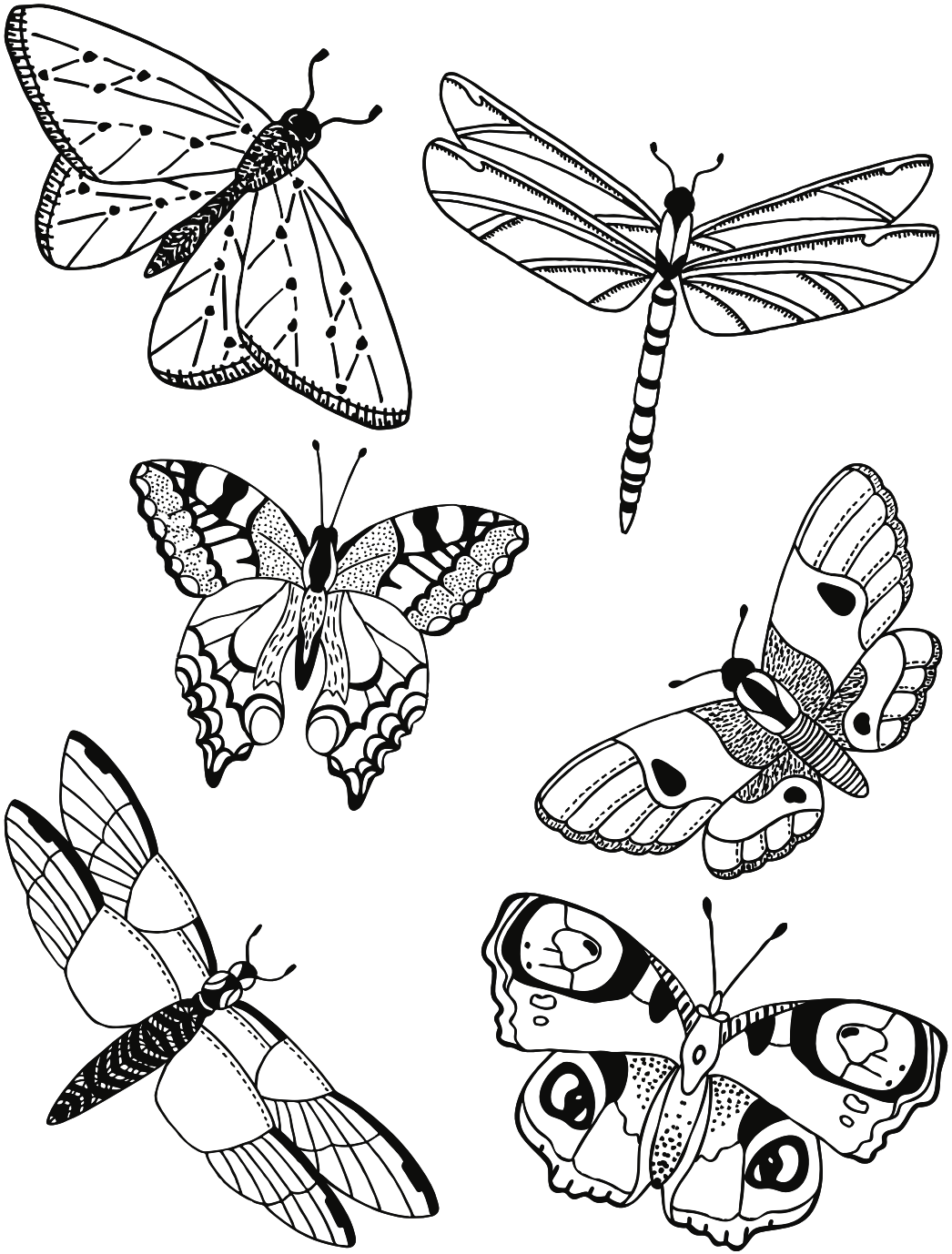
Children's Colouring Page





Upwey Summer Newsletter 2026

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

Distributed to all Upwey Households

Message From the Chair & President

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Chair of our community group. Together with many new members on the committee, we are developing a programme of enhancements to our wider village, along with a range of exciting events for the year ahead. Later this year, we will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at the Upwey & Broadwey Memorial Hall, where we shall share our plans and welcome your feedback and support.

If you have any queries, feedback or want to join the Upwey society, simply e-mail us at *upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk*

Steve Shine

Chairman



Photo by Robert Mowbray

I wonder if other members and friends of the Upwey Society feel the renewed sense of energy in the village as I do? There seems to be a lot going on, some of it the same as ever but with fresh spirit. Perhaps this energy is down to so many new people who have recently moved here, that is, new since the horrors and inconveniences of Covid and all that went with it. Anyway, whatever it is, a huge welcome to them all!

I think I first noticed this uplift at Christmas when we gathered for the lighting of the Christmas Tree on Stottingwey Green; and then again, welcome to the return of some speaker meetings with great appeal for many of us. Looking forward, there's a lot on the calendar for everyone.

We've had to say farewell to quite a few people this last year for one reason and another and we thank them for their input to the well-being of Upwey: as indeed we thank everyone who makes a contribution, in whatever way, to making our village special. Come and join in!

Eve Price

President



Gardening News

The Broadwey, Upwey & District Horticultural Society – Carole Caple

Love gardening? New to gardening? Come and join The Broadwey, Upwey & District Horticultural Society! It was founded in 1878 by a group of local gardeners and nurserymen and is a friendly gardening club with around 70 members. We enjoy "growing and showing" and help and encourage others to do so too. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm with a busy programme of speakers, garden visits, seasonal shows and a very popular plant sale in May! Recent meetings included a Globe Trotting Botanist, a talk on Begonias, the Lighter side of plants, Gardeners Question Time and we have lots of other interesting talks coming up!

Our shows are held in March and August and are well attended with several classes including

Daffodils, pot plants, floral art, preserves, photography and handicrafts amongst others. We are affiliated with the RHS, NVS, The Daffodil Society and National Dahlia Society and enjoy discounts with The Gardens Group Gold Club (Poundbury Garden Centre).

If you love gardening, are new to gardening or simply want to meet other gardeners then please come along to one of our meetings or email us at join@budhs.org.uk to get more information. New members are always welcome to come as guests for 2 meetings free of charge to see if they would like to join. Meetings are held at St. Nicholas and St. Laurence School, Broadwey, DT3 5DQ and there will be refreshments, raffle, sales table and a Flower of the Month competition. Our website is https://www.budhs.org.uk and on Facebook: The Broadwey, Upwey & District Horticultural Society.

Membership is £8 per year and this includes free entry to the meetings. Who knows? You could be one of our future speakers or win a cup at one of our shows! Come and join us!

BROADWEY, UPWEY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Upwey Society Membership

Our aim is to bring neighbours together to help make Upwey an even better place to live. If you'd like to be part of this, why not join us and help make a real difference to our village?

For a membership form, please contact upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk

As well as the feeling of belonging to a strong and active community, membership offers reduced ticket prices to events such as the fireworks and this year's family BBQ. It also includes free, members-only events designed to bring like-minded residents together to celebrate what makes Upwey special eg. the Christmas tree light switch on.

Since forming the new committee in February 2026, membership has increased by 17%, showing just how many people want to be part of shaping our village's future.

A designated annual membership subscription date will be introduced from 1 September 2026 to improve the administration and management of memberships.

All members will be contacted in August and asked to set up a standing order of £5 for future subscriptions, helping to streamline renewals and avoid valuable time being spent chasing lapsed memberships.

The Committee

New Members

Tara Williams
(Vice Chair & Membership Secretary),
Andy Pipe (Communications Lead),
Susana Malik, Christine Wells
& Paul Dowdeswell.



Existing Members

Steve Shine (Chair), Dave Mountjoy (Treasurer), Diane Crumbleholme (Secretary), Helen Goodman, Anne Prendergast & Stuart Wilson

Remembering Society Members



Wendy Jayne Sams (1944-2025)

Wendy was born in Weymouth and attended Broadwey School (now Wey Valley School) until moving to Wolverhampton at the age of 15. On her return, she got married for the second time to Richard, a second cousin, in 1983 and they moved to Elwell Street in Upwey in 1987.

Wendy was a talented artist: she won several categories at the Dorchester Show and many of her animal portraits hang on the walls of the homes of Upwey animal lovers.

Ever active, she was chair of Rotary Inner Wheel and in 2012 joined the committee of the Upwey Society until 2023.

Wendy took responsibility for poster distribution and other aspects of publicity; she was always there to help at any event, serving teas at Open Gardens and Christmas dinners, at the annual BBQ and on so many other occasions. Her great sense of fun left everyone in high spirits.

We could always be sure of a good laugh if Wendy was around, she gave much to the Upwey Society. Thank you, Wendy.



Winifred Gwen Nayler 'Gwen' (1930-2026)

Professor Gwen Nayler was one of Australia's most innovative cardiovascular scientists of the 20th century, internationally regarded for her pioneering work on myocardial metabolism and cardiovascular pharmacology.

She grew up and married Lindsay Naylor who encouraged her studies and research career. She carried out heart research at the Baker Medical Research Institute, Melborne from 1955 to 1972. In 1973, she left Australia to become Professor of Cardiac Metabolism at the University of London until 1980.

In the mid 1990's she retired to Upwey to pursue her keen interest in gardening and joined the Society in 1996 in the role of Church Liaison where she would get involved in writing articles for the newsletter as well as taking part in Open Gardens and the Society's events until 2012. Gwen will be much missed by members who had the pleasure of sitting on the committee with her.

Upwey Music – Tony King

Formed in 2022 to promote music performance in our village, registered charity Upwey Music kicked off its fifth year of concerts in February with a fabulous gig from award winning Dorset-based folk duo, Ninebarrow. Early April brought the Dorset Fiddlers – an extraordinarily accomplished troupe of violinists playing tunes from Dorset and beyond. And in May, local young performers from WOW – Youth Musical Theatre impressed us with their talent and vitality.

Most of our concerts are in St Laurence Church, which provides a beautiful and atmospheric setting, plus exceptional acoustics. In June, jazz pianist Mike Denham, who is a regular at St Laurence, brought singer Julia Titus and trumpet player Steve Graham for a performance that focused on the iconic music of the great Bessie Smith.

Other concerts lined up for this year (all at St Laurence except where stated) are:

26 July

A free Sunday afternoon recital featuring two young musicians – William Bishop, organ and Irina Temerel, mezzo-soprano. Donations in aid of the church organ will be welcome.

17 August

Folk trio, Sheaf, perform in the Old School Village Hall

12 September

Internationally renowned guitarist and singer Martin Simpson, supported by Jon Wilks.

6 November

Reg Meuross and Phil Beer, bringing us Reg's "Fire and Dust" – songs based on the life of Woody Guthrie. Tickets for all our paid concerts are available from www.ticketsource.com/upwey-music.

We are a small group of volunteers and we are very grateful for the support our concerts have been given by the people of Upwey and beyond. We are currently looking for a volunteer with contacts and experience in the world of classical music. If that might be you or someone you know, email us at admin@upwe-music.org.uk

St Laurence Looks Both Ways – Sally Pinhey

Looking back, the church holds eight centuries of village history in its stones and archives. It was centre stage for all baptisms, marriages and burials and continues in this role. Regular worshippers keep it in good repair, while others may offer their skills to preserve the peaceful and welcoming ambience.

Looking forward it remains the iconic heart of the community as an important building and always-open public space. Bell ringers, ministers, worshippers, musicians and concert-goers among others ensure regular footfall. Fresh initiatives look to sharing more church activity with the community, and fund-raising is a perfect opportunity. The dates for your diaries are ***3 July 2026***: Quiz night in the Old School Hall, ***22 August 2026:*** Dog Show at Upwey House paddocks and ***19 September 2026***: Wine Tasting in the Old School Hall.

If you would like to offer your skills or time for a church maintenance (inside or outside) please call Mike Pearce on 07870491013.

Part of Upwey Brides exhibition 2016



Volunteers

The Society brings our village to life through a wide range of events each year, from seasonal celebrations to community projects, all made possible by dedicated committee members and volunteers who generously give their time.

But we can't do it alone. To keep these much-loved activities thriving, we're always looking for residents who are willing to lend a hand. Whether it's helping at events, joining a litter-picking session or getting involved in projects that brighten and beautify Upwey, like bulb planting and other "prettify the village" initiatives, your contribution truly makes a difference.

If you'd like to be added to our volunteer circulation list, please get in touch at **upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk**. Even a small amount of time can have a big impact on the place we call home.



Events

Upwey Litter Pick

The Upwey Society held a very successful litter pick in March with refreshments kindly provided afterwards by Bob and Immy Turner. The activity was very well supported by about 20 people. Thank you to the residents who we spoke to as we walked the streets who took an interest and to those, in particular, who say they pick litter up whenever they go for a walk; this all goes to making our village a nicer place to live.

To make our village tidy for Open Gardens, the next litter pick is scheduled for ***Saturday 20 June 2026 at 10am*** meeting at the top of Elwell Street.

Please bring your own gloves and litter pickers if you have them. We can provide litter pickers, gloves, bags and bag hoops if you need them. We also have Hi-Vis children's tabards and some brand new Hi-Vis gilets with Upwey Society on, thanks to a very kind anonymous donor. Thank you, whoever you are!



Upwey Open Gardens Returns for a Blooming Weekend

The Upwey Society is delighted to welcome visitors once again to its much-loved annual Upwey Open Gardens weekend, taking place in the beautiful village of Upwey on ***Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 June 2026 between 2pm-6pm.***

A wide variety of gardens will be open to the public, ranging from small, carefully tended spaces to those with extensive grounds. Visitors can enjoy an equally diverse selection of landscapes, including hillside settings, tranquil riverside plots and hidden village gems.

Now running successfully for decades, Upwey Open Gardens continues to be a highlight of the local calendar. This year promises to be one of the biggest yet, with 25 gardens confirmed to take part.

Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend in the grounds of Eastbrook House on Church Street, where visitors can enjoy tea, coffee, homemade cakes or a cheese ploughman with homemade bread and chutney, alongside a popular Pimm's bar. Please note: the café at Eastbrook House will close at 5pm on Sunday.

Free car parking will be available on land opposite The River House, Church Street. To help visitors travel between gardens, a minibus service will operate during the event. As Upwey is a large village, comfortable footwear is strongly recommended.

Entry is £5 per adult, which covers admission for both days and children (U16) accompanied by an adult go free. All proceeds help support local events and contribute towards the upkeep of the village. Tickets and programmes will be available from the car parking area, Church Street, the top of Elwell Street and Upwey Village Hall.

For anyone seeking gardening inspiration, a relaxing day out or simply the chance to discover one of Dorset's most picturesque villages, Upwey Open Gardens offers something for everyone.



Church News

St Nicholas Church Update – Susana Malik, Church Warden

There have been several social events held this past year at St Nicholas Church to fund raise for projects within the church but, as important, supporting charities such as SSAFA. Thank you to all who have supported our events, it is hugely appreciated and we hope that every occasion has either been fun, informative or both!

There are many great charity events taking place at St Nicholas Church throughout the year, which offer a chance to enjoy good company while supporting important causes.

11 July at 7.30pm
Dorset Wrecks for Coastal Watch Portland Bill & St. Nicholas. Tickets £10 p.p. can be booked in advance & cash preferable at the door. Cash Bar too.

12 September at 6.30pm
Murder Mystery Night & Dinner raising funds for The Samaritans

9 October at 7.30pm
Tom Waters & Band

21st November at 3pm
WaterFolk raising funds for WaterAid & St. Nicholas

19th December at 3pm
Quangle Wangle Choir

Lunch Club is always the **2nd Tuesday of the month** (must be pre-booked in advance)

Coffee & Craft every **3rd Tuesday of the month.**

Coffee mornings **every Thursday from 10.45 am.**

We hope you will join us in supporting these wonderful community events that help raise money for such worthy causes. For more information, please email susanamalik@yahoo.com or call 07944 617553.



Recipe: Lizzie Baking Bird

Mediterranean Vegetable Loaf



Makes 6 portions

2 tbsp olive oil
500g Mediterranean vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, courgette, aubergine) chopped into 2 cm pieces
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 onion, cut in 1-2 cm slices
2 tbsp tomato puree
250g puy lentils, ready to eat
Dried or fresh basil
125g fresh breadcrumbs
3 eggs
125g cheddar, grated
300g vegetable stock
Salt & pepper

Lay the vegetables with the onion and garlic on a baking tray and drizzle with olive oil. Roast in the oven for approx. 25-30 minutes 200C/ Gas 6.

Tip roated vegetables in a bowl and add 2 tsp tomato puree, lentils, herbs, breadcrumbs, eggs and cheese. Add the vegetable stock and seasoning, mix well.

Leave for 30 minutes before pouring in a lined loaf tin. Cover with foil and place in a baking tray. Add hot water to halfway up the tin. Bake in the oven 190C/ Gas 5 for around 50-60 minutes, the 'loaf' will be spongy to the touch and light brown when cooked.

Cut in thick slices wedges and serve with new potatoes and salad or roasties or whip up a quick tomato sauce.

Upwey Family BBQ

This summer, we are delighted to revive the Upwey BBQ, a much-loved community event. It will be held in the grounds of Eastbrook House on ***18 July 2026, from 4pm until late.***

In the spirit of a traditional village fete, the focus will be on simple, inclusive fun for everyone to enjoy. To help create a lively party atmosphere, there will be live music from the acclaimed Blair and the Bullets.

Tickets are £10 for members until 30 June and £15 for non-members, which includes a BBQ meal (including a vegetarian option). A cash bar will also be available, along with ice lollies.

Numbers will be limited and tickets must be purchased in advance to assist with catering. To buy tickets, please email: upsoc@upweysociety.org.uk



Light Up A Christmas Tree

For the very first time in 2025, we brought a touch of festive magic to Upwey by arranging a village Christmas tree. A 15-foot Nordman spruce was proudly placed on the land at the bottom of Stottingway Street and adorned with beautiful decorations. To mark the occasion, Society members were invited to gather for free mince pies and mulled wine to enjoy the moment the lights were switched on. Christmas carols were sung by children from St Nicholas & St Laurence Primary School to provide even more festive cheer.

The response from the community was so enthusiastic that we're delighted to confirm the tradition will continue this year. Members, keep an eye out for your invitation, we'd love to celebrate the start of the festive season with you once again.





Fireworks 2025

Last year's fireworks were a huge success, with hundreds of local people attending to enjoy the spectacular display. We are already making plans for the 2026 event, which will take place on ***Saturday 7 November 2026*** at West Farm, Bincombe.

Alongside hot dogs, toffee apples and other sweet treats, a range of drinks will also be available. Members will receive a discount on entry.



Projects

The Upwey Society recently contacted Weymouth Town Council regarding two village seats. One, located on the grass verge beside 82 Church Street, has been rubbed back and freshly stained, bringing it back to life for the community to enjoy. A sincere thank you to Weymouth Town Council for their support, care and attention in maintaining this valued community asset.

Sadly, the 'Old Man's' seat, hidden in undergrowth on Dorchester Road, was beyond repair and had to be removed. The Society will explore funding opportunities to reinstate the Old Man's seat.





Upwey Old School Village Hall – Diane Crumbleholme

Upwey Old School Village Hall is continuing to thrive as a venue for arts and crafts as well as Yoga and Morris Dancing. Various exhibitions are held there throughout the year, including one during Upwey Open Gardens 27th/28th June and the Upwey Summer Craft Show, 11th - 19 July. There is now an online booking system:

(https://www.upweyhall.co.uk/booking/booking)
and a calendar (https://www.upweyhall.co.uk/calendar/calendar).
For booking enquiries: https://www.upweyhall.co.uk/about-us and follow the link.

Upwey & Broadwey's War Memorial – Sue Virgin



Seventy years ago in 1956, the communities of Upwey and Broadwey achieved an astonishing ambition after 11 years of fundraising, when the Upwey & Broadwey War Memorial Hall in Victoria Avenue was opened on 24 November 1956. In 1945 there was strong feeling in the villages that those who had lost their lives in the two World Wars should be remembered and that this memorial should benefit the communities for years to come. So it was that the Upwey & Broadwey War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund was set up to raise money to build a community hall.

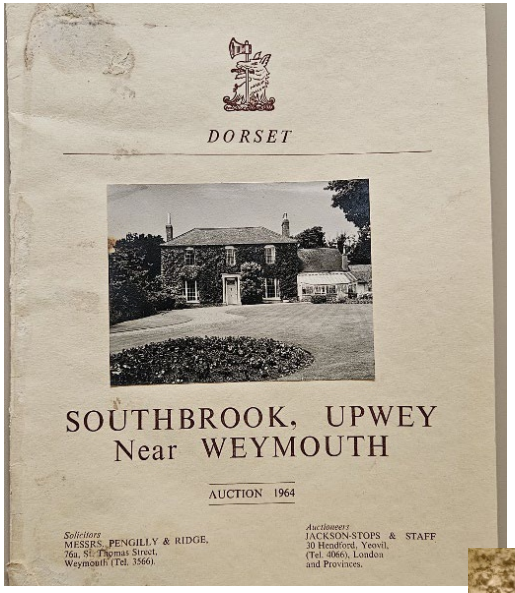
Funds were raised by donations, house to house collections, jumble sales, dances, whist drives and the village fete which became known as 'The Big Affair' held on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Over the last 70 years the Hall, through the management committee, has kept alive the spirit of the original idea and provided a venue for the communities of Upwey & Broadwey to celebrate and enjoy themselves.

Over the weekend of 21 and 22 November the Upwey & Broadwey Village History Exhibition will be on display, a chance to see how village life has changed over the years, meet old and new friends and enjoy tea and cake!

History of the Village

Southbrook House – Phil Garrett

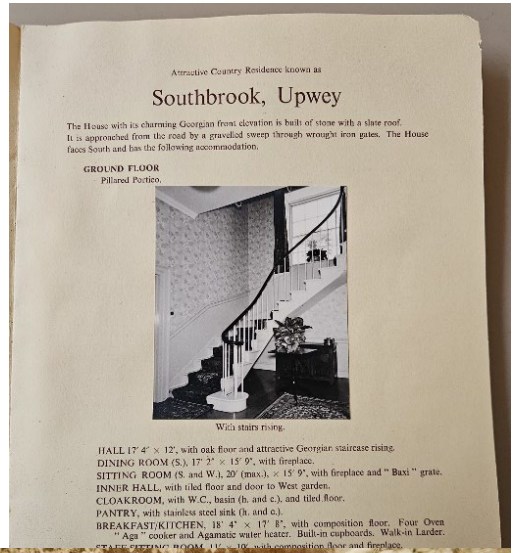

DORSET

SOUTHBROOK, UPWEY
Near WEYMOUTH

AUCTION 1964

Solicitors
MESSRS. PENGILLY & RIDGE,
76a, St. Thomas Street,
Weymouth (Tel. 3560).

Auctioneers
JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF
30 Hendford, Yeovil,
(Tel. 4066), London
and Provinces.


Attractive Country Residence known as

Southbrook, Upwey

The House with its charming Georgian front elevation is built of stone with a slate roof. It is approached from the road by a gravelled sweep through wrought iron gates. The House faces South and has the following accommodation.

GROUND FLOOR
Pillared Portico.

With stairs rising.

HALL 17' 4" × 12', with oak floor and attractive Georgian staircase rising.
DINING ROOM (S.), 17' 2" × 15' 9", with fireplace.
SITTING ROOM (S. and W.), 20' (max.) × 15' 9", with fireplace and "Baxi" grate.
INNER HALL, with tiled floor and door to West garden.
CLOAKROOM, with W.C., basin (h. and c.), and tiled floor.
PANTRY, with stainless steel sink (h. and c.).
BREAKFAST/KITCHEN, 18' 4" × 17' 8", with composition floor. Four Oven "Aga" cooker and Agamatic water heater. Built-in cupboards. Walk-in Larder.



Southbrook House was originally bought by Daniel John Symonds who had married Katherine Sarah Symonds (28/9/1857 – 16/6/1949). They brought up six children there, including my great grandmother Catherine (1886 to 1976). The others were Daniel, William, John, Philip and Nora. Katherine died in 1949 and I believe is buried in the church yard.

In 1937, at the age of 45 Nora married Captain Adam Borrodale Bell, I believe in St Lawrence church. I believe they then lived at Southbrook with Katherine (by then Daniel had died) and Nora continued to live there until she died in 1964 when the house was sold. My mother remembers visiting 'Aunty Nora'. Adam is mentioned in your village history as running the scout group in the old chapel in the 1930s and again for the 1953 Coronation celebrations when a garden party was held at Southbrook. It is from the 1964 house sale after Nora Symond's death that I discovered the sale particulars and the complete list of contents for the auction.

The Need for Less Speed

The Society has raised concerns with both Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council regarding speeding issues, particularly at the junctions of the lower end of Stottingway Street with Church Street and Gould's Hill with Church Street.

Weymouth Town Council is keen to introduce 20mph limits across residential areas in Weymouth and is already considering a number of locations, with a public consultation planned for eight areas. For Upwey to be considered, a formal request would need to be supported either by Weymouth Town Council or by our councillor, Cllr David Northam. Dorset Council has already opened discussions with Cllr Northam on this matter.

Cllr Northam previously requested that the Stottingway Street / Church Street junction be included in the first phase of the scheme but Dorset Council has chosen to prioritise areas close to schools at this stage.

The Society is also exploring other possible measures, including Community Speed Watch initiatives and speed indicator devices, in partnership with Dorset Police and Dorset Council.



Wey Valley Walk Signs

Work to support and celebrate the much-loved Wey Valley Walks is now underway. Following damage to two of the route's signs, the Society has contacted Swift Signs to obtain a quotation for their replacement.

The Wey Valley Walks provide a scenic route from Weymouth town centre to the Ridgeway, meandering alongside the River Wey through the heart of Upwey. Popular with both residents and visitors, the walks showcase the village's unique countryside, rich wildlife and historic landscape.

Maintaining clear and attractive signage is an important part of preserving these valued trails, helping walkers of all ages to enjoy and explore one of the area's most treasured local assets.

Highway & Public Rights of Way Signage

The Society has raised a number of concerns regarding highway and Public Rights of Way signage throughout the village with Dorset Council. Although we have been advised that job orders have been issued for some of the required works, no action has yet been undertaken on site.

The Society will continue to work closely with Dorset Council and our county councillor to press for these important signage issues to be resolved, helping to ensure that routes across the village remain safe, clear and accessible.

2026: A Year of Upwey in Pictures

If you've visited our Web or Facebook page you will have seen that we are holding a photographic exhibition early in 2027. The theme of which is "2026: A Year of Upwey in Pictures". And we would love you to take part.

All you have to do is snap some photos from around the village when you are out and about. You may want to take a photo of your favourite spot in the village, something that showcases nature, local buildings, changes in seasons, activities and events that take place or something associated with our village life. The subject of the photo will be up to you; all we ask is that it is taken in Upwey. Please remember, Upwey is not just "old Upwey" so we would love to see a range of photos from all over the village.

The exhibition will be split into the 4 seasons: winter, spring, summer and autumn. And, if you want to take part, we are asking you to submit your summer photos, which should be taken between 1 June 2026 to 31 August 2026. Please note that there is a maximum of 2 photos per individual per season.

Photos need to be in high resolution and emailed to admin@upweysociety.org.uk by 13 September June 2026. Please include your name (which will be displayed alongside your photo), when and where the photo was taken, a title or caption and any further information regarding the photo that you wish to include.



Before submitting any photographs, please read the terms and conditions on our website / facebook page or email admin@upweysociety.org.uk

Further information about Autumn and Winter 2026 submission dates will appear on Facebook, so keep an eye out!

Please enjoy walking round the village and we will look forward to seeing your photos.

River Wey Society – Bob Turner, Chairman

This has been a very busy period for the River Wey Society as we have transitioned from the depths of a dank and wet winter to a much brighter and sunnier spring. Importantly, we have been able to work closely with Upwey Society members as small working parties have helped to clear roadside debris, open up footpaths and add to flood resilience. Our Committee Members also contributed to an extremely valuable Flood Resilience Drop in Event organised by the Weymouth Town Council. Of particular interest at this event was the work going on to resolve the problem of the flood risk around Radipole Lake . This is now designated as a Strategic project for the Dorset County Council, meaning that it now has priority for funding. Work is now being actively considered and includes a major upgrade to the sluice system in Westham Bridge and a much greater chance to get some serious dredging done.

Closer to home for most Upwey Society Members and Upwey residents, the continued problem of sewage polluting both Church Street and Watery Lane now finally appears to be getting the attention it deserves from the Responsible Authorities. The Public Meeting to discuss the situation and way ahead on this was very well attended. In essence, the small sewage pipe is overloaded by additional rain and surface water, so by eliminating the latter, the existing pipe should contain all the nasty stuff. Wessex Water has been identifying not only those rain water sources from private houses and dwellings, but is also identifying disused drains and ditches which have been lost by poor maintenance and neglect over many years. Should you need more details, please look at the River Wey Society Facebook page or Website.

The RWS has also again briefed Students from the Atlantic Academy, Portland on the special qualities of the Wey Valley Catchment thereby making them aware of the importance of keeping this chalk river system free from pollution in all its forms, reducing flood risk and protecting the varied wildlife. They then enjoyed a walk down the Wey Valley footpaths on a glorious spring day.

Looking ahead, RWS Members will again join the Upwey Society's Litter Pick on the 20th of June and will provide the much-needed refreshments on completion.

Traditionally, June and July provide us with the occasional savage thundery downpour and localised flooding incidents. Given the abundant growth in recent weeks, please do make sure that you have checked and cleared your drains and ditches of all blockages and debris. As ever, timely prevention is better than a mud-spattered cure.



Photo by Nicki Affleck