

A large, light-colored mushroom with dark spots growing in a grassy field. The mushroom has a wide, flat cap with numerous small, dark brown spots. The stem is thick and light-colored. The background shows a grassy field with some taller plants and a distant hill under a blue sky with light clouds.

Upham Update Issue 65

October
2026



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Welcome to issue 65!

The deadline for the next issue is **Fri 27th November** - send your copy and photos to cynandroy@btinternet.com. As space is limited, keep your literary offerings concise and in plain text—we format to house style. If you would like to advertise in next year's issues, or make a donation to keep us going for another year, email little537@btinternet.com.

Cover photo: Chris Little

Text too small? See the village website for a full colour version.

Editors: Chris Little, Cyn Kimble Distribution: Chris Little

Commshub Coordinator: Mike Elliott.

What's On

Mon 26 Oct 19.30	Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 6 Nov 11.00	Brushmakers	Coffee, Cake and Catchup
Sun 8 Nov 11.00	Church	Remembrance Service
Thurs 12 and Fri 13 Nov	See back page	Hampshire Medical Fund Christmas Fair
Fri 20 Nov 19.30	Hall	Upham Players: 'Last Pan-to in Little Grimley'
Sat 21 Nov 19.30		
Sat 21 Nov 10.00–12.00	Hall	Repair Cafe
Mon 23 Nov 19.30	Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 4 Dec 11.00	Brushmakers	Coffee, Cake and Catchup
Sat 5 Dec 14.00–16.00	School	Christmas Fayre
Sun 13 Dec 10.30	Church	Family Carol Service
Sat 23 Jan	Various	Safari Supper

Upham Parish Council

Anne Collins writes:

We are working with HCC to locate another Speed Indicator Sign on the Winchester Road to slow traffic.

Flooding in Upham Street appears to be resolved at the moment, but this has been a dry summer, so we need to wait until there is a heavy rainfall before we know if this problem has actually been resolved. Some investigation work has been carried out concerning the **flooding issues along the Winchester Road**, and it is hoped that this will provide the answers to why this area was flooding. HCC have still not said when the silt will be removed from **Slash Pond**, so the SDNPA will be asked if their Rangers are able to help with this and perhaps take on the maintenance of the Pond.

Information is being sought from the South Downs National Park Authority about **the HGVs** using the Stakes Lane rather than the Winchester Road entrance to the Limmers Storage facility. There have been reports of incidences of large lorries coming along Stakes Lane and vehicles hav-



ing to go off the road to avoid them. Stakes Lane is not suitable for HGVs and this is becoming a problem.

The **village website** has now been updated and is working well. Village organisations have also updated their sections of the website.

The Village Hall is not participating in the **Parish Pollinator Pledge**, but it is hoped that someone from Upham Church will be able to attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday 10th October. The Church is going for eco church bronze status.

The main sign for the **Observation Post** has been completed apart from some final touches to the panorama. The landowner has approved the signage and so we will shortly be in a position to place the order. Site clearance work is required beforehand, but the signage could be in place early in the New Year. A bench has yet to be chosen for the site.

We are still interested to hear from residents who might like to become a Parish Councillor in May, 2027 when we hold our **Parish Councillor Elections**. To find out more, please do come along to a Parish Council meeting or speak to one of our Councillors.

Upham Parish Council has just completed the new kitchen facilities in the Pavilion at Upham Recreation Ground. We have also applied for a grant towards a new hot water machine to add to the facilities available. Thanks go to CC Williams for approving this grant (see article below).

Councillors are looking at how to improve the display in the **wildflower areas** along the Winchester Road. It was disappointing this year, although it was a very dry summer and this might be the reason why the display was so poor. Scandor have been asked for their suggestions, and also costings, so that Councillors are able to see how to improve the areas for next year and future years.

The next two Parish Council meetings will be on Monday 26th October, 2026 and Monday 23rd November, 2026 in Upham Village Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. All residents are welcome to attend.

Exciting news - The Pavilion at Upham Recreation Ground

Cllr Eve Croucher writes:

We have a brand-new fitted kitchen at the Pavilion - with built in microwave, integral fridge and hot water boiler for instant hot water for washing up. **And** if that was not enough, we have a built-in hot water dispenser for hot drinks.



The re-furnished pavilion

The Pavilion is mainly used by the football club, but it is also for village use, so if you have a children's party you would like to hold at the rec, you can get in touch with our Parish Clerk Anne Collins @: clerk@uphamparish.gov.uk. There is also a large room in the Pavilion with tables and chairs, for crafts and games if the children's party is not possible outside. There are two main toilets and a disabled toilet area. We look forward to hearing from you.

Coffee, Cake and Catch Up

Cyn Kimble writes:

Don't forget! Brushmakers at 11am on Friday, 6th November and Friday, 4th December (mince pies?).

Safari Supper

Nicola Hill writes:

Save the date: Saturday 23rd January

Friends of Upham School

Joslin Humble writes:

Join us at Upham School for our Christmas Fayre on 5 December, from 2pm until 4pm. Local residents, families and friends are warmly invited to come along, enjoy the festive atmosphere and share an afternoon of seasonal fun with the school community. We look forward to welcoming you! There will be warm drinks, cakes and savouries, games and crafts, tombolas and a raffle. During November any donations welcome in the school office (toys and games, alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks, chocolate, gifts and raffle prizes).

Neighbourhood Watch

Eve Croucher writes:

Hampshire Trading Standards have asked us to share this urgent ticketing fraud warning: "We have become aware of a Halloween event called "Haunted Halloween Escape - The Hillfort Hollow" being advertised at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. This event is FAKE and is **not authorised** by Hampshire County Council or Queen Elizabeth Country Park.



The Church of the Blessed Mary

Jane Perrott writes:

We have started the process of signing up to be part of Eco- Church programme. A Rocha UK Eco Church <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk> is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians in the UK to care for the environment. It's a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes open to all denominations. It provides a framework to support the church and its leaders to take practical action on caring for God's earth through their survey. We have started to fill in the survey which covers five key areas of church life, Worship and Teaching, Buildings and energy, Land and Nature, Community & Global engagement and Life-style.



Eco church is provided free of charge to help as many churches as possible celebrate what they are doing to care for the environment and decide what to tackle next. The survey is not intended to show us and point out what we are not doing but is designed to encourage us and promote what we are doing. We are at present about halfway through the survey, which has around 150 questions!

The Eco-church website is a great resource which will help us to continue to look after our lovely church and beautiful church yard so that everyone can enjoy it.

We very much want to encourage wildflowers in the church yard and will be sowing some seeds this Autumn and will also be planting some spring flower bulbs which will be used for Mother's Day flowers next year. If anyone would like to help please contact me.

Jane Perrott 07734 681737

Kate Smyth writes:

This lovely Pet Service took place on Sunday, 13th September and was enjoyed by all.



Tammy Taylor writes:

A lovely time was had by all at the October Harvest Supper.

A ploughman's supper was followed by some delicious home-made desserts, with entertainment provided by the very talented Lianne King. It was a lovely start to the Church's thanksgiving for harvest. The floral decorations were stunning, and the church was full of donations from the school's harvest service which had taken place earlier in the day. The profit of almost £500 will be donated to help the recovery effort in Nepal.

A massive thank you to Janet and Barney and their team for all the hard work and to all those who bought tickets and came to support.



Upham CE Primary School

Cyn Kimble (Governor) writes:

Towards the end of June, during the hottest moments of the heat wave, Upham School had an OFSTED inspection. This routine inspection was our first full inspection under the new framework.

Despite the astonishingly hot weather, staff and children continued to work hard and demonstrated the strong provision we have here at Upham School. The inspection was highly successful, and the lead inspector praised the school. Parents agreed, in fact on the parents' survey to OFSTED, they unanimously indicated that they felt their children were safe and happy and that they would recommend Upham School to other parents.

The report is now published online so you can read it for yourself, if you are interested. Some particular highlights which we are particularly proud of include:

'They [the children] work and play together happily and show kindness, cooperation and respect. Positive relationships help create the school's warm, family atmosphere.'

Highly inclusive school where every pupil is welcomed and valued.

Detailed understanding of pupils ... enables staff to provide timely support and respond swiftly when needs change.

Pupils achieve well. Disadvantaged pupils do especially well.

Across the school pupils build knowledge and skills effectively as they move through the curriculum.

Regular communication, including personalised messages from the headteacher, supports families to improve attendance.

Pupils behave very well across the school. Clear routines and expectations help create a calm, respectful environment where pupils feel safe and valued.

Pupils feel supported and the school is a safe place to learn.

A broad, engaging and ambitious curriculum that enables pupils to build knowledge and skills over time.

Reading is a particular strength. Children benefit from an ambitious and well structured phonics programme.

Leaders know the school, its community and its pupils extremely well. They have high expectations and an unwavering commitment to providing the best possible education and care for every child.

Pupils benefit from a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Pupils develop confidence, resilience and positive character traits.'

This strong performance has been recognized by Hampshire County Council and the Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion has written to the headteacher, David Woolley, in congratulation:

'I was delighted to hear that the inspectors speak so positively about the school, particularly recognizing your highly inclusive approach, the



strong support for disadvantaged pupils, the excellent behaviour of children and the caring family atmosphere that staff have created. The feedback about leadership, safeguarding and your deep understanding of pupils and families is especially noteworthy.'

Winchester MP, Dr Danny Chambers, has also written in praise:

'I was delighted to see you commended on how well leaders understand the quality of education through the school. When there is a small team, this work is so much more challenging but knowing that you have got it right really matters. It is wonderful to see how well everyone manages inclusion so that each child has the best possible chances.'

You may be aware that the language of school inspections has changed under the new system. Words such as 'good' have gone and the expectation now is to have 'met expectations'. This is not especially exciting vocabulary - it might appear to be a euphemism for 'OK', 'average' or 'satisfactory'. It is not. 'Met Standard' is an extremely demanding set of criteria which OFSTED themselves define as, *'It's a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve'*.

We are delighted to have met expectations in all areas across the school and to have demonstrated particular strength in inclusion. As the lead OFSTED inspector writes in the report, Upham School offers *'an unwavering commitment to providing the best possible education and care for every child'*. As Governors, we are proud to share this positive affirmation of the strengths of our school and its Vision and Values.

The Village Pre-School

Claire Parry writes

It has been a lovely start to the new term at The Village Pre-School, Upham. We have welcomed the children back after the summer holidays and thoroughly enjoyed hearing all about their adventures, holidays and special summer memories. We have also been delighted to welcome some new families to our setting, and all of the children are settling in beautifully.

We began the term enjoying some much-loved stories, including those by Julia Donaldson and the adventures of Percy the Park Keeper. However, following a very clear request from the children, our interests have now taken a prehistoric turn - dinosaurs have arrived at Pre-School! We are looking forward to seeing where the children's imaginations and curiosity take us as we explore this exciting topic.

Our staff have also been busy developing their own learning. All staff attended two twilight training sessions run by Hampshire County Council, focusing on Enhancing Our Provision. We have already begun putting some of the new ideas and practices into place, helping us to continue to develop and enrich the children's experiences at Pre-School.



The lovely warm autumnal weather has given us plenty of opportunities to make the most of our wonderful outdoor space. The children particularly enjoyed spending time in the garden, and we have recently completed a revamp of our gardening beds. The children were very involved in the project and helped to build the new borders using real-life tools - a fantastic opportunity to develop their confidence, teamwork and practical skills.

And finally, we are beginning to get into the festive spirit! We are just about to embark on preparations for our Christmas Show. This year, our 2027 cohort will be performing Whoops-a-Daisy Angel for their families and friends in the run-up to Christmas. We are sure there will be plenty of excitement, singing and festive fun as we prepare for the big performance!

It has been a busy and happy start to the year, and we are looking forward to all the adventures, learning and laughter that the coming months will bring.

UpAcc

Jane Ashe writes:

Upham Repair Café

**10.00 -12 noon Saturday 21st November,
in Upham Village Hall.**



Upham Action on Climate Crisis

This will be our fifth Repair Café. If you haven't been to one of our events yet, now is the time to start! If you have been before, welcome back! What is a Repair Café? Come along and see for yourself, especially if you have something that needs repair! We are working to save waste - come and see us before you think of throwing things away.

You will see that the Repair Café is a free meeting that revolves around repairing. At the venue, tools, materials and expert volunteers are available to carry out repairs, on **clothing, electrical appliances, bicycles, toys**, etc., with knowledge and skills in all kinds of areas. We also offer **kitchen and garden tool sharpening**. There will be some things which we cannot mend, but we will always do our best. We will miss our Ceramics repairer in November, as she is unable to be with us this time. For Nov 21st, you can prebook your repair if you wish to by letting us know on this email address: upham.action.on.climate@gmail.com.

In the Repair Café, you can watch the experts, so there is always something to learn. Even if you have nothing to repair, you can have a **cup of coffee or tea and a slice of cake**. And watch someone else's repair!

Our activities are carried out free of charge and on a voluntary basis by the experts present. A voluntary contribution will be greatly appreciated, which helps us cover our costs. People say there is a great community atmosphere at our events and we would love to meet you there! We are also on the lookout for more volunteer repairers, if you would like to come and join the team. Maybe in jewellery repair, wood repairs, or to help in any other way. Many thanks to all our current volunteers for all their hard work and enthusiasm. Please join us on 21st November and next year on Saturday 10th April.

Jenny Bird writes:

Could you avoid plastic for Halloween? It's a great opportunity for crafting with kids: masks and strings of spiders from old cardboard boxes, costumes from lots of bits and pieces. Google 'sustainable Halloween' for ideas. And pumpkin soups from all the cut-outs?

On a more adult topic, the People's Emergency Briefing film is an important watch as we process the obvious changes in climate we've seen over the summer and those predicted for the winter and El Nino. Fronted by Chris Packham and chaired by Prof. Mike Berners-Lee, *The People's Emergency Briefing* is a 50-minute film based on the November 2025 National Emergency Briefing in Westminster

Screening locally: Droxford Village Hall Postcode or location: SO323RB
Screening date: 2 Nov 2026 Start time: 19:00 , St Mary's Church, Church Road, Bishopstoke. Postcode or location: SO506DL Screening date: 28 Oct 2026 Start time: 19:30 .More viewings listed on

<https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>.

Hampshire Medical Fund Christmas Fair

Caroline Laird writes:

The Hampshire Medical Fund is a charity that buys cutting-edge medical equipment for the NHS hospitals in Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover that is not otherwise affordable on NHS budgets. Get ahead with your Christmas preparations at the Hampshire Medical Fund Christmas Fair on 12th-13th November, kindly hosted by private members club, Barnsgrove, near Basingstoke, RG29 1GF.

Please join us for a carefully curated shopping experience featuring a brilliant array of artisan stalls, boutique retailers and luxury lifestyle brands in this stunning venue. Delicious food will be available in Barnsgrove's beautiful Palmers Bar on both days, plus some fantastic complimentary speaker talks, a local children's choir performance and a Candover Brook Sparkling Wine reception on Thursday evening.

A Christmas Fair with a difference -tickets from £8 (when purchased in advance). 12th November 16.00 - 21.00. 13th November 9.30- 16.00.

See online for more details: www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events

Upham Players

Chris Little writes:

Some of you may remember 'Little Grimley Presents Strictly Sex Factor (On Ice)' by David Tristram, which we performed back in 2018. In fact it was hard to forget, with Jenny Allen fighting to stay upright on her roller skates and Gwyn Halsall dancing with a full-size cardboard cutout of Bruno Tonioni (see overleaf).

Well, the down-at-heel 'Little Grimley' crowd are back for two nights only on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st November, 7.30 pm, Upham Village Hall with 'Last Panto in Little Grimley', together with some classic sketches thrown in. An evening of comedy not to be missed! Tickets only £10 from Shelley Pitter sypitter@gmail.com.





'Little Grimley Presents Strictly Sex Factor (On Ice)'



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- Delicious Supper by Barnsgrove
- Guest Speaker – Author Tabitha Webb
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Friday 13th November

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£10 Upham Village Hall

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