemen returning from the Front and many of those came to recuperate in local hospitals across Dorset. We heard of the roles played by these, mainly female, volunteers, the impact they had on society and some moving accounts of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.
A big thank you to Luke for such an interesting and illuminating talk.

Talk by Sheonagh Ravensdale and Pat Thomson - Dusty Old Bags, Panama to Cambodia



On Friday 10th October locals Sheonagh and Pat delighted us with an entertaining talk on their longest trip, lasting 16 months, from Panama to Cambodia. Although the talk was sold out we managed to make room for one of their beloved bikes which also joined us on the evening. Between them Sheonagh and Pat have clocked up over 100 years riding. We certainly have two inspirational adventurers living amongst us.
A huge thank you to Sheonagh and Pat, we hope you can entertain us again in the future with another of your amazing adventures.

More information on future talks arranged by The Upwey Society can be found in the Future Events and Diary Dates section of the Newsletter.
Hope to see you there.

Future Newsletter Articles

If you have any ideas for future newsletter articles we really want to hear from you. Whether it's about a local group or charity, an interesting fact about the village, a local photograph or something you want locals to be aware of, please get in touch via the email address below

admin@upweysociety.org.uk

We can't guarantee that all ideas/articles will be used, but we will try and use as many as we can.

Remember, as an Upwey resident, this is your newsletter so we want to create something that is of interest to you.

Your email address will not be used for any other purpose.



'Elwell Chase'

by Debbie Leech, is an oil painting on canvas.

Debbie was inspired by watching the swallows tease dogs in Hurdlemead. It is currently on show in the Pavilion in the Park Cafe at Poundbury.

Defibrillators

There are a number of defibrillators in the Upwey area, including outside the Upwey Old School Village Hall, The Royal Standard Pub, Frank Reynolds Institute and Upwey Station and inside Tesco Express.



For advice on how to use a defibrillator look at any of the websites listed below.

https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators
https://www.sja.org.uk/first-aid-advice/how-to-use-a-defibrillator/
https://www.defibfinder.uk/ Note that the Old School is not on this list and there are likely to be others not listed.

If you do have to use one, when you call 999 they will talk you through what you have to do. The machine will not let you use it if it thinks it is not necessary, so you might save a life by having a go.

PRU BOLLAM, MBE, ARIBA
1928-2025



It is with sadness for the loss of a great Upwey lady that we announce Pru's death on 30th June.

Pru was born in London on 14th December, 1928. Along with her sister, she was sent to Canada during wartime, returning to complete her education finally at Cambridge University where she took a degree in architecture, following her Waterhouse family tradition.

Pru arrived in Upwey in 1976 and from the start she took a deep interest in the life of Upwey. She gave her time and thoughtfulness, her skills and knowledge and endless energy to the benefit of our village. She was a Governor of St. Nicholas and St. Laurence Primary School; for many years she was Churchwarden of St. Laurence Church; she was Chairman of the Upwey Society from 2005-2008; she was President of Weymouth Civic Society for several years until her death.

Alongside this, she could be relied upon to know the answers to most things Upwey and she delivered all her wisdom clearly, concisely and, often, with an amusing anecdote to illustrate. Actually, I think she knew the answers to an awful lot more as well - very widely read and with a well-trained and enquiring mind.
She was also a published author.

But the thing for which Pru will particularly be remembered locally is her work to achieve, with others, the acquisition of Upwey School buildings when the school was closed in 1976 for use as the Upwey Old School Village Hall.

Thank you, Pru, for all you have done to make our lives better.

Eve Price
President, The Upwey Society

Upwey Music

Upwey Music (a registered charity) continues to support and promote musical performances in Upwey (usually in St Laurence Church). This year we have hosted a second visit from Irish musician Daiorí Farrell, this year supported by the wonderful - and local - Graham Moore. May saw a fine solo performance from statesman of the folk scene, Jon Boden. Portland choir, Island Voices held a workshop and concert in June, and in July we were delighted to have duo Patakas (Joe and Will Sartin), supported by John Evans with solo guitar pieces. Robbie McIntosh paid a return visit in September, with a band that included a special appearance by brilliant harmonica player, Mark Feltham.

Coming up for the rest of the year:

October 31: Lady Maisery.
Beautiful harmonies and musicianship from a trio who have been described as "the freshest possible take on folk music".

November 10: Boo Hewerdine & Reg Meuross.
Boo Hewerdine (The Bible, Eddi Reader) is celebrated for his poignant lyrics and unforgettable melodies. Reg Meuross, acclaimed for his evocative songs and masterful storytelling, has a rich discography that has earned him both critical praise and a devoted following.

Boo and Reg will be on stage together swapping songs and stories; showcasing their distinctive styles.

December 19: Upton, McIntosh, Wilson
Jess, Robbie and Steve return to the Old School Village Hall for their annual Christmas show. Terrible jokes, good music, great fun.

Tickets for all Upwey Music shows are available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/upwey-music

Upcoming Events and Diary Dates

Saturday 8th November, East Farm, Bincombe
Upwey Bonfire and Fireworks
This is a firm favourite with locals and those from further afield. So make sure you save the date in your diaries and get ready for another spectacular pyrotechnic display. As well as the bonfire (courtesy of the Foot family) and fireworks from Anytime Fireworks, there will be hot dogs, burgers and drinks on sale. Parking is free, but limited.

Friday 21st November, 7.00 pm, The Old School Hall
Talk by Paul Atterbury (you may have seen him on the Antiques Roadshow!) - The Making of a Dorset Garden
Paul tells the story of how an inventive and memorable garden was created from a narrow, sloping half acre of meadow in Eype, near Bridport. It was challenging, expensive and took about five years, but the result justified the effort. The message for gardeners is clear: be creative, have no fear and everything is possible. Or, to put it more simply: nothing ventured, nothing gained.
Tickets are £5 each and include a free glass of wine, beer or a soft drink.

Tickets can be purchased at:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/upwey-society/the-making-of-a-dorset-garden-by-paul-

If available, tickets can also be purchased on the door.

Upwey Children's Party
The Upwey Society are hoping to hold a Christmas party for children ages up to eleven who either live in the village or are staying with family living in Upwey over Christmas. Nothing is firmly decided at the moment but could include musical chairs with a twist, we decorate chairs with ribbons and tinsel for a festive Christmas atmosphere: Christmas scavenger hunt: reindeer ring toss - and some festive treats of course. Please let us know (using QR Code below) if you have any children or grandchildren that you would like to bring along and we'll keep you up to date.

The Upwey Society will be organising a number of events for 2026, so please follow us on Facebook, or look at our website, for all the up-to-date information. Alternatively, if you are a member, you will receive update emails including our future events.



RIVER WEY SOCIETY NEWS

This has been a busy spring and summer so far in a number of ways.

John Restorick completed the restoration of the bridge at the bottom of Mill Street, a fine piece of masonry, which included an RWS commemorative stone. Whilst we did manage to get Wessex Water to remove a disused water main, which crossed the face of the bridge, we have, so far, been unsuccessful in getting Scottish and Southern to replace a very aged and suspect looking electricity power cable which obstructs the face of the bridge on the southern side. Action ongoing!

The Wey Valley walks continue to attract our attention. Maintenance of the pathways continues to be a problem, not least because the Dorset Council's Definitive Footpath Map is woefully out of date, particularly between Nottington and Littlemead. We have been working with footpath officials to clarify Footpath Map; luckily the long term knowledge of Martin Madley and John Restorick has been extremely useful and we hope that, with an accurate legal footpath map, the correct maintenance can be carried out. At present, some of the footpaths are overgrown and impassable and in a few places river erosion has made them potentially unsafe.

With the alluvial deposits still building up in Radipole Lake, there is increasing concern that the flood risk to Radipole Village is getting worse. Lowering the Lake level and increasing its capacity by dredging is the probable solution, but unfortunately there is likely to be a long delay while studies, project definition and budget constraints take their toll. Furthermore, the growth of vegetation both within the Wey and on nearby banks has been most prolific this year. This has increased the risk of flash flooding this summer and indeed when the autumn and winter rains arrive we all need to be aware of the situation and prepare accordingly.

Most worrying of all, the Environment Agency budget has been reduced. This means that less funding is available to carry out routine maintenance. Some Wey Riparian Owners have received a letter from the EA saying that their stretch will not be cleared this year. I am trying to establish from the EA exactly who has been sent a letter as I wish to compare that list with our experience of where flooding is likely, so that we can advise the EA accordingly. In that way we can hopefully make sure that their maintenance programme really does target the right places. If necessary, the RWS may have to raise working parties to help.

If you have received a letter from the EA as above please let me know, plus any observations that you may have.

My overall view this summer is that, rather than climate change, it is the lack of routine and regular maintenance in the Wey catchment which is the problem, and we need to work together to minimise flood risks.

Bob Turner
Chairman

