

UPTON

PARISH COUNCIL

'IN ACTION'



Updates from Upton Parish Council

Hidden Graves Project

We are delighted with the results of our Hidden Graves Project work at St Crispin Cemetery Gardens - an important historic site in Upton. Originally associated with St Crispin Hospital, the cemetery serves as a memorial for individuals who passed away while receiving care at the hospital.

The project aims to restore and enhance the space, ensuring it remains a respectful and accessible area for the community. Many of the memorial stones were no longer visible, so the work included raising the level and securing each of the memorial stones to reveal them. The pathway through the centre of the space was also levelled and re-surfaced with materials sympathetic to the Conservation Area setting.

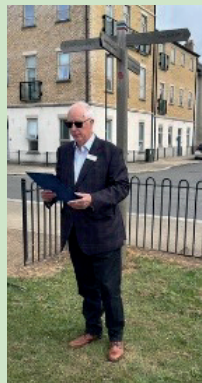
We cut back brambles, weeds and intrusive vegetation all along the western boundary, next to the Greek Church, which is a listed building. A weed-suppressing membrane was laid and covered with Cotswold stone to create a stunning backdrop for our planters. We repaired the estate fencing with some in-situ welding by our talented contractors. There are now five beautiful planters, stocked with a carefully selected mix of perennials.

All of this work was funded by S106 Funds (also known as Developer Contributions), which means that it was done at zero cost to the council taxpayer!

Our Councillors have been diligently watering the planters during the dry season, so that the new plants don't suffer from lack of water when their roots are still not properly established. But we need more volunteers to help with this and other future work. The Friends of St Crispin Cemetery are looking for more volunteers to join the group. Contact the Parish Council Clerk if you are interested where all inquiries will be forwarded to the group.

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day

On 8th May, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE Day at two flag raising events, held simultaneously at both flagpole locations in the Parish. The bespoke flags for VE80 will fly until a week after VJ Day on 15th August. Members of



Duston and District Branch of the RBL will gather to lay a wreath on VJ Day, 15th August at 11:30am at the Wooden Soldier Memorial in Upton. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Both of our flagpoles in Upton parish were funded from CIL funds (Community Infrastructure Levy), which means that there was no cost to the council taxpayer 😊.

What do you think our priorities should be?

It's the start of a new four-year term for the recently elected Upton Parish Councillors, so it's the perfect time to develop a Strategic Parish Plan to cover map out our short- and longer-term objectives. A group of parish councillors including Councillor Alan Bottwood, Councillor Mike Ingram and Councillor Matthew Kinton are forming a Working Group to map out our strategy, objectives and an action plan for the next four years. Working Groups don't need to be solely made up of Councillors – members of the public and representatives of local stakeholder groups can be invited to join. So, if you have some time to spare and if you would like to be involved in creating the Strategic Parish Plan, please get in touch.

Don't worry if you have a view to share, but don't have time to get involved. Look out for our quick and easy residents' survey launching soon online!

Pupils from St Luke's Primary meet the Duchess of Edinburgh

On Monday 9th June the Duchess of Edinburgh visited the Market Square, Northampton. Pupils from our very own St Luke's Primary School were invited to attend, along with staff from the school. Upton Parish Council Chairman Andrew Holt was also present, in his role as Chair of Governors for St Luke's.



Police Liaison Representatives Conference

Councillor Bill Haylock is our Police Liaison Representative, and he recently attended a conference with special guests including Danielle Stone, who was elected as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Northamptonshire in May 2024. The Commissioner fielded questions from attendees ranging from issues with visible policing and provision of crime data, through to communications and trust in public servants. Questions raised by attendees will be used to identify ongoing areas for improvement, including to the PLR Scheme itself.

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