

Upton Tonic



September 2026

Upton Contacts

Upton Parish Council

Chairman: Malcolm Yates Tel: 07976 26693; Clerk: Rhona Holloway
Email: clerk@uptonnewarkparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.uptonnewarkparishcouncil.gov.uk

St Peter & St Paul's Church

Vicar: Revd James Moring Mob: 07986 228992
PCC secretary: Malcolm Robertson Tel: 07916 511968 Email: uptonpcc@gmail.com
Church Bell Ringers Bell Captain: Bryan Northcote Tel: 812579
See facebook pages: Benefice of West Trent and West Trent Churches

Upton Village Hall Hall Hire

Email: clerk@uptonnewarkparishcouncil.gov.uk

Upton Volunteer Cooperative

Chairman: Colin Brand Tel: 819989; Secretary: Annie Brand Tel: 819989 ;Treasurer: Terry Smith Tel: 812535

Women's Institute

President: Wendy Whitaker Tel: 814112

Cricket Club

Contact: Tom Anderson Tel: 07713 637181

Babthorpe Trust

Contact: Roger Norman Tel: 07801 460667
Email: rogernorman72@btinternet.com

Upton Crickets Day Nursery

Contact: Natalie Chambers Mob: 07484 231205
Email: natalie@uptoncrickets.co.uk

Colliers Trust

Contact: Steve Russell Mob: 07885 374519 Email: srussellsrscs@aol.com

The Cross Keys

Tel: 813269

Upton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Coordinator: Position vacant. Call 101 to report anything to the police.

Southwell Medical Centre

Tel: 813561

Police

Contact Phone Number: (Non-Emergency) Dial 101 Only
Emergency: (Crime in Progress) Dial 999 www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

British Horological Institute BHI

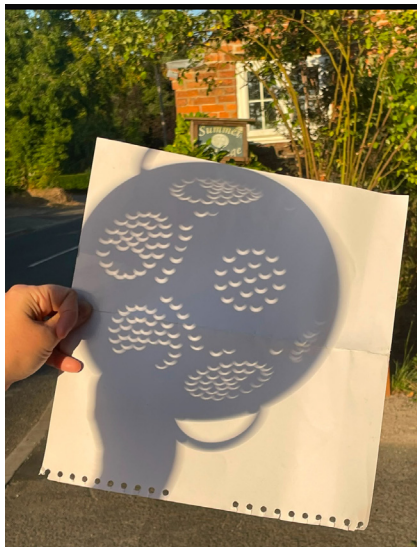
eGeneral enquiries Tel: 01636 813795 www.bhi.co.uk
The Museum of Timekeeping For details of opening hours see: www.museumoftimekeeping.org.uk

Upton Tonic Contact Details
Richard Jones (Editor) Candant Cottage, Main St, NG23 5ST
Email: richard.jones@leicester.ac.uk Tel: 07713 326662
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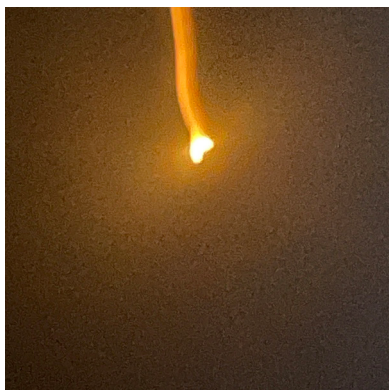
Eclipse that!

Undoubtedly, the main event last month was the partial eclipse of the sun. Some pretty spectacular photos appeared on Village WA, including Nikki's great colander photo on the right. Few rose to the challenge of sending me their bad attempts at trying to photograph the celestial show. One kind person did (no name no pack drill). To them go thanks. I thought I would share one of my own beauties too below just for good measure.

No *Twist* this month because there was so little news received. I have taken the liberty of integrating the two. So don't worry, you can still follow the adventures of DJ, and another tasty WI recipe will be found in these pages.



Chilli



Cover photograph courtesy of Adrian Wood.

Upton Book Worms

To all Uptonites new and old ... if you think you might appreciate a steady flow of personally recommended literature to entertain, divert and possibly even educate - or at least ease you to sleep at night - then reader, read on!

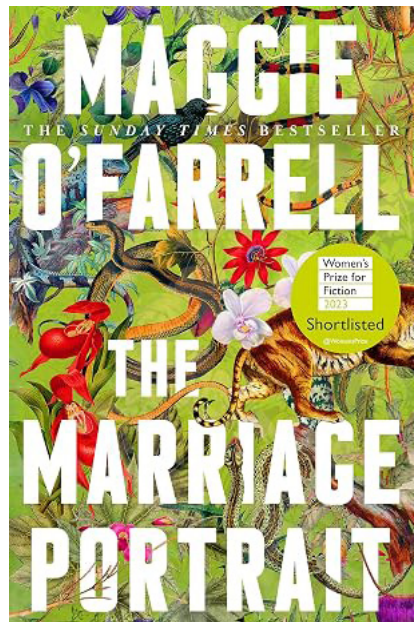
We are lucky enough to have a thriving book club in the village - indeed, past participants have travelled here on dark wintry nights from as far away as Aslockton! Admittedly others have subsequently moved as far away as Greece – but that absolutely wasn't our fault! However, we are always very delighted to welcome new faces into this august fold. We meet in the Cross Keys on the last Wednesday of every month at 8 o'clock sharp (or asap thereafter). The password/phrase at the bar is usually 'a medium Pinot Grigot if you please', and you will soon be directed to the appropriate seating area. Some come even earlier to take advantage of Neil's meals.

Having assembled, we discuss a book chosen by a group member until we have sufficiently dissected it - sometimes rather quickly and generally with a light touch. We aim to be diverse in our literary selections, from contemporary LGBTQ sci fi (ever popular) to surprisingly quite high-brow chick lit, 19th century classics to the Kafkaesque (although I really can't remember which one that was). Anyone foolish enough to bring along pen and paper may be nominated to note-take, thus recording the evenings commentary as best they can after the Pinot Gigot has taken effect. When all have had their say, points are awarded – a la Eurovision. Thereafter we indulge in a reasonable amount of local and regional gossip, until landlady Joy puts her slippers on and throws us out, at which point, we head home to read the next allotted text! It's a simple formula, but for some years now it seems to have worked.

Btw, in case I have tweaked your interest, last month's offering was Catherine Newman's 'Sandwich' - yum - and this month's has been 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell, which will be discussed at the September meeting.

Happy Reading

Sue Isaac



Parish Council Notes

www.uptonnewarkparishcouncil.gov.uk

Firstly, May I apologise for not putting any notes in last month's tonic making some of this old news. On behalf of the village, the Council would like to thank all the organisers and helpers of the Village Fete which took place in July. This, again, was a wonderful village event and enjoyed by many. The Parish Council have appointed a contractor to redo the path between Church Walk and the Church. This work will be taking place during mid September, which means unfortunately for the duration, the path will be closed. We have a closure notice from Notts County Council Highways. More information on the exact dates will be publicised on the village WhatsApp group and the village website. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause whilst the works are going on. We have been informed that an appeal for the planning application on the field between the bungalows and the Cricket Pavilion has been refused. We have objected to an application for four houses off Normanton Lane near Caudwell House. Parish Council members have tidied and swept the Children's playground. For those new to the village, there is a play area located near the cricket field. This is run by the Parish Council and is open to all villagers at any time.

The August Drawer for the Village Lottery was taken. Congratulations to the winners

1st 104 B. Woodcock £50

2nd 132 A. Brand £25

3rd 019 J. Law-Riding £10

4th 200 R. Parlett £5

The next meeting the Parish Council will take a take place on Wednesday, September 16th at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Regards Malcolm Yates

Chairman

Upton Fete & Ceilidh 2027

A date for the diary.

Next year's Upton fete will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 26th June 2027, there will be a family Ceilidh / Barn Dance in the evening. Please put it in the diary, and don't book a holiday.

WI News

On August 25th the WI ladies had an enjoyable afternoon of 'Card Craft' - making beautiful greetings cards. This was followed by refreshments and a good old natter. Next month on Tuesday September 22nd Clare Reed-O'Donnal will talk about the History of the Melton Mowbray Pie. Hopefully with samples!

WI Recipe for September Tomato Sauce

A recipe to use up seasonal tomatoes

INGREDIENTS

250g./8 oz. Fresh tomatoes.
1 small onion
1 small carrot
25g./1oz. bacon. — finely chopped
25g./1oz. margarine or butter
Salt and pepper.
A pinch of sugar
A blade of mace
1 small bay leaf
300ml./1/2pt. stock or water
12g./1/2oz. plain flour
1 tablespoon fresh milk



METHOD

1. Wash and prepare the vegetables. Cut up finely the onion and carrot, slice the tomatoes.
2. Melt the margarine in a saucepan, add the bacon, onion, and carrot and fry gently for a few minutes (This gives a good flavour to the sauce). Add the sliced tomatoes, stock, herbs and seasoning. Bring just to the boil. Cover with a lid and gently simmer until the vegetables are tender. Allow about 20 mins.
3. Blend the flour with the cold milk.
4. Strain the vegetables and rub the tender vegetables through a sieve or strainer. (The herbs, bacon, tomato skins and seeds will be left)
5. Add the blended flour to the sauce, and return to a fine red pan. Gradually bring the sauce to the boil, stirring continuously and still stirring simmer for 2 mins. Taste and season.
6. The sauce should be of a smooth, creamy, pouring consistency,
7. The sauce may be served with fish, rissoles, grilled chicken, sausages, rice or pasta.

This recipe was given to Notts WI at a demonstration given by the Domestic Economy Department at Brackenhurst.

DJ & The World Cup comes to Upton

DJ had just watched the epic game of England falling to defeat against those whimsical Argentinians. It was a sad end to another World Cup adventure and DJ, in need of cheering up and companionship, made his way upstairs to the marital bedroom only to see his dear wife had slid the plate across to say, 'No Entry.' This normally happened when Hortenstance was suffering from a number of ailments that could last for minutes or weeks. On occasion, 3 years.

And so, DJ found himself trudging up to the Cross Keys, hoping that his favourite pub in the village, technically the only pub in the village, had remained open after such a nail-biting game. Sadly, as he neared the pub, he saw those bright welcoming lights were off. Crestfallen, DJ was just about to turn on his heels when he heard frivolity from across the road in the grounds of the Horological. He sprung over Main Street in commando like fashion and gently shimmied himself up the side of the grounds, hidden to anyone who would have cared to look save for the luminous stripes on his trainers, shorts and T shirt.

As his head surfaced over the parapet, a football smacked him straight between the eyes, knocking him backwards to a barrel of laughter from the field.

'Thanks DJ!' shouted the Colonel. 'We are just having a knock around to work some of that frustration away from the game!'

DJ pulled himself up and saw around 15 or so villagers playing with jumpers for goal posts.

'Care if I join in?' asked DJ timidly, having never gotten over always being the last pick when faced with any games at school.

'Come on!' shouted Paddy, 'Come and join Argentina. We are a man down and 3-1 down.'

10 minutes later and the score had turned to 3-3. Gripper Collins had gone down with cramp and had to go in the English goal. This had meant Marjorie Dawkins from a cottage in the green had to leave the safety of goalkeeper to come into midfield. All good, bar her 84 years were counting against her movement in the field. Paddy Harkin's, one of Upton's 23 farmers, had taken the ball around Marjorie 16 times in a run more mazy than the Villa Pisani offering, and then shot at pace into the English goal. Marjorie, who was now lying on the ground, dizzy from the farmer literally running rings around her, had to be helped off the field.

'Poor form,' shouted the Colonel.

'Argentinian magic,' replied DJ with a wink to Paddy.

And so, at 11pm, the game was called to a halt and penalties would be taken.

'Heads or tails?' asked the Colonel as he sent his silver Britannia high into the Upton night sky.

'Tails,' shouted DJ!

"Heads it is!" said the Colonel before the coin had even returned to terra firma!

It was normal penalty rules. Five penalties each and then, if no one was ahead, it would come to the remaining players which is why, 12 minutes later, at 3-3, DJ found himself about to take the 16th penalty of the night. As he stood there, deep breaths filling his even deeper lungs, he had a thousand thoughts run through his head. What would Hortenstance think of him now if he, DJ of Upton, could win the day for his team. Surely, that would remove the 'No Entry' sign?! Then there were the twins. They would be so proud, chests puffed out as they got on the school bus the next day. Villagers too would no doubt look at him differently. With new respect, a deeper sense of just who DJ was.

'Hurry up DJ!' bellowed the Colonel.

DJ looked again at the English keeper, Gripper Collins. Each penalty had seen Gripper dive to his right, a tactic that would now work against him as he, yes DJ, would perform the world famous Panenka. No one had tried it all night and, as DJ approached the ball, he did so in the trusted assurance that only he, DJ, would be brave enough to take the shot.

Hush fell upon the field. DJ approached. His foot went towards the ball. Maybe a tad too quick...

The breaking glass from way behind the goal in an institute window, meant that within 30 seconds the field had cleared entirely as each Uptonian sprinted / limped / crawled off to their homes.

As DJ arrived at his back door, he hoped that this would never be spoken of again. No need to wake Hortenstance up with his news. Rather the sofa beckoned.



Pantiles revisited

Reading for my sewage book this month, I came across this description of working conditions in the tile-fields of a in the West Midlands. It is a quote from one of the commissioners of the Children's Employment Commission, established in the 1840s and which reported into the 1860s on the pallous conditions under which very young children were then working. There are more human stories in Upton's roof-tiles than one might imagine. And many of them are uncomfortable.

'It is impossible for a child to pass through the purgatory of a tile-field without great moral degradation... the low language, which they are accustomed to hear from their tenderest years, the filthy, indecent, and shameless habits, amidst which, unknowing, and half wild, they grow up, make them in after-life lawless, abandoned, dissolute.... A frightful source of demoralisation is the mode of living. Each moulder, who is always a skilled labourer, and the chief of a group, supplies his 7 subordinates with board and lodging in his cottage. Whether members of his family or not, the men, boys, and girls all sleep in the cottage, which contains generally two, exceptionally 3 rooms, all on the ground floor, and badly ventilated. These people are so exhausted after the day's hard work, that neither the rules of health, of cleanliness, nor of decency are in the least observed. Many of these cottages are models of untidiness, dirt, and dust.... The greatest evil of the system that employs young girls on this sort of work, consists in this, that, as a rule, it chains them fast from childhood for the whole of their after-life to the most abandoned rabble. They become rough, foul-mouthed boys, before Nature has taught them that they are women. Clothed in a few dirty rags, the legs naked far above the knees, hair and face besmeared with dirt, they learn to treat all feelings of decency and of shame with contempt. During meal-times they lie at full length in the fields, or watch the boys bathing in a neighbouring canal. Their heavy day's work at length completed, they put on better clothes, and accompany the men to the public houses.'

There are more human stories in Upton's roof-tiles than one could possible imagine. Many of them are very uncomfortable.

Those of you wondering where I came across this, and who might want to explore Victorian working conditions more thoroughly, it can be found in Karl Marx's *Capital*.

Chilli



CROSS KEYS UPTON

Opening hours:

Mon to Tues 4pm till close

Wed to Sun 12 noon till close

Booking in advance is advisable: 01636 813269

Please see updates on our website: crosskeysupton.co.uk

Cooked takeaway food can be collected from us from 5pm to 8pm, Monday to Saturday – orders taken throughout the day.

Beer is also available on a takeaway basis.

Menus will vary according to availability. Vegetarian or other dietary requirements catered for. If you want any other food, please ask.

Call us if you have special requirements.

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any allergies.

Pash & Joy xx

◊ Cross Keys Menu ◊

All priced at £13 All served with Chips or Rice, Peas or Salad

*Fish Scampi Pie Burger Lasagne Sausage & Mash
Curry Chilli Jacket Potato (various fillings) £13*

Specials:

Horseshoe Gammon with Egg or Pineapple, Chips & Peas £15.95

BBQ Pork Ribs with Onion Rings, Chips or Rice & Peas £15.95

Liver & Bacon in Onion Gravy with Mash, Carrots & Peas £15.95

*12oz Sirloin Steak with Chips, Onion Rings, Mushrooms & Salad
£19.95*

Pasta Bake Tomato & Mascarpone or Chicken Arrabbiata with Garlic Bread & Salad £15.95

Kids' Menu:

All priced at £7.95 and served with Chips & Beans or Peas

Chicken Nuggets Fish Fingers Sausages Burger

Sunday Lunch

Choice of Meats @ £14.50

Served from 12 noon to 4pm

Please ring in advance to order.

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The image shows the exterior of the Gascoines office, a brick building with a white door and windows. A sign above the door reads 'GASCOINES' and 'Successfully Selling Homes Since 1954'. A large 'G' logo is visible on the wall. The website 'www.GASCOINES.com' is displayed on a sign above the windows. Contact information is provided at the bottom.

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An emailed pdf version and paper copies are delivered free to villagers - contact