

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 83

July 2021



With all lockdown restrictions hopefully lifted by the middle of this month it's time to embrace our freedom once again and return to, or join, some of the many clubs and activities that our wonderful village offers.



Some lucky ladies (all double jabbed) had the ride of their lives when a stretch limousine arrived to take them all to a significant birthday lunch on 28th May. Exuberance and laughter abounded as champagne was sipped inside the luxurious interior of the chauffeur driven transportation. The blue twinkly lights reminded us of former night club outings, long ago and everyone excitedly exchanged tales of yesteryear!! Current birthdays, past birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations that couldn't be celebrated during the lockdown, were all upheld on this wonderful day out amongst village friends, most of whom have known each other and their families for over forty years. A day to remember indeed!!

Editorial



Our theme this month is very much about Celebrations. At the time of writing this month's issue, everyone was looking forward to a complete removal of Covid restrictions but it was announced today, that a delay of another four weeks has just been deemed necessary before all restrictions can be fully lifted. So, by the middle of July, we should be able, once more, to enjoy total freedom and celebrate the success of the vaccine programme. How welcome will that be after all the restrictions placed upon us for so long?

Meanwhile, hats off to our wonderful volunteers in our village!! Whilst it is no surprise that we have established teams of volunteers in our midst, working away behind the scenes for the benefit of us all, this month however throws a spotlight on two significant projects. Firstly, the re-opening of the Old School Room, featured on page 3 and secondly the modifications to the memorial bench on the Village Green.

Having witnessed the creation of the new memorial bench canopy, I can only marvel at the concept, skill, dedication and time that it has taken to produce this addition to the original structure, which was built by master craftsman, Roy Simpson. The octagonal seat was designed and built in 2015 by Roy, giving his time, skill and hard work voluntarily to the Parish. He then added the second row of spaces for plaques when the first row filled up. Now that row is full. As explained in the April issue, the Parish Council either had to refuse requests for further plaques or extend the design in some way.

Alan Gresswell and Andy Russell came up with the design you now see, and proceeded to build it - the plan featuring in the April issue. How very fortunate we are to have them both, to be able to take this project from the design table to fruition.

The photograph below shows the new canopy.

However, this is still a seat to use, a lovely place just to sit and watch the world go by. The addition of the roof will protect the seat and plaques from bird droppings and provide a structure so more plaques can be accommodated.



Boards to carry more memorial plaques will be positioned between the uprights that support the canopy, so anyone wishing to have a plaque then please contact the Parish Clerk, Roy Balgobin, on 621688.

We would ask though, that no-one tries to place flowers, vases or other tokens of affection there; the only memorial items are the plaques themselves. The Parish Council hopes this unique seat design will be a valued addition to the Village Green and that it will continue to be used as a seat.

Wise heads will no doubt have spotted that the canopy surrounds an ash tree. What happens to ash trees? They shed branches, don't last long compared to other tree varieties and can suffer from ash die-back disease. The canopy was deliberately designed so that the whole structure can be taken apart easily if the tree needs surgery. If a heavy branch falls and damages the roof, one section can be taken out for repair.

Andrea Dawson

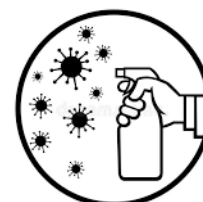
Thank You



You Made My Day

Rachel and Trevor Hall say: "We wish to express our gratitude to all the good folk - from the very young to the very old - who pass by and wave to us as we sit in our big window looking out onto Perry Orchard. We get immense pleasure from these small contacts."

The Parish Council would like to thank the small team that has been regularly disinfecting the play equipment and gym at the Recreation Ground for the past year: Gavin Jones, Catherine Dustan, Jim Browne, Andy Russell, Sara Hemmings, Kate Sullivan and Sarah Wickens. Following official advice that this is no longer necessary, the team has been stood down. Many thanks! It's great to know that when this task came up, the seven above (and more) immediately offered their help.



More evidence, if that were needed, of a great community spirit.

What's Been Happening in Upton?

RE-OPENING OF THE OLD SCHOOL ROOM

The Re-Opening of the Old School Room scheduled for 24th June has been revised due to the delay in lockdown restrictions. It will now take place on Thursday, 22nd July.

The original wooden building was built in 1915 so boys could do carpentry and girls needlework. From the 1950's the Junior school children of Upton School used it as their canteen, and even then, it was somewhat unfit for purpose with leaking ceilings and questionable heating. Prior to that some of our readers will remember Monica Sims, who went to Denmark Rd School in Gloucester and later became a BBC radio and TV executive being awarded an OBE in 1971. It is believed that Monica's mother, Eva, used the old school room to sew soldiers' uniforms for WWI.

Fast forward many years and we have a visionary in our midst, in the shape of Gill Howell, our recently appointed Churchwarden. Gill has been the driving force in restoring this building which many believed to be an impossible task. Currently used as storage for mowers, strimmers, old speakers etc Gill had other ideas. Undeterred she battled on to sort out roof repairs, new windows and doors, electric re-wiring, new flooring; the list goes on.



Gill is ably supported by Claire Appleyard, Sheila Thomas and Jackie Clouting who

would say they were willing volunteers, but their remit extends far beyond this. A raft of other volunteers, including members of the TLC Choir and the USCAN group are also involved and Gill is quick to acknowledge that without their support the project would never have got off the ground.

There are however situations that require specialist help, either financially or practically and thanks must go to D & G Contracting for making the ceiling safe, HR Electrics for the rewiring, Bobby Ramsey for relaying the tiled floor, Keith Robins and Eddy Spence for painting the outside of the building and Mike Barnfield for maintenance of the field outside. Friends Jenny and Mike Innes also helped with the kitchen refurbishment and painting, whilst their son helped to fit the new windows.



There is still a lot of work to be done of course and any donations would be most gratefully accepted. All but the specialist work has been completed by volunteers but a new front path needs to be laid as a matter of urgency, so if you can help in any way please contact Gill Howell.

Our Village Hall and Pavilion are well used and often unavailable for groups to meet, so this refurbished venue will help to meet those needs. It will be available for hire for a range of activities. More information will be forthcoming in the August issue. We also hope to print a more complete history of the building and its uses in a future issue.

Andrea Dawson



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What's Coming Up in Upton?

UPTON WI – Monday, 5th July at 2pm at the Pavilion

As there has been a further delay on the opening up of all restrictions, please be aware that this meeting is unlikely to happen.

When circumstances permit, and we meet in person, you can be assured that a very warm welcome awaits all ladies of 'Upton St Leonards WI'. *NB The stairs in the Pavilion have a lift, and car parking is available.*



Twyver WI – Monday, 12 July at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

In the light of the recent delay in the removal of all lockdown restrictions, the July meeting will now be via Zoom.

See page 6 for a synopsis of our June Zoom meeting where we had the pleasure of welcoming Ashley Jones regarding the subject of Fraud.

The Upstagers had their first meeting last month and are already auditioning for their next production – an adaptation of the pantomime, Dick Whittington, written by Carol Vye. If you missed the meeting and are interested in being part of the group, whether on stage or behind the scenes, please contact Ann or Keith Pearson. You will be made most welcome!

Abbeydale Gardening Club

Members are most welcome to attend the annual Garden Party on 19th July, kindly hosted by Andrew and Helen.



Regular meetings will resume in August on the 3rd Monday in the month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

New members are always welcome and can come as a visitor in the first instance. For further information please contact Val George.

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What's Coming up in Upton?

UPTON SHOW

Saturday 11 September 2021

Upton St Leonards Village Hall & Grounds

2.10 – 4.30 p.m.

Programme of Events on the day:

2.00pm

GATES OPEN

2.15pm

FAMILY DOG SHOW

Best bitch

Best dog

Dog with the "waggiest" tail
(£1 per entry on the day)



2.45pm

DOG MOST LIKE ITS OWNER

(50p entry on the day)

3.15pm

AGE 5 AND UNDER FANCY DRESS - THEME: "THE ENVIRONMENT"

(Home-made outfits only please!)

3.45pm

AGE 6 AND OVER FANCY DRESS

(Theme as above and again home-made outfits only please)



4.15pm

PRIZE GIVING

In addition to the various competition entries there will also be a:

POTTERY DEMONSTRATION

BOUNCY CASTLE

TEDDY TOMBOLA

PLUS MANY MORE STALLS



*Make something, bake something, grow something or just have some fun
Come along and support the village.*

**Entry forms available from the Village Stores, download from the Show website or
Call Kate Brooks**

!HOT OFF THE PRESS!

See page 19 for the Photography Section - now's the time to get snapping!

Regional Fraud Advice



Twyver WI held its Zoom meeting on 15th June and had the pleasure of listening to Ashley Jones, on the subject of 'Protecting Ourselves Against Fraud'. Ashley is the Regional Fraud Protection Advisor for the South West, and is based with the Crime Unit in Bristol.

With more and more scams intruding into our daily lives, via unsolicited telephone calls, emails and e-messages, we need to be more vigilant than ever. To put it into context, last year Fraud cost the country £190 billion, £60 billion more than the entire NHS budget. Fraud is a hidden crime, occurring between the victim and the offender alone – the crime of choice for criminals. Victims are often too embarrassed to report it with only 15% of incidents being reported and yet Fraud itself accounts for 34% of all crimes.

The good news is that 80% of Fraud is preventable. Ashley provided all members with an e-book entitled 'The Little Book of Big Scams' but the 5 simple rules below are those that we can all follow should the need arise.

1. **NEVER** disclose security details such as your PIN or full password.
2. **DON'T** assume an email request or caller is genuine. People aren't always who they say they are.
3. **DON'T** be rushed – a genuine bank or organisation won't mind waiting to give you time to stop and think.
4. **LISTEN** to your instincts. If something feels wrong, then it is usually right to pause and question it.
5. **STAY** in control – have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for information.

If you feel you have given away too much information to an unsolicited caller, ring your bank as soon as you can and report it to **Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040** or email: www.actionfraud.police.uk

We are sad to announce the deaths of two long term residents,
Jennifer Watts, formerly of Gastrells Farm and Sylvia Crisp of
Woodland Green.

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Is Music a Food for Life?

During the pandemic within the community there have been some extraordinary good things happening albeit different from what we've been used to.

Music has carried on in different formats such as Zoom choir meetings, previous recordings of great concerts etc. Here in Upton, our regular organist Kay recorded herself on the piano every week for the online service during the lockdowns, enabling people to sing in their own homes whilst the church was open only for private meditation. A food for their lives during isolation.

Kay first got involved playing the organ for her daughter's Brownie carol service and was then invited to play for the Sunday morning service. When she had other family Sunday commitments I would step in to help out. Later on it transpired the organ needed major repairs and having collected the money to pay for this I was advised that it should be played regularly to keep the bellows supple. Then came the pandemic and everywhere was shut down. Not to be outdone during the first lockdown I went very early in the morning at silly o'clock to practise and play on the organ.



One morning on leaving the church a dear lady was sitting on the outside bench at the back of the church and commented that she had heard the organ being played and how it had made her day. She was on her daily early morning walk so as to avoid any contact with people and it soon became a regular time for her to listen to the organ, when I would play some of her favourite tunes and hymns always finishing with "The Lord's my Shepherd" so that she knew that was the end. A food for her life!

In between the lockdowns when the church stayed open for quiet meditation the cleaners would do their weekly clean and were sometimes joined by a dear old gentleman who wanted to help but really he wanted to listen to the organ and hear his favourite hymn "I vow to thee my country" which brought tears to his eyes but definitely a food for his life!

Despite being unable to sing, people are always so pleased when Kay or myself play a favourite hymn or tune on the organ and if it brings a hum and a smile behind the obligatory mask then that's lovely and clearly a food for life! As we wait patiently for singing and concerts to resume then ***we really will have music as a food for life!!***

Sheila Thomas

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We are situated on Upton Hill in Upton St Leonards. Grove Court is 100 yards past the Kings Head Pub on the right hand side. Collection service available.

Vaccinator Training Update

As you will all remember, I completed my Vaccinator training at the end of January and I hoped to be deployed soon after. It took over 3 weeks to get my official badge without which I couldn't do anything. Once this arrived I had tried to get some Vaccinator slots but none were available locally at all, (how big is Cheltenham and Gloucester combined??) ie no super centre opened up at all.

After a few weeks I decided to collect up my teddies after having been thrown out of my cot and thought that every little helps. I volunteered for some Carer roles at Ashton Gate in Bristol. This basically involved me telling people which pod to go to or watching them for 15 minutes post Pfizer vaccination and then wiping the chairs down. It was a bit frustrating having done all the training but I think there was some politics at foot, ie all the vaccinators at Ashton Gate were being paid and I suspect as a volunteer I was taking away some of this paid work. Anyway, it was good to be helping out and almost exclusively people were grateful for everyone's efforts.

What I hadn't fully appreciated at the outset was that I could only volunteer at NHS sites with which St John's Ambulance had an agreement. It seems that all of us locally have been done at GP-led clinics that manage their own thing (and jolly efficient it was too).

Other sites then became available and I helped out at the Riverside centre in Evesham. Lovely, welcoming place, super staff who allowed me to go for a tea-break! We dealt with a pregnant lady who became woozy, smiled sweetly at one chap who mouthed off at being asked to wait for 15 minutes, and generally had a good chat with the folk up North. I even had my second vaccination there as my text came through when I was helping one afternoon and they had a spare dose at the end of the day. Result!

Then, and brace yourselves, slots to vaccinate became available. I got in quickly, and have now done two at Ashton Gate and one today at the Britannia Dance studio in Cashes Green in Stroud.



Blimey, talk about chalk and cheese! Ashton Gate has millions of people directing human traffic, vaccinating, caring, sorting water bottles and other supplies, security etc. Britannia Dance Studios had just 9 of us and the paid staff had to pack away and sweep up! No real breaks and one room with screens for privacy which were fairly useless on one side because a dance studio has mirrors. Still, they had a proper fridge and a pharmacist as the only Health Care Professional who had never worked a vaccination clinic before, so that was alright then. It was fun, mind.

I have another shift in 3 days at Ashton Gate and for now that's all I've signed up for but it seems that Bath Racecourse is crying out for volunteers and I might go back to do a shift at Evesham. Good job I've retired.....

Cliff Alderman



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St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Sara Hemmings



Associate Priest: James Turk

Please note that due to James' work commitments, calls, texts and emails will be answered evenings and weekends

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

Mothers' Union

Bishop Rachel has asked the Mothers' Union for their support with **bthechange**, which is an organisation based in Exeter that helps women prisoners on their release. Members of Mothers' Union have had previous relationships with HMP Eastwood Park for women in the past and we are keen to be involved again.

A Prison Transition Coordinator from **bthechange** meets the women prisoners on the morning of their release, and they leave from 8.30am onwards to catch a bus into Bristol to then continue their journey home or to whatever accommodation they have been able to find. They are given a clear plastic bag which contains the clothes that they came into prison with, their paperwork, any other personal items that they might have and a small amount of money – so it is immediately obvious where they are from.



In the past the women have had to wait on the side of the road but with Reverend Frances Wookey's help they can wait in St George's Church, Falfield, which is almost opposite the prison.

bthechange have a wish list which we are hoping you will be able to help to support these women on their release –

Rucksacks, large shopping bags with a zip, sports-type holdalls.

These are for them to put their "stuff" in, so it is not immediately obvious where they are from.



Toiletries and toilet bags

Socks, bras and underwear
NEW and in a range of sizes

Old phones



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gift cards



If you can donate any of the above, they can be brought to church on Sundays and placed in the labelled box or dropped off at Jenny Cunningham's home.

Alternatively, I can collect.

Bishop Rachel is very keen that we support this initiative especially in light of her new role as Anglican Bishop to HM Prisons in England and Wales, so please do what you can to help however small that might be.

In addition, our church is dedicated to St Leonard, the patron saint of prisoners so it seems very apt that we should be involved.

Kate Gale – Branch Leader

Tower Floodlighting 2021

On Sunday 4th July, 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 Daryl and Sophie

On Sunday 18th July, the Tower Lights will be lit in celebration of the baptism of Rosanna May Hicks, which will take place in St. Leonards Church on this day. Sponsored with much love to mark this special occasion by Ben, Becky and big brother Daniel

On 19th July, the Church Tower will be lit in memory of Chantelle on her birthday. With love and so many happy memories, she was an inspiration to us all

On 22nd July, Clive and Julie Winstanley are sponsoring the Tower Lights in celebration of their grandson Blake's 8th birthday, which he shares with Prince George.



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.

Please note that the deadline for the Church Pages of USL Life is the 8th of the preceding month.



Operation Christmas Child - Gloucestershire

Forthcoming dates for your Diary:

Saturday 24th July

Sponsored Walk, leaving from Christchurch, Abbeydale.

If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. Alternatively, if you would like to sponsor me, that would be great.

Saturday 11th September

Upton Show, Upton Village Hall.

We look forward to you visiting our Stand, where there will be leaflets, empty shoeboxes, as well as various items people have given us for the shoeboxes.

Wednesday 22nd September

Promotional stall, Morrisons Abbeydale.

We will be promoting the Shoebox Appeal 2021, so please stop for a few minutes and say hello to us.

To date, I have received over 350 shoeboxes, which is an amazing response to my appeal back in December. I now have 50 packed shoeboxes, and already have 4 boxes which have been sponsored, plus 6 boxes where the transport has been paid. If you feel able to sponsor a shoebox (£20) or even help towards the transport (£5), please feel free to get in touch with me.

Thank you so much for all the beautiful knitting, sewing and fun items I have already received. I now have over 200 hats which are most welcome for when we begin to pack more shoeboxes.

Jenny

Services & Readings for July 2021

July 4th	8.00am	2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13
	10.00 am	Celebration Service and Baptism Readings TBC
July 11th	10.00 am	Communion Service Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29
July 18th	10.00 am	Communion Service Ephesians 2:11-end Mark 6:30-34 & 53-end
July 25th (James The Apostle)		
	10.00 am	Communion Service Acts 11:27-12:2 Matthew 20:20-28



We will remember them - Part two

Private William Webb

In June USL Life I penned a piece on Private William Webb who died one hundred years ago on 25 June 1921 and was laid to rest in our churchyard, in a military grave. As we didn't know the circumstances of his death, I asked for any information relating to the Webb family's involvement in WW1. Lo and behold, the power of USL Life!

Bishop Michael Hooper was visiting his grandfather Renford Hooper's military grave in the churchyard recently, was passed a copy of USL Life, saw the article on William Webb and has some interesting information to share.

Remarkably, the Hooper and Webb families lived next door to each other at numbers 5 and 6 Bondend respectively. Bishop Michael remembers - when he was very young - seeing William's father John (Senior) shortly before he died. Indeed, as well as being neighbours, the Hoopers and Webbs were related, through marriage. Little is still known about William, but his mother Annie seems to have been quite a character. During WW1 she had worked at the Munitions factory at Quedgeley with Bishop Michael's grandmother. Annie didn't seem to like new inventions much as she still had gas lamps when the Hoopers had electricity, and got her water from the Twyver! She lived her final years in Juns House in the High Street. So still not much more about William, but some fascinating insight to his family's life in the last century. Thank you, Bishop Michael.



Roy Roberts, St Leonard's PCC.

Who's Who in the Parish Church

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

500 Club winners

April

First prize member no. 29

Second prize member no. 52

May

First prize member no. 18

Second prize member no. 50

June

First Prize member no. 24

Second prize member no. 38

Mothers' Union will be meeting on Thursday 15th July at 12 noon for lunch together on the St Leonard's Church Field. Members are asked to bring their own picnic food and a chair. If the weather is inclement we may be able to use the newly refurbished Old School Room but this will depend on the outcome of the latest Government's road map restrictions. Members will be contacted nearer the date to finalise arrangements.

Kate Gale - Branch Leader

The grass keeps growing!!

The ladies who keep our church yard trim and looking good could do with a hand. If there is anyone out there who could spare a bit of time to help with the mowing and strimming your efforts would be gratefully appreciated. It is a never ending job at this time of year. If you are able to offer assistance please contact Gill Howell for further information on 07896 646119.

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They assess your need and advise on any interventions necessary.

The NHS App is available on smart phones and now on your computer at: www.nhsapp.service.nhs.uk

1. We can use this app to get help from our GP practice, or get urgent medical help by calling 111 or calling 999 for life threatening emergencies, when they will send an ambulance or a highly trained paramedic in the first instance.
2. The NHS App also has an up to date record of our Covid 19 vaccinations, and you can show this as proof when you travel.
3. We can order medications on this app and change surgery and hospital appointments. We can search conditions and treatments.
4. We can access our medical records on our phone or computer now, so no need to ring the practice to get your results and you see them as soon as they get added to your records.



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Millie Barnes

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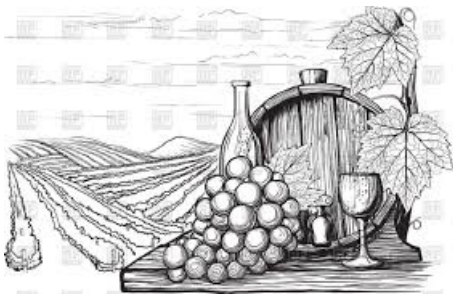
USL Life Arts Page

With the easing of Lockdown we look forward to social gatherings and journeys. We begin by offering you two verses and an epigram on the pleasure of drinking. Then we follow with thoughts on the joys of travelling.

THE BALLADE OF LIQUID REFRESHMENT by E. C. Bentley (1875 – 1956)

Last night we started with some dry vermouth;
Some ancient sherry with a golden glow;
Then many flagons of the soul of fruit
Such as Burgundian vineyards only grow;
A bottle each of port was not de trop;
And then old brandy till the east was pink
- But talking makes me hoarse as any crow,
Excuse me while I go and have a drink.

Spirit of all that lives, from God to brute,
Spirit of love and life, of sun and snow,
Spirit of leaf and limb, of race and root,
How wonderfully art thou prison'd! Lo!
I quaff the cup, I feel the magic flow,
And Superman succeeds to Missing Link,
(I say, I 'quaff'; but am I quaffing? No!
Excuse me while I go and have a drink,)



There is no such thing as a small whisky
Oliver St John Gogarty (1878 – 1957)

Robert Louis Stevenson, author of Treasure Island, The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Kidnapped and A Child's Garden of Verses was an enthusiastic traveller and he said, "For my part, I travel not to go anywhere but to go. I travel for travel's sake".

BOOK REVIEWS

Arabian Sands by Wilfred Thesiger, published in 1959

Wilfred Thesiger was born in Addis Ababa in 1910. Educated at Eton and Oxford he joined the Sudan Political Service in North East Africa in 1935. Later he served in Abyssinia and Syria. After the war he travelled throughout Africa on foot or by camel. He was fascinated by Arabia and desert tribes and lifestyle. He estimated that he rode on camels for ten thousand miles and he was saddened by the changes caused in Arabia by the discovery of oil and the arrival of outside influences.

The book reflects on the gradual erosion of traditional Bedouin ways of life that had existed unaltered for

ITHAKA by Constantine P. Cavafy (1863-1933)

Hope your road is a long one,
May there be many summer mornings when,
with what pleasure, what joy,
you enter harbours you're seeing for the first time;
may you stop at Phoenician trading stations
to buy fine things,
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
sensual perfume of every kind –
as many sensual perfumes as you can;
and may you visit many Egyptian cities
to learn and go on learning from their scholars.

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you're destined for.
But don't hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you're old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you've gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvellous journey.
Without her you wouldn't have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.

(Just as the journey to Ithaka is a metaphor for the human journey through life, Ithaka is seen as a general metaphor for all final destinations. Perhaps it is better to journey than to arrive as Robert Louis Stevenson also suggested.)

thousands of years. It is full of anecdotes and we hope that you enjoy travelling across the Sahara with Wilfred Thesiger.

Married to a Bedouin by Marguerite van Geldermalsen published in 2006

Born in New Zealand, the author of this book was travelling in Jordan when she met a Bedouin souvenir seller, Mohammad Abdallah Othman, from the ancient city of Petra. It was 1978 and he convinced her to marry him. She moved into his cave and gradually became part of the Bedouin community. This book is fascinating as it describes traditions which are now lost to the modern world. It repays the effort needed to 'get into the story' and we encourage you to persevere with this book.

Feature article - It's time to be **VISIBLE!!!!**

(NEW VARIANTS PERMITTING!)

Have you ever had a moment in your life when you realise you have suddenly become invisible?

That instant when you're reaching out to choose a birthday card or magazine and an arm seems to appear from nowhere in front of you and fiddles about in the shelves. You look at the perpetrator, puzzled, and realise you are oblivious to them. Then, there's the freezer section, when you are bending over to make your choice and find yourself drifting to one side as a person who obviously has a greater need than you, casually, but deliberately, nudges their way in as they make their choice. Rude!

I became aware of this phenomenon years ago and, in the beginning, I told myself I was imagining it, but I've realised on visits to the local supermarket and retail outlets since reopening, things have not improved. During conversations with others, it seems I'm not the only one to think so. Can we blame it on Covid? Perhaps it's been the inevitable change in our shopping habits, getting in and out as quickly as we could: perhaps it's 'cancel culture' and being 'swiped right or left' on social media when friendships can be annulled on a whim and relationships gone in a blink – whatever the catalyst, the interaction aspect of life has changed, let's hope not irrevocably. But social distancing is about being nice and polite to people - apart from keeping us safe in pandemic times, it's just courteous to give, and to be given, space.

An unwarranted invasion of personal space says - 'I don't see you'. I recall my husband feeling exasperated in a pub when he waited for service for a good ten minutes and asked me if he was invisible. It would appear that invisibility is not gender or age specific.



Of course, there are exceptions, who doesn't want their space to be invaded by children, grandchildren and family? During this lockdown there are scores of us who, whilst being sensible and following the rules, have probably had enough of our own company, and are now longing to see family, friends, and acquaintances once again. In what have been unprecedented times, we have been invisible to each other for the longest time frame in our memories; we have appeared like ghosts in our masks and our well-being has suffered through not seeing loved ones as we tried hard to curb our desires for hugs. Assuming that many restrictions have been lifted, now is the time to dust yourselves off and be visible once more, if the 'roadmap' is going to plan.

By the time you read this, dependent on the vagaries of our climate of course, summer should be in full swing. It may be that the red, green and amber lists will still be operative but there's so much to enjoy in our local environment. This pandemic has been challenging, but it's not all bad news, in fact we have come together for the common good and this should stand us in good stead for anything the future has to throw at us.

Will we ever shake hands again? Probably - I expect in the fullness of time we will lose our inhibitions. We are, after all, still social animals. Change is coming, brace yourselves. Harry Potter may have been delighted with his cloak, but it can't be good for the soul. They say that invisibility is a superpower many people would want. Careful what you wish for!

I leave you with a line from the poem by Jenny Joseph written in 1961 when she was 29. I wonder if she had already experienced invisibility even then.

"Warning – when I am an old woman".

When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple with a red hat that doesn't go and doesn't suit me.....

by Linda Munnoch

USL Literature Festival 2020-21 - part 2

The USL School Literature Festival in 2021 took place under very unusual circumstances. Instead of the authors visiting the school, the authors and the children connected through the ether using the Internet. It was very different but a total success. I have previously told you what the older children took part in and this month it is the turn of the younger students.

The festival involved a lot of work from Mrs. Wood and other teachers to not only arrange for the authors to be involved but to get all the internet links correct. As Chair of Governors, I was delighted to be given access to these links and so I could listen in to the presentations. Usually, I get to see one of the authors, but this year I saw five!

On the first day of our Festival in early March, we had the pleasure of welcoming Tracey Corderoy, talking to our youngest children, about what inspired her to write the "Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam" stories. She told us about her love of animals and what fun it would be to write stories about two inept animal burglars. She read one of her stories and then later in the week did workshops for the children to enable them to write their own stories. Tracey has adopted the school and has special links to us and will visit us again when lockdown is over.

On the Wednesday, Hannah Gold whose first book 'The Last Bear' is about a young girl who befriends the last polar bear on the very isolated Bear Island. Hannah spoke to our Y2,3 & 4 about her love of animals and her concern for the environment. Hannah talked about the research she had to do to enable her to write the book and about the editing process.

Later in the week, Emily Gravett, author of 'Wolves', 'Orange Pear Apple Bear' & 'Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears, Again!' did a workshop for Y1. Emily shared her journey to becoming an author and helped the children draw magpies.



The final visit for these children was a drawing workshop with Sarah McIntyre. Sarah has written and illustrated some of our favourite books, 'GrumpyCorn', and 'Oliver and the Seawigs' amongst others. Sarah read from 'Don't call me GrumpyCorn!' and then got all the children to draw their own versions of GrumpyCorn.

She also did a session for our older children and she answered questions about the books she has collaborated on with other authors, including 'Pugs of the Frozen North'. The children produced some fabulous Pug drawings during her masterclass.

We are already planning for next year and we hope to get some authors coming into the school, working with the children and sitting on our world-famous couch, 'The best seat in the house.'

Organising this festival is hard work and comes at a cost and so we are looking for any local business which might want to sponsor next year's event. We can promise you lots of adverts in the school news and on our Facebook page. Every time we mention the festival we will talk about our fantastic sponsors. If you can help us with this please contact me.

Thank you to Neil Eley for providing this insight and showcasing the inspiring authors who have been working alongside our youngsters in our village school.

Live meetings and activities are restarting but more slowly than was originally planned. Some dates in the diary have changed due to the latest government advice, so we still have to put on the caveat we've had for a while: that Covid restrictions could still change the plans.

VILLAGE DIARY

JULY

1	Thu	Tennis Club AGM	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
2	Fri	Yoga	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
4	Sun	Tennis Club morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	via Zoom	7.30p.m.
6	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
6	Tue	Tennis Club evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
6	Tue	Yoga	Pavilion	7.00p.m.
6	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
7	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
8	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00-2.00p.m.
9	Fri	Yoga	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
9	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	11.30-12.30p.m.
10	Sat	Copy date for August issue of USL Life		
11	Sun	Tennis Club morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
12	Mon	Twyver WI	Zoom Meeting	7.30-9.45p.m.
13	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
13	Tue	Tennis Club evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
13	Tue	Yoga	Pavilion	7.00p.m.
13	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
14	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00-2.00p.m.
16	Fri	Yoga	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
16	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	11.30-12.30p.m.
18	Sun	Tennis Club morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
20	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
20	Tue	Tennis Club evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
20	Tue	Yoga	Pavilion	7.00p.m.
20	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
21	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
21	Wed	Bingo (check with BMI website)		BMI 8.00p.m.
21	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00-2.00p.m.
22	Thu	Re-opening of Old School Room	Old School Room	10.00 am
22	Thu	History Group - AGM & Picture Quiz	Village Hall	7.45-9.15p.m.
23	Fri	Yoga	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
23	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	11.30-12.30p.m.
25	Sun	Tennis Club morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
27	Tue	Tennis Club evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
27	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
27	Tue	Yoga	Pavilion	7.00p.m.
27	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
28	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
28	Wed	Bingo (check with BMI website)	BMI	8.00p.m.
29	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00-2.00p..m.
30	Fri	Yoga	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
30	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	11.30-12.30p.m.

AUGUST

2	Mon	Upton WI Celebration meeting	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
14	Sat	Annual Pig Roast	BMI	7.00p.m.

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

UPTON SHOW

SECTION 'F' – PHOTOGRAPHY – OPEN

Unframed colour prints only, digital or film, with the exception of Class 165 and 166 which are for black and white prints only.

Maximum size for classes 160 – 166: 7" x 52 (175mm x 125mm)

Class

- 160. A riot of colour
- 161. Taken unawares
- 162. Look me in the eye
- 163. An unusual view
- 164. Favourite view of Upton St Leonards
- 165. Rear view – black and white print
- 166. A bridge – black and white print



CAMERAS AT THE READY FOR NEXT YEAR 2022!!

Advance notice of classes:

Panorama – print not more than 125mm high

Flowers in the wild

Dog Ears

Sunrise/Sunset

Rubbish/decay

A night view

Flurry of feathered friends

Just good friends

City Street – black and white print

Local Transportation – black and white print



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

Andy Russell



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DISCLAIMER: USL Life welcomes adverts for goods and services but reminds readers to make their own checks before entering into any contract or other arrangements with advertisers, as USL Life cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the advertisements.

ERRATUM: Apologies to Lara Bricknell, Yoga tutor and Phillipa Barker, Pilates teacher for the confusion over telephone numbers in the June issue. To confirm, the contact for Yoga in the Village Hall is Lara Bricknell and the contact for Pilates in the Village Hall is Phillipa Barker.

The Celebrations Continue



Brunch with the family one week and anniversary celebrations the next week – so good, Sylvia Humphrey visited the VIPods at Bowden Hall twice!!



Kate Davies enjoys Afternoon Tea in the VIPods



Having arrived at the secret destination in style, the birthday girls were escorted to a private dining room and shown to their three separate tables.



Many thanks to Andrew Ginley who sent in these photographs of some unexpected visitors to Perry Orchard on the evening of 26th May. A local farmer & family plus sheepdog kept them safely contained whilst they found out to whom they belonged. Maybe they were celebrating their freedom too!

