

Upham Update Issue 29



Sept 2020

The latest book from Upham author

How to Work with People... and Enjoy It!



Jenny Bird and Sarah Cornall **R**

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Welcome to issue 29!

Thanks as ever to our contributors: deadline for the next issue is 30th October. Please try to keep contributions concise - we have limited space in the printed issue, though we can publish fuller articles in the web edition on the village website - see www.uphamvillage.org. We would welcome advertisers for next year's issues - it doesn't cost a lot and you will be helping Upham Update to survive by contributing to printing costs. So if you have a small local business or service - say babysitting, dog walking, hairdressing, etc, and would like some local publicity, email Chris at little537@btinternet.com.

Apologies to Paul Swanwick for omitting the length of his walk in the last issue - for the record, it's 7.7 km or 4.8 miles. You will find some more of Paul's walks on the newly refurbished village website - do take a look at this (see page 10) and let us have feedback.

Editors: Chris Little, Cyn Kimble. Cover photo: Joan Williamson.

Distribution: Jane Brown Commshub Coordinator: Mike Elliott.

What's On

Tues 8 Sept 19.30	Hall	Upham Village Hall AGM
Sept 14 - 20	Throughout the Village	Litter pick
Sept 28	Virtual	Upham Parish Council
Oct 12 15.00	Rec	Upham 1 st v Broughton
October 19 15.00	Rec	Upham 1 st v S Wonston Swifts

Wildflower Quiz

Gwyn Halsall writes:

The answers to the wildflower quiz in the last issue were:

1. Pyramidal orchid, 2. Wood anemone, 3. Yellow flag (Iris), 4. Bird's foot trefoil, 5. Lesser Butterfly orchid, 6. Hottentot-fig, 7. Solomon's Seal, 8. White Helleborine, 9. Thrift, 10. Hawthorn, 11. Primrose, 12. Ivy leaved toadflax. Congratulations to Jane Ashe and David Morris - joint first prize winners. The editors tell me that the prize is a free copy of Upham Update for life or for as long as it's published!

Upham Parish Council

Anne Collins writes:

A group of volunteers have been meeting remotely to discuss ways of updating the Upham **Village Design Statement**. The **Village Litter Pick** is being co-ordinated by Cllr Gwyn Halsall - details overleaf. A working party has been liaising with David and Jenni Bell to update the **Upham Village website**, which is now up and running.

A **lottery grant** has been secured to replace the wigwams on the recreation ground and it is hoped that the new equipment will be installed in the first week of September. The play area is now open following the



Covid-19 emergency closure.

The **landscaping and traffic calming** measures along the Winchester Road have been progressing and meetings have been held with Hampshire Highways to discuss what we are able to achieve within the Highways Regulations. Plans have been drawn up and await approval.

The **Emergency Plan** has worked well throughout the Covid-19 emergency, and along with other groups the PC has worked throughout these difficult times to try and keep everyone safe. Councillors would like to thank all those who have helped their neighbours, the elderly, and anyone who has needed reassurance. However, we still all need to be vigilant and stay safe, especially now that the winter is nearly here. Please continue to keep an eye on your neighbours.

The PC has held many virtual meetings during the last few months and will continue to do so until we are able to offer face-to-face meetings again. The next virtual PC meeting is scheduled for Monday 28th September, 2020. Agendas will be published for all these meetings and if any residents have anything they would like to bring to the attention of Parish Councillors then please e-mail me at uphamparishcouncil@gmail.com before the Meeting date.

Upham Litter Pick

Gwyn Halsall writes:

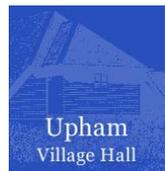
We postponed the usual April litter pick this year. The new dates are any time during the week **Monday 14th to Sunday 20th September**. Come along and help clean up litter around our village. Litter sacks, gloves, litter pickers and high-vis tabards are provided. Adults and children welcome (children under 14 will need to be supervised by an adult). You can do your litter pick on your chosen patch any time during the week. Please contact Gwyn Halsall as soon as possible on **01489 860258** or gwynhalsall@yahoo.co.uk for more information and to register for the area you would like to clean.

Village Hall

Helen Firth writes

The village hall is planning to cautiously open its doors in early September. The committee has been reading and inwardly digesting the ever-changing COVID-19 guidance and preparing its risk assessment. Special COVID-19 terms and conditions have been prepared for users so that we can all continue to keep safe while attempting to resume usual activities, albeit in a slightly different way.

After some discussion, we have decided to hold our AGM as usual and it will take place on **Tuesday 8 September 2020** at 7.30pm in the main hall. Obviously latest COVID-19 guidance will be adhered to: social distancing will be maintained, face masks should be worn, unless you have a specific reason not to, and hand sanitising / washing facilities will be available. The village hall trustee report & financial statements for the year to 30 April 2020 are available on the website (www.uphamvillagehall.org.uk). As always, we would welcome anyone who is interested in joining our merry band of trustees. We are not a



big group and having more people to assist in the management of the hall would be much appreciated. Maybe you're new to the village and want to find out more of what goes on behind the scenes. If you would like to know more, then do please contact me at helen.firth1@sky.com or on 01489 861361.

Neighbourhood Watch

Eve Croucher writes:

There are a lot of telephone call scams circulating at the moment

I had a phone call from a young girl purporting to be from a company affiliated with **Openreach**, who talked about the problems with the Durley exchange and the new Fibre installation. She then asked if I had connected to this. I said that if she was who she said she was she would know. She hung up on me. Openreach knew nothing about her—a very clever scam with local knowledge

A villager had a call offering extended guarantee on a washing machine. She let the guy talk for a bit then said, 'Is this a scam?' He said that he was just offering **insurance**. She said, 'It sounds like a scam to me. What is a nice young man like you doing a job like that for?' He laughed and said, 'You've gotta do what you've gotta do'! Do not fall for it!

Watch out for **recorded messages** from banks, Amazon Prime, etc. saying that your account has been compromised. A bank or other company would never send out a 'blanket' recorded message. If you are not sure, then **just hang up!**

Citizen's Advice

Gwyn Halsall writes:

Citizen's Advice is open for telephone queries during the pandemic. Leave a message on **01489 890940** and an advisor will get back to you.

Rob Compton

Roger Cooper writes:

It is with great sadness that I have to report the loss of personal friend and brother-in-law, Rob Compton, who passed away in August aged 60 after losing his brave battle with cancer. Upham FC would like to pay tribute to Rob, whose tremendous ability and goalscoring exploits were a key part of Upham's success from the late seventies through 2000 and beyond. Rob and his family have always been, and remain, avid supporters of Upham FC and Rob's infectious personality and smile will be greatly missed by us all. For those who knew Rob and wish to remember him, donations may be made to Cancer Research at www.robertcompton.muchloved.com where you can also leave a tribute in Rob's memory.



Church of the Blessed Mary

Rev. James Hunt writes:

Over the last months, Blessed Mary has continued to be open but in new ways! On Sunday mornings, I have, with others, been 'streaming' services to Facebook and YouTube. It has been encouraging to have both existing members and new people joining in from their homes. Revd Jane has also been running a 'zoom' Wednesday group and it has been heartening to see the group grow in numbers and in depth of friendship and support.

In July, as soon as we could, we re-opened Blessed Mary for personal prayer and re-started some simple 4 pm Sunday services. 'Start the Week' morning prayer has also begun again on Mondays at 8.30am.

As we move into the autumn, the Wednesday 10 am service will continue via zoom and we will be re-starting services in Blessed Mary at 11 am on Sunday mornings. You would be very welcome to come along to join us - an opportunity to re-connect with each other in the village and with God through Christian worship. So that we can accommodate more people (with social distancing measures we are limited to 32 in Blessed Mary), we are planning for the village Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas services to take place in the churchyard and/or around the village. Please look at our website for the latest information.

Other news from Blessed Mary is that we are shortly to appoint, with St Peter's, a new **Family, Children and Youth Worker** to be part of our wider team. Their role will be to get to know families, support parents and put on groups and activities for the whole family, children and young people. Ideas that we hope to develop include: a Coffee Morning/Pre-school Group; Festival Services for the family; a Post School Activity/Group; Holiday Clubs; and a new Youth Group. I hope this update for Blessed Mary has been helpful. If you have any queries or would like to find out more, please do send me an e-mail or phone:

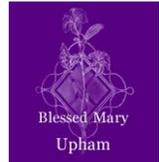
jameshunt1966@gmail.com 07570042916. Finally, just to say that I, Revd Jane and all at Blessed Mary are very grateful for all you have done and continue to do in loving and caring for each other in and outside the village in these times.

Upham FC

Roger Cooper writes:

Following the last Upham FC update outlining the severe impact that Covid-19 was having on our ability to raise funds for the Club, I am delighted to announce that we were contacted by **Inert Recycling UK Ltd** with a most generous offer to sponsor Upham FC for the 2020-21 season. This was even more important since we then learnt that our sponsor for last season, SDB Construction, would be unable to continue their sponsorship for the coming season. So, a huge thank you to Upham Update and an even bigger thank you to Inert Recycling UK Ltd for providing the financial stability required for Upham FC to compete once again in The Hampshire Premier League this season.

With a massive amount of work to put a whole raft of Covid-19 precautions in place, football finally was able to return to Ray's Farm in August with a number of Pre-Season Friendly games. In these, we defeated



Itchen Saints 3-1 and Sporting Wessex 4-3, drew with Hedge End Town 2-2, and lost to Infinity Reserves 1-2 and Tendown Athletic 2-5.

With a strong looking squad now in place we look forward to the new League season, which for Upham FC kicks off on Tuesday 1 September away to QK Southampton with a 6:00pm KO

Meon Valley Food Bank

Jane Perrott writes



When the Meon Valley Food Bank was first set up in early 2015, no one could have foreseen the growth in demand for the service provided by food banks. Certainly, the arrival of coronavirus was not in anyone's mind. Over the years, we have continued to operate to the highest professional standards but have felt for some time that it would be reassuring to all our referral agencies and donors if we could formalise our position by obtaining **charitable status**. We are delighted that on the 15th July the Charity Commission granted this.

We are in a strong position to continue to support individuals and families in need. Throughout these unprecedented times, our local communities have provided us with donations of food and gifts of money that have more than kept pace with the significant increase in demand for our service. We have come a long way since 2015 and have been fortunate to have the support of Bishops Waltham Youth Club, whose premises we use. But we are now faced with **the biggest challenge yet**. The Youth Hall, along with the adjacent buildings are to be redeveloped, once planning consent has been granted and we will urgently need a new home.

A stand-alone property in Bishops Waltham seems unlikely but maybe there is a business who would consider subletting part of their building to us? **Please contact us** through our website or by using this email address: info@meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk

For some, the idea of a food bank in the Meon Valley just doesn't seem right; but as a measure of the reality of food poverty in our area, in June and July we provided food to **79 families and individuals**. So long as the need is there, we will continue to offer this much needed support. www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk

Migration

Andrew Ward writes:

It seems a short time since I wrote about the joys of seeing our summer migrant birds return but already the autumn migration is well underway. Most of our swifts have left already; swallows and house martins are now gathering in large flocks, feeding up and preparing for their journey south. You can often see swallows gathering on wires around our lanes or they will suddenly appear over your garden, twittering to each other to maintain contact, stay for a while and then move on. The departure of hedgerow species such as the whitethroat and other warblers is less obvious because, having settled down to nesting and raising their young some weeks ago, they have not been singing for a while and therefore they have not been as noticeable.

Looking back at this year's breeding season, the birds in my garden seem to have fared quite well. As usual, young blackbirds and robins have been much in evidence. A pair of blue tits nested in a disused water butt in my driveway which turned out to be safer than last year's chosen site in the eaves of my house which was raided by a great spotted woodpecker, leaving me with a bill for repairing the hole in my house! Nuthatches and great spotted woodpeckers both nested successfully in the large ash by my front gate and I had the privilege of watching three young goldfinches take their first flights from a nest in the wisteria outside my kitchen window. Shortly after that, I found a newly fledged bullfinch in one of my flowerbeds.

Similarly, a green woodpecker family visited me frequently for a couple of weeks although I wasn't aware of them nesting here. And, most exciting for me, my spotted flycatchers fledged two young ones so I hope they will be back in my garden next year after their hazardous round trip to Africa.

I often find that the onset of the autumn migration brings a feeling of slight melancholy at the ending of our summer and the prospect of a long winter ahead but also much excitement at the prospect of rare migrants arriving on our shores from distant lands. I have in the past seen two small birds in the same



bush, one of which had crossed the Atlantic from North America and the other of which had travelled all the way from eastern Siberia. Perhaps not a likely scenario in our village as such wanderers usually settle down to feed on the coast as soon as they make landfall but it is always worth keeping an eye out for an unusual visitor nonetheless.

On a walk up to the village last week I came across two tree pipits near to the playing field. They are similar to the more familiar meadow pipit but, to my eye, more dapper with their finely streaked buff flanks and creamy stripe over the eye. They also have a different call. As far as I'm aware they do not nest in our vicinity and I've never noted one in Upham before so I'm sure they were moving through from their breeding grounds on their way south.

My walk up to the village on Bank Holiday Saturday illustrated the exciting unpredictability of autumn migration very well. The bean fields near the football pitch had hundreds of swallows and martins wheeling around hunting insects and I stopped to watch them. A familiar call and a glimpse of a bird in flight revealed that at least one of the tree pipits was still present. Next, a flock of at least 20 yellow wagtails, another species heading south for the winter, flew into the fields and started feeding out of sight beneath the crop. Eventually one of them perched on top of a beanstalk, its bright yellow underparts dazzling in the sunshine, making me regret my decision to leave my camera at home. One of the local sparrowhawks appeared and I was watching to see if it would try to catch a meal among the migrating throng when a much larger predator drifted into my field of view. Slate grey upperparts, barred white breast and a black Zorro mask - this was the fastest bird on the planet, the peregrine falcon. It flew effortlessly over and disap-

peared over the horizon, leaving me marvelling at the ability of nature to lift one's spirits.

I had another unusual sighting at the end of June which also resolved a bit of a mystery for me. A few days previously, I had been working in my garden when I glanced up and saw a gull fly over. It had a dark hood and my immediate impression was that it was a Mediterranean gull, a species which was rare in the UK fifty years ago but which has now become a regular breeding species on our coasts. You can see them as close to Upham as Titchfield Haven but I've never seen one inland away from water. So I told myself not



to be silly - it must have been the much more common black-headed gull. However, returning from a long walk one beautiful morning, I was surprised to find a flock of eleven Mediterranean gulls hawking over the grassy fields between Greenhill and Blackdown. They are much smarter birds than black-headed gulls with a full black hood (black-headed actually have a brown head!), bright red bill and legs and pure white wings. So, always keep your eyes peeled for something unusual - especially during the migration seasons!

Garden Club

Jenny Bird writes:

Upham's gardeners seem to have been busy these last few weeks, even though Garden Club hasn't! It's great to notice produce for sharing appearing at gateways. Thank you to those generous gardeners for offering the (literal!) fruits of their labours.

Another offer is from Jane Ashe, who, as promised in an earlier UU, has been collecting seeds for exchange. Her seeds are all from the wildflowers in her garden. If you have seeds to share or would like some of Jane's please contact jenny@coachsupervisor.co.uk and we'll arrange a sharing time later in the autumn.

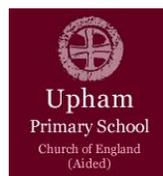
We have decided that we will not be attempting to have any talks this autumn and, indeed, are unlikely to be able to arrange any in the spring either. However there are so many garden tours and webinars on-line and so many live garden talks on Instagram etc that we could all be immersed in gardening fairly constantly. So we hope you are finding and enjoying some of these offerings.

And finally the answers to last time's quiz "Where in Upham would you find these?" were: a) Sciviers lane, b) Well Cottage on Upham Street c) Church Cottage on Church Street, d) Newlyn's Farm, Shoe Lane e) Random Cottage, Widlers Lane. Sadly we had no responses to the quiz so the delicious prize was consumed by the committee!

Upham School

Catherine Oliver writes:

What a strange year it has been at Upham School! When the announcement was given in March that schools would close, no one expected that it would be for so long. As



the school prepares for its full re-opening next week, let's reflect on the past five months.

In March, Boris Johnson announced that all schools would close until further notice. At Upham School, the two days following the announcement were spent busily preparing home learning packs for the children to take home and training staff on how to upload learning to the website. All staff left on the Friday evening with emotional goodbyes, wondering what would happen over the next few weeks.

It wasn't long before a number of key worker parents requested support and so the school opened again for key worker and vulnerable children with the rest of the children learning from home. The school website was a fantastic tool which enabled learning to be shared with families and the class e-mail systems meant that children could share their great work with their teachers and learning support assistants and communicate with them about their learning.

On the 1st June, the school opened to all Year R, 1 and 6 children. Initially, only a small number returned but each week more children joined. Things were far from 'normal' though, with each class acting as a 'bubble' and areas being zoned off. There was lots of extra cleaning but it was lovely to see some of the children back in school, playing with their friends and learning with their teachers.

The end of term was a particularly unusual time. Normally, this period is filled with Year 6 children preparing their leavers' play and church service as well as goodbye parties with their Year R buddies. These events could no longer take place as usual, but the school worked hard to ensure that the Year 6 still had a good send off and could mark this key event in their life journey. Mr Woolley (the head teacher) created a leavers' service video which was played for the children in class and emailed to all families still learning at home. The children had a picnic in school on the field and enjoyed pizza and cupcakes and some time to play with their friends. Most importantly though, each Year 6 child was able to go outside and ring the bell - the traditional way to leave Upham School.

It was also difficult not being able to say goodbye to the other classes, particularly those who will be moving up into different classes. To mark this, each teacher wrote a letter to each child in their class and posted it to their home. The letters reflected on happy memories of their time together in class and wished the children good luck in the coming year. Alongside this, the staff team wrote a story about the lockdown period and then created a video of the story, discussing what had happened during lockdown and how much they were looking forward to seeing the children when they were allowed to return.

The Summer holiday has given everyone a chance to refresh after a very strange few months. The staff have been very busy preparing the school for the full reopening next week. School will still not be the 'normal' everyone has been used to but staff are confident that it will remain a friendly and happy place where the children will enjoy their learning and staff are looking forward to welcoming the pupils back next week.

Upham Sites: [Village Home](#) [Parish Council](#) [Church](#) [School](#) [Hall](#) [Playas](#)

Upham
Village Homepage

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Welcome to Upham Village

Coronavirus Updates

Upham is an attractive Hampshire village with a friendly and active community. Clubs and Societies include drama, football, gardening and cycling. Social events include an annual Safari Supper, Church Fete and much more. There is also a thriving [Village Hall](#).

The village lies between Winchester and Stalupps Waltham and on the edge of the South Downs. [More ...](#)

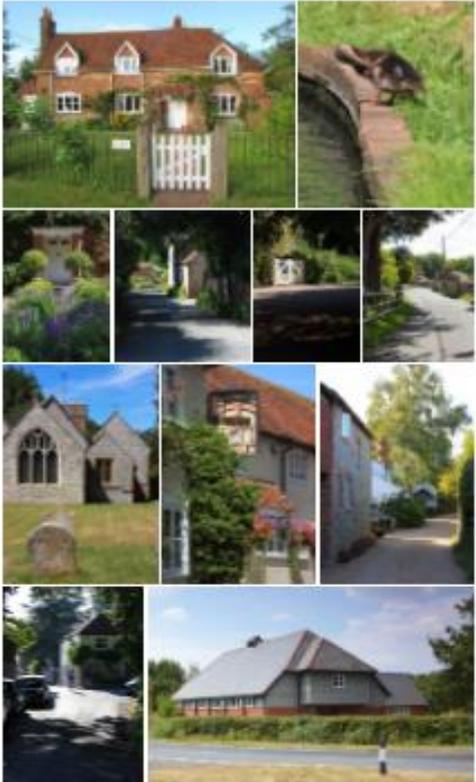
Upham is surrounded by beautiful countryside and is a popular starting point for walking and cycling in the South Downs countryside. [More ...](#)

Upham's history traces back to ... [More ...](#)

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The new, re-designed Upham Village website



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