

UPTON TONIC



February 2026

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<p>Collies Trust: Contact: Steve Russell Mob: 07885 374519 Email: srussellsrsc@aol.com</p>	<p>The Cross Keys Tel: 813269</p>
	<p>Upton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Coordinator: Position vacant. Call 101 to report anything to the police.</p>
<p>British Horological Institute BHI general enquiries Tel: 01636 813795 www.bhi.co.uk</p>	<p>The Museum of Timekeeping For details of opening hours see www.museumoftimekeeping.org.uk</p>
<p>Police Contact Phone Number: (Non-Emergency) Dial 101 Only Emergency: (Crime in Progress) Dial 999 Only www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk Crimestoppers: 0800 555111</p>	
<p>Southwell Medical Centre Tel: 813561</p>	

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Upton Tonic February 2026

What Am I Reading?

Always Remember: The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, the Horse and the Storm, by Charlie Mackesy (2025) Published by Ebury Press, an Imprint of Ebury Publishing, Penguin Random House, London

'I'm writing this in a grubby room, surrounded by spilt ink, half-finished cups of tea, scrunpled drawings, pens with broken nibs, and a good dose of fear and self-doubt that I will ever make this book at all. If you are reading this then somehow I did. This will always remind me that all kinds of things can come from mess, so no matter how chaotic life is - try to be gentle with yourself and don't give up.'

Upton WI News

On 27th January the WI ladies enjoyed the first meeting of 2026 by holding a craft afternoon. The next meeting is on Tuesday 24th February at 2.30pm in the Village Hall when guest speaker Jill Berry gives an insight into the work of an author. New members are always welcome.

Penny Stephenson

Upton Volunteer Cooperative Coffee Mornings

Are you new to the village, newly retired or at a loose end on a Tuesday morning? Join us for a lively chat with refreshments, **every Tuesday from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Village Hall.**



Upton Volunteer Cooperative Knit & Natter Group

Join our daytime group, and bring along your knitting, crochet or sewing projects. Help given if needed. **We now meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10.30am to 12.00 noon in the Village Hall at the same time as coffee mornings. February meetings: 3rd & 17th.**

For more details, email Annie Brand at anniefb@aol.com or phone 819989.



Cover picture: Courtesy of Anthony Scott

Upton Tonic is published monthly February to December and can be viewed on the village website www.uptonnewarkparishcouncil.gov.uk An emailed pdf version and paper copies are delivered free to villagers - contact Annie Brand for more details.

Colligs Charity and Upton Parish Council Support Upton Tonic

Church News

A very happy New Year to you all. Soon hopefully to be rid of all this cold and gloom, we look forward to brighter days. Upton Church is already planning ahead with our new, energetic vicar James but we need your help. The PCC that runs the church is very short in numbers. If you feel able to support us and join the PCC, please contact me and I will explain what's involved. All services across the Benefice will now start at 11am to enable Revd James to first attend Rolleston Church family service, before travelling to other churches. This is a wonderful get-together of young families for songs, crafts and lots of fun. These young people will become the future of the church. Families in Upton can join them at 9.30am every Sunday and discover more.

On Saturday 28th February in Upton Church at 7pm we welcome Southwell Chamber Choir to perform music by Vaughan Williams – see below.

Services Across the Benefice in February:

- Sun 1st Feb: Candlemas Holy Communion at Upton led by Revd James
Plough Sunday Service at Halloughton with West Trent Choir at 6pm
- Sun 8th Feb: Holy Communion at Rolleston Morning Praise led by Angela Green
- Sun 15th Feb: Holy Communion at Bleasby led by Revd James
- Wed 18th Feb: Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at Halloughton led by Revd James
at 10.30am
- Thurs 19th Feb: Beginning of Lent HC at Bleasby
- Sun 22nd Feb: Lent 1: Morning Praise at Hoveringham led by Angela Green
Holy Communion at Morton led by Revd James
Morning Praise at Thurgarton led by David Hanson

Services start at 11am unless otherwise stated.

Zoom worship is held each Sunday at 9am – ask for an invitation.

Barbara Page, Church Warden (Tel: 813812)

THE MUSIC OF VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
including Mass in G Minor and Five English Folk Songs
SOUTHWELL CHAMBER CHOIR
Saturday 28th February at 7pm in Upton Church
Admission is free, with a collection and refreshments

Have You Ever Thought About Bell Ringing?

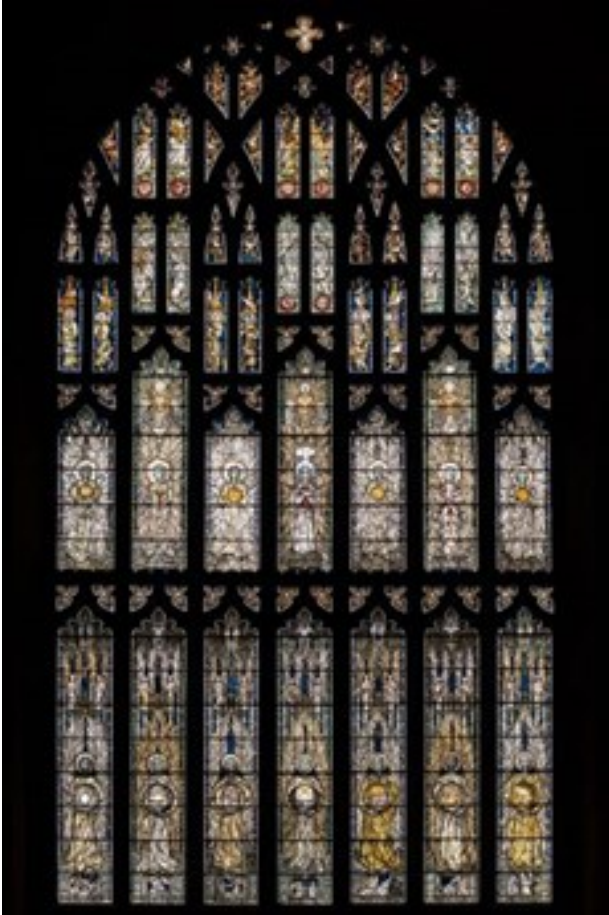
Our village bell-ringing group is always happy to welcome new faces! Whether you're young or young-at-heart, musical or not, no experience is needed - just curiosity and a willingness to have a go.

Bell ringing is a wonderful tradition, a great way to meet people, and surprisingly good fun. Why not come along to a practice, hear how it all works, and see if it's for you? We'd love to meet you and share the joy of ringing with more villagers. Please get in touch with Steve Tomlinson on 07444 108063 for more details on how to join.

Southwell Minster

Shine a Light on... We are shining a light on aspects of the Minster's life, history and heritage with tours and talks.

Shining a Light On: The Wonder of Stained Glass
Tuesday 10th February 2026 from 2.30pm to 3.45pm
in the State Chamber



An exploration of the origins and historic alchemy of glass including the various methods used in producing stained glass over the years. Followed by a close look at the storytelling and artistic interpretation used to bring to life two of our windows in the Minster: **our magnificent Angel window at the West end and the brightly coloured Baptismal window by the font.** Prepare to be amazed!

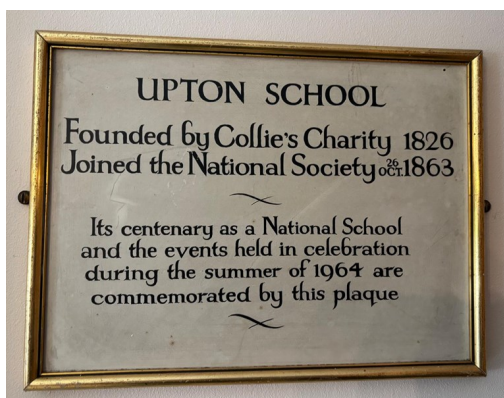
Speaker Kevin Hender is the former Chief Steward of Southwell Minster whose fascination with the Minster has grown since he started volunteering some 10 years ago. Still actively volunteering as a welcomer and guide, his interests are now rather more linked to nature, architecture, archaeology and, of course, stained glass windows! He's continually thinking 'how did they do that?' Tickets are £7 from the Cathedral shop, or on the door, or may be bought in advance through Eventbrite (plus booking fee).

Nottingham Festival of Science & Curiosity at Southwell Minster

Pop along to the Minster on Monday 16th February 10.30am-3.00pm for some science-themed family fun, drop-in activities, games, crafts and experiments plus a 'Microscopic Minster' trail. This is part of the Festival, along with NTU Brackenhurst, the Society of Experimental Biologists and University of Nottingham. No need to book, no charge for entry but donations are invited. Refreshments will be available to buy.



Upton School



Scabby playground knees, outside toilets, sour milk, and a half-mile walk to lunch every day. If all that sounds familiar, you probably attended Upton School, and we would like to hear from you!

This year 2026 marks the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the village school and to mark the occasion a group of former pupils have set up a WhatsApp group with the intention of sharing memories, digging into the building's history and, hopefully, getting together at some point during 2026.

If you attended Upton School and would like to join us – whether that's just observing, contributing to the WhatsApp chat, or helping to shape the celebrations – please message one of the following to be added to our group.

David Pick: 07713 644668 email: pickydavid2018@outlook.com

Heather Cowling: 07825 338694

Jez Hall: 07836 31683



National Trust to Open its Libraries for Public Use

This year one of the National Trust's aims will be to make people feel more at ease in its grand houses and, where possible, allow them to sit on historic chairs and use libraries and reading rooms rather than simply peer into them. Their main aim is to enable people to feel at home, relaxed and welcome.

Two properties – Wightwick Manor in the West Midlands and Blickling Estate in Norfolk – have already been made more welcoming. At Wightwick, chairs that people are free to sit on are being identified with cushions decorated with cats while at Blickling, modern children's books and non-fiction volumes have been placed along the visitor route – such as the Lower Ante and Upper Ante rooms – so visitors can rest and read.

The trust is making sure there are more places for people to take a seat at The Vyne in Hampshire, Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, Upton House in Warwickshire, and Dyrham Park near Bath. Bibliophiles will be able to read in libraries at Wightwick Manor, Powis Castle and Kingston Lacy, Dorset.

© Steven Morris at *The Guardian* 2026

Upton in the 1841 Census of England & Wales

The 1841 Census recorded the occupants of every household on the night of Sunday 6th June 1841. The **Population Act 1840** meant a new procedure was adopted for taking the 1841 census. This was the first modern census to record information about every member of the household – administered as a single event under central control, rather than at a local level. Subsequent UK censuses refined and expanded the questions asked of householders. Important for early analysis of the UK population, the 1841 Census remains of interest to historians, demographers and genealogists, although the information about each person is quite limited.

The 1841 Census recorded people's names, age, sex, occupation, and whether they were born in their county of residence – or in Scotland, Ireland or 'Foreign Parts'! Children under 15 years had their age recorded exactly, but anyone over 15 was rounded down to the nearest 5 years so – so someone aged 63 should be recorded as aged 60. Not all enumerators followed this instruction and exact ages may have been recorded. If no one in the house could write, the enumerator helped to record the information.

In Upton, Census records show how the village population changed over the years, and gives us an insight into villagers' occupations. Individual house names or numbers are not shown in 1841, nor are pub names. In 1841 there were 482 people, many of them Agricultural Labourers. There was also a Basket Maker, 4 Blacksmiths, 4 Brickmakers, 6 Carpenters and 2 Joiners, 2 Charwomen, 2 Cordwainers, 5 Cottagers, 4 Farmers, 21 Female Servants, a Gardener, a Grocer, 7 people of Independent Means, 6 Male Servants, 3 Millers, 3 Publicans, 4 Shoemakers, a Schoolmaster, 2 Schoolmistresses, a Shopkeeper, a Smith, 2 Sweeps, 5 Tailors, 5 Wheelwrights and a Woodreef.

John	Curryon	60	Woodreef	2
Mary	do.	60		2
John	do.	10		2

A Woodreef – an overseer of a wood or forest – was a term new to me.

The term Cordwainer first appeared in 1100 in England, meaning a Shoemaker who made high-quality shoes from new leather (traditionally using the finest leather from Cordoba in Spain). A Cobbler repaired shoes and boots or made new ones from discarded leather.

Some familiar surnames appear in the 1841 Census – Foster, Lynn, Rawson and Trueman.

There were three Foster families – one baker (as shown) and two farmers.

John	Foster	63	Baker	2
Elizabeth	do.	72		2
William	do.	75	do. Tailor!	2

I have copies of all the Censuses for Upton, including the Union Workhouse, for the years 1841–1871, and can access those for the years 1881–1921 plus the 1939 Register. Contact me if you want more information about your ancestors. More Census features to come.

Annie Brand

Parish Council Notes

www.uptonnewarkparishcouncil.gov.uk

Upton Parish Council met in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st January 2026. A lot has happened in the village since our last meeting in November 2025. First, I would like to thank all who helped and all who attended the Village Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall at the end of November. Fifty people attended the event with an age range from one to 92 years old. With sponsorship towards costs, this successful event raised some £766 for the Village Hall Fund. I think that all who attended enjoyed the event and had a lovely meal, followed by a raffle and a fun quiz.

Secondly, I would like to thank the Village Fete Committee for the kind sponsorship of the mulled wine and drinks event in the Collies Garden on Christmas Eve, prior to Carols around the Tree. Special thanks go to the Pick Family and the Hatton Family for their contribution. This social gathering went down exceptionally well as a first-time addition. I would also like to thank the musicians and all those involved in making this traditional village event go so well. Thank you also to Emily Prestage for allowing the use of electricity to power the beautiful lights on the green.

The playground was discussed and we are waiting for the annual inspection. Some minor repairs have taken place to the fence and we will be looking to clean the area in the spring when the weather is better. Thanks go to Jonathan Pettinger for his hard work.

We had quite an attendance at the meeting regarding the planning application on the site of the old French Horn. We took note of all the comments of the parishioners along with the District and County Councillors. We have raised objection to the planning application due to public opinion and highways issues and will wait for the decision.

There was a routine health and hygiene inspection of the Village Hall in December and you'll be pleased to know that we have been granted a five-star rating for the kitchen.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 18th February 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Malcolm Yates, Chairman

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Dog Fouling Again!

There have been plenty of complaints about dog fouling in Upton and requests for owners to do the decent thing and bag it/bin it/take it home to dispose of. But still people are allowing their dogs to foul the pavements in the village – most recently on two consecutive days on the path opposite the BHI.

You might think that it's not villagers who are responsible for this, or that the offending dogs must be on leads. Unfortunately, villagers have been seen allowing their dogs to be off the lead while taking no notice of where they are or what they are doing. This is so antisocial!

PLEASE PICK UP AND PUT IN THE BINS !



Upton Monthly Village Draw

The Village Hall Lottery for December and the Christmas Bonus Draw were carried out at the Village Christmas Lunch.

The December winners were:

- 1st prize £50: I Key 087
- 2nd prize £25: E McHaffie 023
- 3rd prize £10: K Scott 056
- 4th prize £5: A Scott 085

The Christmas Bonus Draw winners were:

- 1st prize £50: S Mckie 126
- 2nd prize £25: C Fretwell 021
- 3rd prize £10: S West 024
- 4th prize £5: S Miller 086

The January Lottery was drawn at the meeting. The winners were:

- 1st prize £50: C Beaumont 225
- 2nd prize £25: M Ford 064
- 3rd prize £10: E Stephenson 047
- 4th prize £5: B Woodcock 106



Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for your support. There are two more draws for this lottery term, after which payment is required for the April draw onwards. Please note that the bank details for the Parish Council account have been changed, so any standing orders will need altering. The new details are: **UNITY TRUST BANK, Sort Code 608301, Acct no. 20531847**. Judith will be in touch regarding continuation of numbers. If any newcomers to the village would like to join in, please contact her on 07960 441023. Numbers are available at £12 per number per year.

Boots Rolls Out National Blister Pack Recycling Scheme



Boots has rolled out a scheme nationwide that rewards customers for recycling their empty blister packs following a popular regional pilot. Blister packs, commonly used for vitamins and medicines, are made of plastic and foil and cannot typically be recycled through household kerbside collections. The new blister pack recycling scheme is part of the wider Recycle at Boots initiative, which is delivered using technology partner Metrisk and recycling partner MYGroup. Empty blister packs will be recycled into playground equipment and furniture.

The blister pack recycling scheme is now available at over 800 Boots stores across the UK after 170,000 customers signed up to a pilot of the scheme in London and the Southeast last year. All blister packs, whether previously used to hold medications or vitamins – and no matter which brand – can be recycled through the scheme. Boots Advantage Card members nationwide can now earn 100 points (worth £1) for every five empty blister packs when they drop them off at a participating Boots store and spend £5 or more. Shoppers who do not have a Boots Advantage Card can still recycle blister packs at the store.

Boots at King Street in Southwell is now running this scheme. Other items can be recycled there, including batteries and used inhalers. Postal bags can also be collected to recycle Novo Nordisk pre-filled syringes.

©Boots.com

CROSS KEYS UPTON



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.

Opening hours:

Mon to Tues 4pm till close Wed to Sun 12 noon till close

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