

# Upton St Leonards Life

*incorporating Church News*

Issue 84

August 2021



## It's (nearly) show time!

Just 5 weeks away now. Are you ready for it?

### The UPTON ST LEONARDS SHOW

11 September

This will be a great time to celebrate the end of the dark days of lockdowns and shutdowns and get back together again as a Village.

Let's make it a very special show with lots of entries in the flower, vegetable, handicraft, photography, etc. competitions. Entry forms and class schedules are available from the Post Office and the show's website. If you've never entered anything before, why not have a go this year!

New this year is a dog show and children's fancy dress (homemade costumes only) and the theme is 'The Environment'. All the usual favourites include a bouncy castle, teddy tombola, book stall and ice creams.



Pictures taken by Jim Browne at the 2019 show



This month's big Village Event (and the first such for a very long while!) will be the Pig Roast at the BMI.

Saturday 14 August from 7pm

All welcome

## Upton St Leonards WI

After so many months unable to meet, the Upton WI group will get together again at a special meeting with tea and cakes on **Monday 2 August** at their new venue, the Pavilion, at 2pm.

You will be most welcome whether you are a member or not. Chair Angela Harris and her committee are determined to restart with a zing! (NB - there is a stair lift at the Pavilion for those who have difficulty on stairs)

**Angela and the committee also warmly invite you to a tea in the garden of Rose Cottage, Upton Hill, on Monday 16 August from 2-4.30pm. This will be raising money for Breast Cancer Research.**

Rose Cottage is the first house on the right on Upton Hill above Grove Court and Cedar Motor House. Hill Farm, directly opposite Rose Cottage, is kindly providing car parking for the event.



## Twyver WI

Twyver WI enjoyed their last meet up on Zoom in July. Speaker, Petra Wenham, outlined her life as a transgender woman. She came out to her wife in 2015 at the age of 68 and began living full time as a woman in 2018 with the blessing of her wife and children.

Petra used the internet to research the subject and now delivers training to GPs as she is considered an expert by experience. She hosts weekly Zoom chat sessions for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning) people and their supporters.

Petra is lucky to have the continuing support of her loving family but many are not so lucky. There is a very high incidence of depression and suicide in the transgender community.

Petra gave us a lot of insightful information relating to

her own personal journey. With the support of her GP, she has now been given a new NHS number, a new driving licence and a new passport with new name and gender. Despite this, she still lives with her wife of 48 years.



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The Gender Trust is the charity to consult for adults. Mermaids is a charity that supports those under 16 years of age.

Millie Barnes

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## A Day at the Races

On one of those really hot days in the middle of last month a group of BMI members enjoyed a day at Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse. Still under social distancing rules they hired a big coach so they could space out and the picture shows them enjoying their picnics, Prosecco and beer.

(Picture from Jim Browne)

Paula Quinn writes:

It's been a long time since any of us have had the opportunity of a day out at the races, (or any sporting

event) and despite there being just one day before most Covid restrictions were removed, we could not wait to board our coach.

It was Ladies' Day at Stratford Races on Sunday 18 July. Thirty members of the BMI packed our coach with chairs, picnic hampers and bottles of our favourite tippie. The weather forecast was for a hot and sunny day and everyone looked forward to a lovely afternoon of racing.

Normally for Ladies' Day posh frocks are the expected attire. However, as it was going to be very hot, the emphasis was more on keeping cool, straw hats and umbrellas to give some protection, and for the men – shorts and loose shirts was the order of the day.

We arrived at the race course in good time and before long we were all set up for our *al fresco* lunch. We had two hours to relax, have a few drinks and tuck into the enormous amount of food that everyone had brought.

The racing itself started at 1.57, and with 7 races on the card, there was ample opportunity to win or lose a few pounds. The racecourse was very busy with a lovely atmosphere. Several of us took our chairs and set them

down for the afternoon right by the rail, so we could see the winning post.

Once racing was over, we all made our way back to the coach, where once again we got our picnic hampers out and finished what we started earlier in the day. Everyone was in good spirits and enjoyed the day.

The funniest things happen when you are enjoying yourselves. During lunch, one of our race-goers (mentioning no names) bit into a roll, didn't like it, spat it out and threw it away. What he didn't realise was that he had thrown away his denture at the same time. With a lot of hilarity, the guys spent a lot of time searching the long grass to retrieve it. I'm afraid it wasn't found. A little while later, another of our race-goers lost her hearing aid. You really couldn't make it up! However in this case, the hearing aid was soon found. I'm sure both will be reminded of this several times in the future, especially as we all reminisce on our day at Stratford!

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Another nice out-doorsey picture from the July heatwave. This is the

## Abbeydale Garden Club

who were finally able to meet for their annual Garden Party hosted this time by Paul and Diane Rosewell.





## Here are two reports from Parish Councillors on recent work on our environment

### Tree Planting at The Glebe Field

The trees we planted in May are flourishing. The growth already seen is very encouraging and it will definitely be a great contribution to the look of the Glebe Field.

We have lost 5 saplings - inevitably there will be a few losses. Whilst checking all the tree saplings we found that someone had removed the plastic covers from about a third of them (see picture). Thinking charitably, maybe someone did this to give the saplings room to grow, but they are necessary protection from animals and dogs, so have been replaced. A notice is being put up at the entrance to the Glebe Field asking visitors to leave the covers in place.

Weeding: My partner Jo and I recently weeded each sapling around the root ball (i.e. in the middle of the mulch mats) but this needs to be done on a regular basis during the growing season. The mulch mats serve to reduce weeds round the root ball, but extra weeding is



still needed.

I would ask any of the volunteers who were involved in the planting or any dog walkers who see this newsletter to help by removing any grass/weeds if they are passing by. This will prevent any competition for nutrients and water.

Watering: Given the delay to receiving our saplings, we have been fortunate to have had a reasonable amount of rain on and off which seems to be continuing for our summer! Unless we get a very long dry spell the trees should adapt to the site and be able to get all the moisture and nutrients they need from the soil and should not need extra water in normal conditions.

Spirals & Canes: These should stay on the saplings until they grow to about 3 metres in height and will then be removed.

*Peter Wilson, Environment Lead, Parish Council*

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### Flood Prevention



Heavy rain is always a worry for those of us living near the River Twyver or the Sud Brook, and more generally in the Village when roads become impassable and drains can't cope. Floods on the evening of 23 December showed that the problem has not gone away.

So, what is happening to help? Firstly, on a wider front, it has been acknowledged that flood alleviation work on the upper reaches of the River Twyver – as it forms on the hills above the Village – is essential in order to slow down the flow. The Gloucester Wildlife Trust has been very

active, using Natural Flood Management (NFM) methods. There was an article in the February 2021 issue of USL Life about “leaky dams”, part of this effort. Last year the Environment Agency published a report – look on Google for “Gloucestershire Rivers Improvement Project – River Twyver and Sud Brook – Environment Agency”.

The Parish Council has pressed Highways for some years. Recently the new Local Highways Manager has visited various problem areas, meeting with Parish Council members and concerned residents, and has seen for herself the consequences of flooding. The various small bridges and their culverts below - at Nuthill, Bondend, Upton Lane (see the picture of the culvert on Bondend Lane opposite the school car park – taken on December 24 last year as water levels were falling) are the responsibility of Highways. It has been recognised that the capacity of the culverts causes a choke point for river flow, leading to riverbanks being breached. Local contractor Atkins has been commissioned to review the culverts and surrounding areas, and their report will be shared by Highways with the Parish Council. This is a big step forward and we should be quietly confident and optimistic that remedial works may soon be in the pipeline – so to speak!

*Roy Roberts, Parish Councillor and Staites Orchard resident*

## Operation Tower

In the early 1970's it was realised that the church's peal of 8 bells and their housing had become unsafe to use. The frame in which the bells were hung and the bell mountings were wood, probably over 100 years old, and well-rotted in some places. So the bells went silent and plans were made for a complete refurbishment.

Taylor's of Loughborough, one of the few remaining bell foundries in the country, were engaged to supply a new frame and to refurbish the bells, at a cost of £5000. In the early 1970's that was not much less than the price of a semi-detached house – a daunting amount for the church to raise. The money-raising effort became known as USLOT (for Upton St Leonards Operation Tower).

There are 8 bells in the church tower, the heaviest weighing ¾ ton, so bringing them down 50 ft or so for refurbishment and putting them

back up was a major task.

Remarkably, all the work at the tower itself was carried out by volunteers. Pat Allen, Roger Fry, Eddie Dance and Mel Moore were very much involved. David and Robert Cannon from Home Farm brought a tractor with a front loader to do some lifting (see the picture), and scaffolding and other lifting equipment was borrowed from West Midland Farmers (at the bottom of Westgate), who also loaned the truck to take the bells to and from Loughborough. Roger Fry relates that at one stage, when lowering a part of the old frame, a rope snapped and a heavy wooden beam crashed down. It was then the team realised that the floor structures in the tower weren't as sound as they thought, and rebuilding the floors at each level became part of the project. Wood for the flooring came from timber suppliers John Carr Ltd., on Bristol Road by the canal, with a heftily discounted price (Roger Fry worked there and the Managing Director was none other than Villager John Redman).

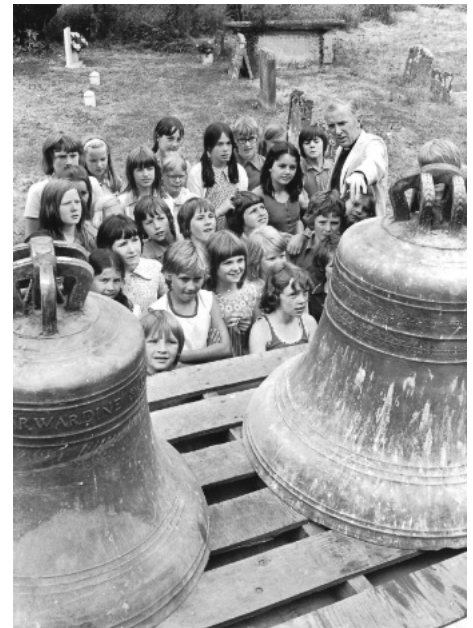
One picture shows the Canon brothers manoeuvring a bell onto a truck. The other shows the Rector, Peter Jackson, showing the bells to fascinated children from Upton School.

It took a couple of years to complete the project and raise the money and replace the refurbished bells in a new all-metal frame, which is still in tip-top condition, thanks to good maintenance carried out since by the bell ringers. The bells were back in place to ring at Christmas 1976.

As well as taking on the engineering work needed, it is amazing that the Church was able to raise the money needed, in just a few years. Among all those who gave time and effort and ideas for money-raising, one name is pre-eminent - the project leader Fred Jones.

USLOT carried on after the bells project completed, as a money-raising committee for the church. It was closed down in about 2001.

Andy Russell



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Here's the latest poem from the pen of Ted Gardener

## Reflections of Upton

I sit here on my garden swing,  
Gently rocking to and fro,  
And I think back to the Upton  
That I knew long ago.

Our Village was much smaller then  
And we had no Village Green.  
Where the M5 runs were meadows and brooks,  
And ponds with willow trees.

The pathway from the churchyard across the "Rec" to the "Occlod" on Gloucester Road  
Down to the old Post Office, where groceries were sold  
Half a crown in a handkerchief, a basket and a list,  
And "6d. for the errand, my lad", the favour was not missed.

Six Acres was a cornfield. Whornes Orchard wasn't there.  
Woodland Green was a paddock, Ash Grove and Lower Wheatridge was grazing land, with apple trees and pears.  
St Leonards Close by the Village Hall was a rough field as I remember,  
With blackberry bushes where we would gather fruit in August and September.

From the School House round to Bonders End was just a country lane,  
From the allotments down to the Stanley was more or less the same,  
With no houses on the left side 'cept for one that I can't name  
The lane went round to Home Farm and then to Bowden Hall,  
Which was a home for naughty girls and I will say no more.

Once a month on a Saturday night a dance at the Village Hall,  
Strict tempo band & sandwiches & tea and Hedley Staite\* on the door.  
I look back on my old village and marvel how it's grown,  
But I would not want to live elsewhere, this is the place that I call Home.

\*Rachel Hall's father



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*We are situated on Upton Hill in Upton St Leonards.  
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# Feature Article

This month's feature article was written by Pam Stratford, telling us about her fascinating hobby

## Beekeeping in Upton

I have always been fascinated by bees and in 1990 I purchased a hive with bees from someone in the village. At that time we didn't have the Internet so I purchased a book to learn about how to look after them. I also joined the Cheltenham branch of the Beekeepers Association, where there were many experienced beekeepers who gave me advice. The bees were very busy that first season and gave me a few pounds of honey.

I always wear my protective suit with gloves and when inspecting the bees use a smoker. This makes the bees calmer, as they think there is a fire and fill themselves with honey in case they need to fly away to find a new home.

The main apiarists in the village were the monks at Prinknash Abbey. They were also the largest producers of honey in the area.

There is one queen in the hive, who usually lives for up to three or four years. The number of workers, who are also female, can vary but can be several thousand. A beehive consists of a brood chamber, with a floor, and above that a queen excluder and one or more floors and a lid. Inside are placed frames which usually contain pre-drawn wax which I buy from a local supplier. The bees draw this

wax into many pockets, or cells, in the traditional hexagonal shape.

Some cells are filled by the bees with pollen and some with nectar, which the bees convert into honey and seal over with wax. When there is enough food to support new bees, the queen lays eggs into vacant cells. The eggs develop into larvae and when five days old the bees seal over the cell for the larvae to develop into pupae and then bees. It takes a total of 21 days for a bee to hatch out. The nurse workers, which are the recently hatched babies, feed the baby bees until they are ready to fly and become fully fledged members of the hive and can bring in nectar and pollen for the next lot of babies.

When a hive is very full or when the queen is getting old, the worker bees decide either that they need to find a bigger home, or that they need a new queen if she is not laying enough eggs. They will then make larger cells on lower parts of the wax in the frames and the queen will lay unfertilised eggs in these cells, which will develop into drones. They actually take 25 days to develop fully and are larger than the workers. Their sole purpose is to fertilise new queens and they enter other hives

where they know a new queen is about to hatch.



When the hive has drone cells the workers then draw out one or more special cells for a new queen to be bred. These are lined with royal jelly in order to ensure that a queen develops. It depends on whether the old queen is worn out, in which case they may only make one queen cell, but if it is due to the hive being over full, they may draw out several queen cells. These cells are much larger and actually hang downwards in the hive. A queen takes 15 days to hatch. If she was raised to replace a failing queen she will kill the old queen and then within the first week or so fly out on mating flights. She will mate with several drones, and the drones who have mated then die. If there are several queens hatching, the existing queen may take half the bees from the hive and swarm. The other queens, or unhatched queen cells will be destroyed by the new queen. Once mated, in about three weeks she will start to lay eggs. By this time she has grown into a slightly larger bee than the workers.

It is the aim of an apiarist to prevent swarming, as half the number of bees are lost. They may fly into an empty hive, if one is available. We usually mark queen bees with a coloured dot to make them easier to see when inspecting the hive.

The picture on the left is of some of Pam's beehives



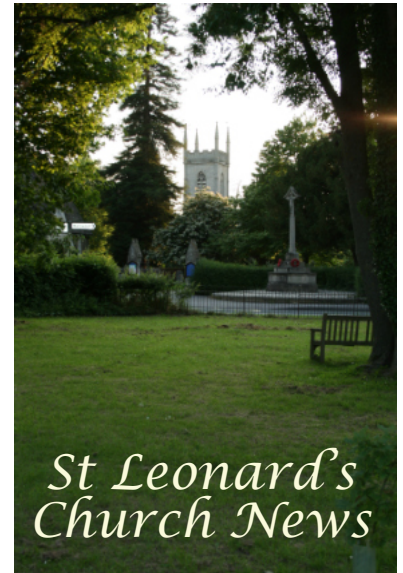




Associate Priest:  
**James Turk**

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)



St Leonard's  
Church News

On 11th July, in preparation for the official opening day on July 22nd, we gathered outside the church rooms for a Service of Dedication, to pray a blessing over them and dedicate the building to God. Below is a transcript of the short service.

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of these Church Rooms: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who will gather here: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may it become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Some words of scripture**

*Hebrews 3:4*

*"For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.*

*Proverbs 24:3-4*

*"By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."*

Peace to these Church Rooms from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace to these Church Rooms from his Son who is our peace.  
Peace to these Church Rooms from the Holy Spirit, the giver of life.

**Acclamation and Intercessions**

***Lord we love the house of your habitation and the place where your glory abides.***

***Alleluia.***

The risen Christ is here in the midst of us.  
We bring our prayers to him as Lord of the Church.  
For the Church universal,  
of which these buildings are a visible symbol,

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For this congregation, as we remember your promise that when two or three are gathered in your name you are there in the midst of them.

**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For this place, that we may be still and know that you are God,

*Prayers were said giving thanks for the rooms and acknowledging the part the rooms had played in people's lives. Prayers were said for benefactors of this place.*

*Prayers were said for the room's future and that the rooms, along with St Leonard's Church, will bring glory to God in the village of Upton and beyond.*

**A Prayer for Peace.**

Father in heaven,  
whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace, an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem:  
grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage that, fed with the living bread of heaven, and united in the body of your Son, we may be the temple of your presence, the place of your glory on earth, and a sign of your peace in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing**

Christ, whose glory is in the heavens, fill this house and illuminate your hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
AMEN

Gill Howell and Rev James Turk outside the Church Rooms



**PS The Church Rooms are also known as the Old School Room or the Sunday School Room.**

**Tower Floodlighting 2021**

***Please note the deadline for the Church Pages is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month***

The Church Tower is lit on August 4th in loving memory of my dear husband Pete on our wedding anniversary, Jenny x

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the baptism of Arlo Perkins, taking place in St. Leonards Church today. Sponsored with love on this special day by his parents Sophie and Daryl

Dave and Pat Reeves (né White) are sponsoring the Tower floodlights on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Also on the 24<sup>th</sup> August in celebration of their son Andrew's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday

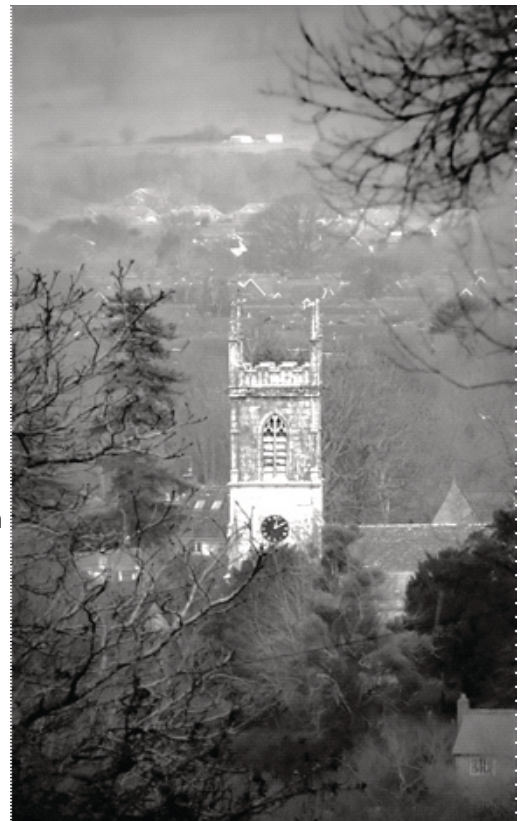
On the 11th August, we remember with love and happy memories, Chris, partner to Phil, and a loving daughter, sister and Auntie. Loved and missed by us all x

On the 12<sup>th</sup> August, the Church Tower is lit in celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charlie Davies, kindly sponsored by his Nanna, Brenda Davies

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Church Tower will be lit for Alan Williams on the third anniversary of his death. With love and thanks for many happy memories. Missed so much by Myra and all the family

The Church Tower is lit on the 26<sup>th</sup> August in memory of Keith Davies on his birthday, sponsored by his loving wife Brenda

*If you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday/ anniversary/Baptism or in remembrance of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will help us too*



**Thank you**

to the members of USCAN who have helped in the Churchyard in June and July. Their help has been invaluable and the churchyard is looking all the better for their assistance doing battle with the brambles and weeds outside the cottage by the churchyard and on the far perimeter. Much appreciated by the regular churchyard team.



*Services & Readings for August 2021*

*Sunday 1st August  
8am Holy Communion  
Ephesians 4:1-16 & John 6 24-35  
10am Celebration Service (readings tbc)*

*8th August  
10am Holy Communion  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 & John 6:35,41-51*

*15th August  
10am Holy Communion  
Galatians 4: 4-7 & Luke 1 46-55*

*22nd August  
10am Holy Communion  
Ephesians 6: 10-20 & John 6: 56-59*

*29th August  
10 am Holy Communion  
James 1:17-end & Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23*

# 500 Club

It's just £5.00 a month or £60 for a year's subscription to help your church raise much needed funds and a chance for you to win.

Clare Appleyard (Administrator)

Gill Howell (Churchwarden)

Sheila Thomas

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*See winners for July on back page*

St. Leonard's PCC

We were sorry to say goodbye to two loyal members of the PCC at the meeting last month:

Dorothy Cox, a long standing member of the council, and Margaret Hakim will be sadly missed at future meetings. A big thank you goes to both of them for their input and hard work in decision making and support for the good of the church and the congregation.

We are pleased to welcome Sue Downey onto the PCC. Sue is also a member of the "Flourish" team, and we look forward to working with her.

Website:

www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

The Website is now being updated on a more regular basis so please keep an eye on it to check for news about services and events happening in the church, Pew News can also be found on there.

Priest in Charge

Vacancy

Associate Priest:

Rev. James Turk

Churchwardens:

Gill Howell

Vacancy

PCC Secretary

Sarah Kent

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Church Administrator -

Jenny Cunningham

Safeguarding

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

USL Life (Church pages) and Pew News

Rachel Middleton



Mothers Union

Donations for the Mothers Union appeal will still be gratefully accepted, items can either be brought to church on a Sunday or dropped off to Jenny Cunningham.

Large bags, holdalls, rucksacks etc, old mobile phones, phone cards, Costa Coffee cards and bras, underwear toiletries (new) are requested on behalf of newly released women prisoners.



500 Club Winners

July
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2nd Prize £18.50 No. 49

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# Arts Page

This month our topic is **SPORT** – not renowned among poets as a favourite subject. We have searched and found poems on Hunting, Tennis and Cricket. Swimming features in our book section.

**D’ye ken John Peel** by John Woodcock Graves (1795 – 1886)

D’ye ken John Peel with his coat so grey?  
D’ye ken John Peel at the break o’day?  
D’ye ken John Peel when he’s far, far a-way.  
With his hounds and his horn in the morning?

For the sound of his horn brought me from my bed,  
And the cry of his hounds which he oftime led,  
John Peel’s “View, Halloo!” could awaken the dead,  
Or the fox from his lair in the morning.

**A Subaltern’s Love Song** by Sir John Betjeman CBE (1906 – 1984)

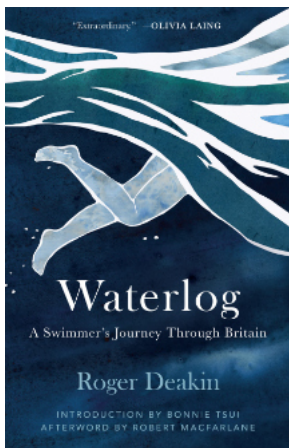
Miss J. Hunter Dunn, Miss J. Hunter Dunn,  
Furnish’d and burnish’d by Aldershot sun,  
What strenuous singles we played after tea,  
We in the tournament – you against me!

Love-thirty, love-forty, oh! weakness of joy,  
The speed of a swallow, the grace of a boy,  
With carefulest carelessness, gaily you won,  
I am weak from your loveliness, Joan Hunter Dunn.

Miss Joan Hunter Dunn, Miss Joan Hunter Dunn,  
How mad I am, sad I am, glad that you won.  
The warm-handled racket is back in its press,  
But my shock-headed victor, she loves me no less.

(there are 8 more wonderful verses if you wish to learn how the relationship continued!)

## BOOK REVIEWS



**Waterlog – a Swimmer’s Journey Through Britain** by Roger Deakin was published in 1999. It is thought that this book, which topped the UK best seller charts, founded the wild swimming movement. It describes his experiences of swimming in Britain’s rivers and lakes and advocates open access to the countryside and waterways.

## SPORTS EPIGRAMS

If you think Squash is a competitive activity try Flower Arrangement. (Alan Bennett)

Playing Snooker gives you firm hands and helps to build up character. It is the ideal recreation for dedicated nuns. (Luigi Barbarito, Catholic Archbishop)

The trouble with referees is that they just don’t care which side wins. (Tom Canterbury – American Baseball player)

The fascination with Shooting as a sport depends almost wholly on whether you are at the right or wrong end of a gun. (P. G. Wodehouse)

We finish the poems with what is possibly the first, or first recorded, of many cricket calypsos to come from the West Indies. This was penned in 1950 after their famous first win over England.

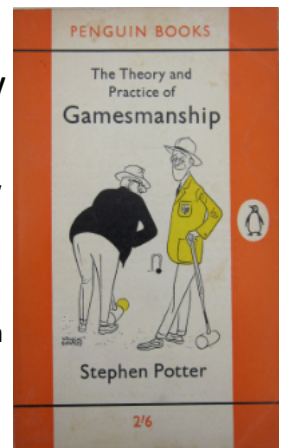
**Victory Calypso** by Egbert Moore (“Lord Beginner”)

Cricket lovely Cricket,  
At Lord's where I saw it;  
Cricket lovely Cricket,  
At Lord's where I saw it;  
Yardley tried his best  
But Goddard won the test.  
They gave the crowd plenty fun;  
Second Test and West Indies won.

Chorus:

With those two little pals of mine,  
Ramadhin and Valentine.

**The Theory and Practice of Gamesmanship or the Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating** by Stephen Potter was published in 1947. He wrote a series of humorous books on how to secure an unfair advantage, showing how poor players can beat better ones by subtle psychological ploys. The 1960 film *School for Scoundrels* was adapted by Peter Ustinov from Potter’s books.



NB - there is a further review of a book on page 16. It is a diary of a doctor in ICU during the pandemic. Very pointed and appropriate as we enter the risky period of relaxing social distancing etc rules.

# School News

By the time you read this, school will have finished of course, but we'd like to take the chance to include a couple of items about the school



## Neil Eley, Chair of the School Governors, has sent us this brief news article: Upton St Leonards Primary School and Covid

The school wants to share what it is doing during these difficult times.

Covid has meant that the school routine has changed beyond recognition. Staggered starts and finishes are an obvious change to an outsider but other changes would only be seen by the children and staff.

All assemblies have taken place using technology, it has been impossible to have the whole school together and some children in Y1 and reception have never

experienced a whole school gathering. The 'Open the Book' team from the church community haven't been able to share the Bible with the children and this is a real sadness for the school.

Lunch has been staggered to allow year bubbles to stay together and each bubble has its own area of the playground or field. Miss Daly has also managed to keep staff within bubbles and until very recently we haven't had to send home any bubble.

Despite all of this, the children are happy, safe and thriving. I have been able to see what they are capable of and I have been very impressed. The school is changing under Miss Daly's leadership and her team have done a fantastic job for the local children.

One casualty of the Covid period has been the PTA fund raising. It has been badly hit and we are still looking for local businesses to sponsor the USL Literature Festival 2022. Anyone who can help can contact me at [chair@usl.school](mailto:chair@usl.school)

Like all schools, Upton was hit by the third Covid wave, and at the end of June had to send home many pupils. Miss Daly wrote, in the 5 July school newsletter: "Last week was one of the most unusual weeks we have had as school community in quite some time; with four year groups learning remotely from home, one class being taught in school with their teacher remoting in, and three year groups being taught face to face."

It is quite remarkable how staff, pupils and parents have managed to cope with all this. We send thanks and our best wishes to all involved in and with the School.



### Year 6 Residential

In the third week of June, thankfully before the Covid third wave hit, Year 6 went away for a residential trip to Dearne Valley near Sheffield. 56 children and 7 staff had a fantastic few days away where the children took part in a range of outdoor activities including abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, archery and much, much more.

Of course year 6 is the senior year at the school and so this is a sort of "leavers' special". We wish these lucky children all the best at their new schools in September.

Short residential trips like this take place most years.

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# Working From Home Throughout Lockdown - My Experience

By Jane Reed

Life changed so dramatically for everyone on March 23rd 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic took hold and the country went into lockdown. Many, including myself, were expected to work from home instead of going into the office. I'd already been working from home occasionally so was equipped enough but it was still a huge change from being out meeting and supporting people.

The first couple of weeks I spent working from the sofa before deciding it really wasn't the best place to use as a work space, partly because my double chin was increasing but more importantly my wrists were starting to ache from typing. I moved to the kitchen table but that proved tricky due to being disturbed by my family when they wanted food or drink; the noises from the washing machine and dishwasher were also a challenge during phone calls. Finally I settled in the dining room,



the carpet and dining chair have suffered but the view of the garden with daisies, clover, and buttercups decorating the lawn really helped to keep my spirits up.

The technology and IT infrastructure was pushed to its limit and lots of cups of tea were made after the system booted me out and was

deciding whether to let me back in. Lots of biscuits and chocolate were consumed in those early days because, annoyingly, despite frequently pushing CTRL S\* not everything I'd been working on was saved. I started a jigsaw puzzle so I could put a few pieces together instead of getting frustrated with the IT and when waiting for the kettle to boil. Sitting for long periods whilst holding the phone to my ear with one hand and typing with the other was not easy! Once I'd collected a better phone and a proper headset that problem was solved, though sitting through my whole work day still isn't easy for me.

Settling into the routine of having weekly conversations with the people I would normally have visited gave my day structure. Hearing their very different challenges and concerns but still being able to offer ideas, resources, and signposts to a variety of organisations felt good.

\*CTRL S - computer users will recognise this as a command to "save my work"

Virtual meetings and training became normal, as did keeping fingers crossed there was enough bandwidth to cope with everyone using it at the same time. I recall the sudden panic of trying to remember whether I'd actually brushed my hair and looking to see the list of attendees



in case I needed to use a virtual background or was happy with everyone seeing the state of my dining room! Actually seeing colleagues during virtual meetings put a smile on my face and helped us stay connected along with the WhatsApp group chats and pictures. One of the things I'm very grateful and relieved about was not being responsible for home-schooling; a whole different nightmare, huge respect for all parents and grandparents who did.

I really missed the interaction within the office, the chitchat whilst waiting for the kettle to boil, learning from each other in a relaxed way, and hearing about the lives of the people I've worked with for years.

The commute from the kitchen to the dining room was a blissfully warm, dry, and relaxing one. Not having to worry that I've forgotten to get the tea out of the freezer the night before, drying the washing outside every time the weather allowed, and being around to take delivery of the various online shopping orders that kept arriving were all a bonus.

As things start returning to normal I will be pleased to get back to the part of my job that has been on hold for so long; meeting and supporting people in person, face to face. I'm also looking forward to the team day arranged at the end of the summer.

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## News from Cud Hill

After a gap of a few years, there are cattle again grazing on Cud Hill Common. This is thanks to the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group. They have a small herd of Dexter cattle which they move round the Beacon area to keep the grass in check, and they have been persuaded to run a trial on Cud Hill. I do hope it is a success. The picture here shows the cattle chomping contentedly.



The lack of cattle in the last 3 years has meant that the common is getting really overgrown, and the lovely wildflowers are struggling to show their heads. There had been a massive effort over four or five years up to 2007 by an USCAN team (Nigel Murrell, Mike Blanch, Ruth Ineson and others) to clear the common. The picture below, taken by Nigel Murrell in 2007, shows just how clear it had become. If you see this corner now, the fencing is hidden in brambles and undergrowth. We did have it in a half-decent state for a few years (2016-18) when there were cattle, and the wildflowers in summer then were

magnificent, as we reported at the time. Since then the brambles etc have made a disastrous comeback, and the wildflowers have diminished in quantity.

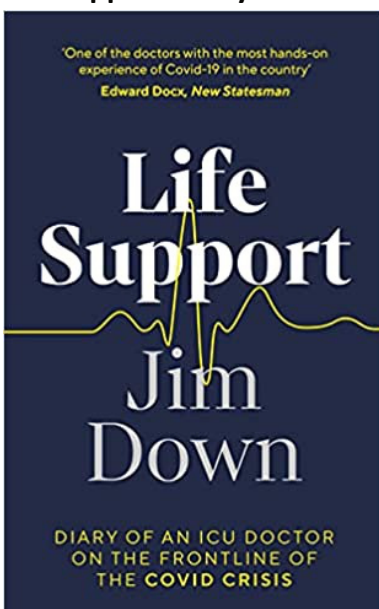
The optimal time to have cattle is in October-November, but this herd is busy on Painswick Beacon then, and we are lucky to get them at all. They have done a great job, however, in munching lots of really tough and rank grass, as the picture shows, and even venturing into bramble and other weed patches.

The back page has a couple of pictures of the flowers on Cud Hill this summer, just as beautiful as ever, just nowhere near so many of them.



## BOOK REVIEW

### Life Support: Diary of an ICU (Intensive Care Unit) doctor on the frontline of the Covid crisis, by Jim Down



In this book, the author, running the ICU at one of London's big hospitals relates how nothing had prepared him and his colleagues for what happened when the Covid 19 pandemic erupted.

He narrates how all of them working in ICU found how different and difficult it was to treat their patients. It took a long time to don their PPE, then they had 2 masks and 3 layers of gloves; it was incredibly difficult to communicate to both colleagues and patients.

They had to deal with a an incredible influx of patients and everyone had to face the biggest challenge in the history of the NHS.

This is a gripping and moving testament to the everyday heroism of all in the NHS, and it is an unforgettable insight into what was really happening in the wards as we stood on our doorsteps and clapped.

It is easy to see why all involved in this story would not want to face anything on this scale again, and why medics are often sounding the most cautious about relaxing protective measures.

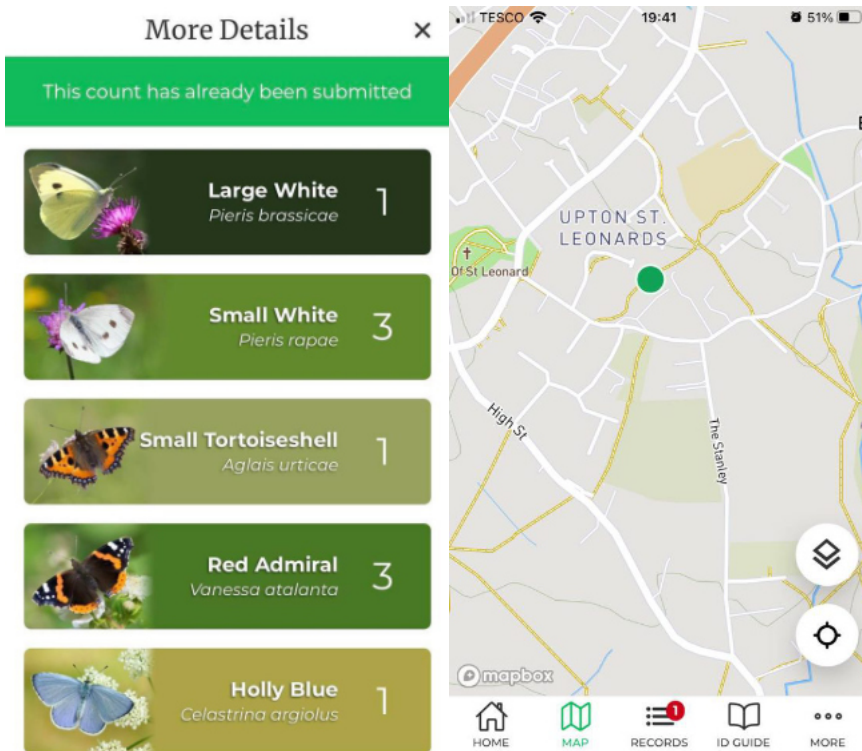
Ann Morphew



# Big Butterfly Count

Every year the Butterfly Conservation Society asks members of the public to count the butterflies they see in their garden or neighbourhood.

Emma Ainsworth and her son (“boy”) have just completed a count from a walk along Dirty Lane. Here’s what she said and recorded. “ Boy and I enjoyed an awesome butterfly count on Dirty Lane this afternoon! Anyone else in our beautiful village taking part in the Big Butterfly Count? Would be great to see some more green blobs on the map.”



Emma and Boy’s count was recorded as in the picture here, with a map to show where the count was taken. The picture and map were created for them on the Butterfly Conservation website as they submitted their numbers. The website is <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Do a count for yourself! The website (there is a phone app as well) has a very clear display of all the butterflies one is likely to see, and you simply click under each image as you spot one. The survey goes on until Sunday 8 August, so if you do it soon, you will be in time. Enjoy!

*Editor: really sorry that the greyscale printing does no justice at all to the wonderful butterfly pictures!*



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## AUGUST

(No Parish Council meeting in August)

1	Sun	Tennis Club members morning .....	Tennis Court .....	10.00am
2	Mon	Upton WI "Together Again Meeting" .....	Pavilion .....	2.00pm
3	Tue	Bins - Recycling and food waste week		
3	Tue	Tennis Club members evening .....	Tennis Court .....	6.00pm
3	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.30pm
4	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
4	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
5	Thu	Craft 'n Chatter inaugural meeting (see page 4) .....	Old School Room .....	10.00am
5	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	10.00am
6	Fri	Yoga .....	Pavilion .....	10.00am
6	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	11.30am
7	Sat	Cricket - USL 1st XI v Chedworth .....	Recreation Ground .....	1.00pm
8	Sun	Tennis Club members morning .....	Tennis Court .....	10.00am
10	Tue	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
10	Tue	Bins - Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
10	Tue	Tennis Club members evening .....	Tennis Court .....	6.00pm
10	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.30pm
11	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
11	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
12	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	10.00am
13	Fri	Yoga .....	Pavilion .....	10.00am
13	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	11.30am
14	Sat	Cricket - USL 2nd XI v Lydney .....	Recreation Ground .....	1.30pm
14	Sat	Annual Pig Roast .....	BMI .....	7.00pm
15	Sun	Tennis Club members morning .....	Tennis Court .....	10.00am
16	Mon	Garden Tea at Rose Cottage (see page 2) .....	Rose Cottage, Upton Hill .....	2.00pm
17	Tue	Bins - Recycling and food waste week		
17	Tue	Tennis Club members evening .....	Tennis Court .....	6.00pm
17	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.30pm
18	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
18	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
19	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	10.00am
20	Fri	Yoga .....	Pavilion .....	10.00am
20	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	11.30am
21	Sat	Cricket - USL 1st XI v Ruardean Hill .....	Recreation Ground .....	1.00pm
22	Sun	Tennis Club members morning .....	Tennis Court .....	10.00am
24	Tue	Bins - Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
24	Tue	Tennis Club members evening .....	Tennis Court .....	6.00pm
24	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.30pm
25	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
25	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
26	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	10.00am
27	Fri	Yoga .....	Pavilion .....	10.00am
27	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex .....	11.30am
28	Sat	Cricket - USL 2nd XI v Woodpeckers .....	Recreation Ground .....	1.30pm
29	Sun	Tennis Club members morning .....	Tennis Court .....	10.00am
31	Tue	Bins - Recycling and food waste week		
31	Tue	Tennis Club members evening .....	Tennis Court .....	6.00pm

## SEPTEMBER

6	Mon	Upton WI .....	Pavilion .....	2.00pm
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion .....	7.30pm
10	Fri	Copy date for October issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Upton St Leonards Show .....	Village Hall .....	2.00pm
13	Mon	Twyver WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm

## OCTOBER

2	Sat	BMI Quiz .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
4	Mon	Upton WI .....	Pavilion .....	2.00pm
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion .....	7.30pm
9	Sat	"Call My Bluff" Wine Tasting .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
10	Sun	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm

**To place an entry in the Village Diary, please contact Paula Quinn**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I think the whole Village owes a debt of gratitude to the very small group of older people who tend our wonderful Churchyard, and I am reminded of Sir Winston Churchill's words in WWII about so much being owed by so many to so few . . .

I write because in a recent spell of hot weather I happened upon an exhausted gardener who had been working hard to complete a task before a downpour was due, and had been grass-cutting for some hours that day. I revived her and a fellow worker with ice cream!

Most of these wonderful folk are retired, and happy to see how lovely everything looks, but I do wonder how long they will be able to carry on their splendid work. This led me to ask wider about people who look after churches, and I found that there are many examples where young people, under suitable supervision, have been made to feel useful and encouraged to take part in such ventures. Maybe this is something we could think about, for when the inevitable time comes that the current team has to give up. Let me finish with a well-known poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932)

The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on Earth.

---

House Wanted (a repeat of an earlier notice): 4th-generation Upton family still looking to purchase in or around Upton, or the Brookthorpe area, a house with around two acres. Doer-uppers and projects considered. We have parties interested in our property and a decent budget. Please call Emma if you have anything suitable. Many thanks.

## From Simon Jarvis - our Neighbourhood Warden

With hot weather and people spending more time at home, noise complaints from neighbours are common at this time of year. Windows are opened and you may not even be conscious that you are causing an annoyance to your neighbour. The TV, Radio and Smart Speaker with the volume too loud and placed close to the window could lead to your neighbour being able to hear it clearly. Please spare a thought for your neighbours.



## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://usllife.org.uk>

To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

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## Next month's editor

Peter Wilson



1

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### SUMMER WILDFLOWERS

The picture above was taken by David Miller on Nuthill looking towards Prinknash. The knapweed is glorious!



The pictures on the left and right were taken by Mary Russell at Cud Hill, of knapweed (again) and a pyramid orchid.



We have always shown pictures of Upton lambs in early spring. Late spring sees the birth of calves at Whitley Court pictured below (Christina Caldwell). Awww.

