

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 95 July 2022



Upton's Post Boxes receive Royal Treatment - turn to page 4 to see the Creators



The Bucks Fizz stall proved to be very popular!



Upton's very own Queen! Thank you so much Wendy Metcalfe!



Picnics in full Swing!



Cups of tea and cake to sustain those enjoying the indoor entertainment



News in this issue

- Jubilee Thanks
- A Brief History of Robinswood Hill
- Spotlight on The Royal William
- Parish Council News
- Painswick Surgery Patient Group
- Upton's Buses
- New Courses and Diary
- Abbeylea Garden Club

EDITORIAL



What a wonderful display of community spirit pervaded our very special village over the Jubilee Weekend. Not even the unseasonably chilly weather could dampen the spirits of those who attended the Platinum Village Picnic, in order to celebrate our monarch's lifetime commitment to her role in our lives.

Huge amounts of cake were eaten, washed down with numerous teas and coffees and tables inside the hall were at a premium as villagers were entertained by the amazing Ukulele Band.

So many people went to extraordinary lengths to make our church even more beautiful with stunning floral displays and we at USL Life, hope that you were able to

participate in just some of the events taking place over the extended bank holiday. We also hope that you enjoy the photographs on display and that this issue will be one that you can look back on with particularly fond memories of a unique occasion.

Andrea Dawson



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Further to Andy Russell's article re 'Cricket Teas and the End of an old Tradition', in the June issue, we received the following letter:

I have spent many years playing cricket and one of the highlights of the match is the teas, some of which have been mediocre, and some of which have been outstanding. All the tea ladies should be congratulated for the amazing effort they all put in to provide such excellent teas.

Having said that, one team we used to play against (Eastington) gave us a few sandwiches and possibly a piece of cake at tea time, (whoopee) but then, when we all retired to their local hostelry, all things changed!

Having immersed ourselves in comfy chairs, out would come large bowls of chips, sausages and bread rolls. After they were devoured, a second wave would appear (also quickly devoured)!

As much as I think the tea ladies were much taken for granted, they did an awesome job; they were, in some respects, the backbone of cricket. They will always be held in great respect (at least by me) for the amazing job they did.

Perhaps the local pubs could follow Eastington's example and promote a similar attitude to their local teams.

**Regards,
Keith Rapson-Miles
(Volunteer groundsman USL CC)**

Thank you so much for your letter Keith, regarding the cricket teas.

It was with some sadness too, that I read about the demise of the cricket teas as both my sons played regularly at 'the Rec' and providing 'the tea' on a rota basis was all part of it. Every Mum or Dad took their turn and the appreciation from the various teams was more than enough to compensate for putting a few extra hours in the kitchen.

But times change and we have to adapt, albeit unwillingly, sometimes. Your praise for all the ladies concerned will kindle fond memories of those special days and I'm sure will touch the hearts of those involved.

Andrea Dawson



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What's been happening in Upton?



THE PLATINUM JUBILEE VILLAGE PICNIC



We came together to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and Celebrate we did!

What an afternoon we had!! The weather held for us and the amount of people who came and supported the event was just fabulous. I can't name everyone who helped, but you know who you are and please accept a big thank you from me and my small team to the people who set everything up; the WI Ladies arriving early in the morning to prepare the strawberries, the kitchen ladies who never stopped serving tea and cakes and smiling all afternoon, the Brownies who did a grand job, the Bucks Fizz Stall, Mike Stratford and his exhibition in the Annex - what a History of the Village and the Queen's 70 years! Thank you to all the stall holders who kept you entertained and, of course, the Ukulele Band who played and sang tirelessly throughout the afternoon.

thank
you
for your
support!

The Flower Exhibition in the Church was just out of this world and a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who welcomed you in shifts for 4 days with their knowledge of the displays.



Thanks too are due for the donation of dozens of cakes. When we saw the selection and amount of cakes, we said these will never all be eaten, but in the end they were all consumed!!

The auction of the 3 spectacular cakes and a few donations raised £160 for the Ukraine Disasters Fund Relief – once again, thank you to the bakers and the bidders.

Finally, our gratitude must also be expressed for the grant allocated to us by the County Council for enabling this unique event to happen. Thank you to the team and all your support.

Carol Evans

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What's been happening in Upton (continued)

Craft 'n' Chatter Group

For months before the Platinum Jubilee weekend the Craft 'n' Chatter group had been busy working on the fantastic post box toppers, (shown on the front cover) which were on display outside the Post Office and the Village Hall. Masterminded by Anita Owen and Diana Rosewell, the following ladies, Sue Merigold, Hazel Day, Myra Williams, Pam Tickner, Margaret Buckley, Julia Paton, Irene Woodcock, Maureen Snell, Mallory Merrett and Jayne Hyett all set about knitting and crocheting corgis, lawns, crowns, flowers, flags and more, to provide us with a wonderful visual tribute in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A heartfelt thank you, to you all, for giving so much pleasure to so many people by sharing your many skills.

Andrea Dawson

The Inner Wheel



A charity event entitled 'Paté and Pimms Party' – was held on Thursday, 2nd June in the Village Hall, in aid of President Iona Robbins' charity, Motor Neurone Disease. Ninety guests were asked to 'Dress to Impress' and quite a few wedding outfits came out for a second showing!



A warm sunny day meant that guests were able to enjoy their Pimms outside, whilst John Beckingham played 60's and 70's music that everyone could sing along to.

A good time was had by all and over £2,000 was raised for this very worthy cause. Below is a selection of some of the 'Dress to Impress' outfits.

Ladies Probus

Our May meeting on the subject of 'Fraud Safety' was very informative and useful booklets were distributed. June's meeting had Elizabeth Odell telling us 'All about Matchbox Cars'.

The subject for July's meeting has not yet been finalised. So do come along to the BMI at 10.15am on Wednesday 27 July and be surprised!

Entertainment Night at the BMI



There was a great night of entertainment on Saturday 11th June at the BMI. Over 70 members danced and sang along to the band "Summer Night City" which included a selection of favourite ABBA tunes.

This was a lovely evening and just the thing to kick off the summer! If you missed this evening's entertainment, the next one will be on **Saturday 9th July with the return of "Michael Ian Brown"**.

Guest Suite to rent in USL



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View from the french windows

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What's Coming up in Upton?

SATURDAY 9th JULY 2022

**ENTERTAINMENT AT THE
BMI**

8.00p.m. – Late

With

“Michael Ian Brown”

**Open to members and signed in
guests**

**Gloucestershire Federation of
Gardening Societies**

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10th Open Sweet Pea Show

(Incorporating a mini Fuchsia & Pelargonium Show)

Saturday 9 July 2022

12 - 4pm

At

Norton Village Hall

Old Tewkesbury Road

Norton, Gloucester GL2 9LJ



www.gfgs.org.uk

Sunday 31st July

Jazz At the BMI

From 1.00-3.00p.m.

With

John Beckingham

Open to members and signed in guests



Thursday, 21st July

Upton St Leonards

Village History Group - AGM

Followed by a talk by

Edward Wyatt on

‘More on John Bellows Overseas’

Village Hall, 7.45pm,

All members and visitors welcome.

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What's coming up in Upton - continued?

Upton St Leonards Annual Show

Saturday 10th September 2022



We look forward to welcoming you once again to our annual show in September.

In the meantime, we would be grateful for any volunteers to help set up on the Friday and Saturday and to clear up. Also, we would be pleased to receive any donations towards the teddy tombola, the bottle and book stalls and cakes for the refreshments. Also, help needed to sell raffle tickets.

Contact Kate Brooks for further information

It would be appreciated if winners from 2021 could return their trophies before the end of July to:-

Schedules and Entry forms are available from the Village Stores, Portway Farm Shop and

Kate Brooks

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before 20 July**

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SPOTLIGHT ON A LOCAL BUSINESS - THE ROYAL WILLIAM



The Royal William is situated on the A46 and a mere 100 yards from the Cotswold Way. It is very walkable from the village, especially if you take the route up to Prinknash and through the Monks Walk, which will take you into the woods adjoining the A46. There is however, ample parking both opposite the pub and at the rear of the building, should you wish to take the car. Due to its location, the pub attracts a lot of dog walkers and so there is a dog-friendly policy.

When Tina and Chris took over the Royal William in 2007, it had been an old Brewers Fayre site. The place had become quite run down but in the 15 years that they have been running the business, they have invested a huge amount of time, effort and money in restoring it, once again, to the delightful country pub it now is. During lockdown they totally refurbished the interior themselves and have succeeded in achieving a welcoming and cosy atmosphere, which has a charm all of its own.

The Royal William is situated on the A46 and a mere 100 yards from the

Carveries are available on Sundays and daily specials including steak nights served on Hot Rocks. They also do weddings, birthday parties and music nights which include tribute nights.

Look out for Saturday, 30th July when the Royal William will be hosting a Beer, Cider and Gin Fest in the paddock from 3pm – 11pm. See <https://www.facebook.com/royalwilliamcranham/> for further details.

Further tribute bands can be seen on 20th August when 'Elvis' will be appearing and on 24th September the sounds of 'ELO' can be enjoyed. If you would like tickets for any of these events, please see staff at the bar or call Martyn on 07910 959097.

Tina and Chris also have another pub in Bourton on the Water, named The Duke of Wellington. Whilst they are very busy people, you can rest assured of receiving a warm welcome, so why not pay them a visit?

Andrea Dawson

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROBINSWOOD HILL: PART 1

Ownership

Before the Norman invasion, Anglo-Saxon England was generally divided into Hundreds.

At that time, the County had four divisions consisting of twenty eight hundreds. The two Hundreds relevant to the hill are Dudston and Kings Barton. Matson, Upton St Leonards and Tuffley, all of which are relevant to ownership of parts of the hill, were in what was called the middle part of these Hundreds.

Ownership of which areas of land were owned by whom, is not well defined.

In the mid 13th Century much land was held under either Kings Barton or Abbots Barton Manors. There are no records of any of the manors in Matson prior to the 14th Century. There were three manors in Matson in the 15th Century. It seems plausible that ownership of the Matson Manor Estates included both East and West Sides of the hill.

Some land in Matson was held by various Normans, including Ranulf in the early 12th Century, Philip of Matson, his son, in around 1159 and then, possibly, by Simon of Matson (Philip's son). In turn, Simon's son and heir John, took ownership but sold half of it in 1239 to Llanthony Priory. John's son Philip granted Llanthony Priory additional land. These lands were held by the Priory under the name of Mattisden Manor House (although the current Manor House was not built until much later).

In 1329, Phillip of Matson's (presumably other) son, William, granted the Manor of Matson to Ellis Daubeney, from whom it passed eventually to the Lygons family of Worcestershire in around 1500.

William de Gardenis was Lord of Mattesdon in the reign of Edward I (1272 – 1307). He settled at Matson Manor on his marriage in around 1314. His house may have been on the moated site in Moat Leaze where the current Moat school is situated. After passing through various owners, ownership of the Manors of Matson and Sneedham fell to William Nottingham, who was Attorney General to Edward IV. In 1470 William gave both Manors to Gloucester Abbey in return for the establishment of a chantry in the Abbey.

At this time, therefore, it appears that there were, at least, three landowners – Gloucester Abbey, Llanthony Priory and the Lygons family – associated with the hill at this time. There is confusion, however, as to who actually owned which Manor.

After dissolution, between 1536 and 1540, the King took over ownership of all lands previously owned by the Church.

The King granted the right of the Manor, previously with the Abbey, back to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral in 1541. The Abbey was called a Cathedral after The Dissolution. This land was leased to Thomas Robins and stayed with that family until around 1766 when it became part of George Selwyn's estate.

There are specific references to the Robins' Manor in Matson in the Parish of Upton St. Leonards. The house may have been on the site of that of William Gerard on Moat Leaze. George Selwyn demolished the house after buying the Robins estate.

In 1552 William Lygon granted the lease of the "Site of the Manor of Matson" for 50 years to John Robyns. Robyns was defined in the Indenture as "otherwise Bocher". A bocher is a draper and it is thought he came from London. It is not clear if he was related to the Thomas Robins, granted the lease from the Cathedral, mentioned above. This land eventually passed to his grand-daughter, Margaret, who married Jasper Selwyn around 1591 and he bought the reversionary rights from the Lygons in 1597.

The land taken from Llanthony Priory was granted to the mayor and burgesses of the City of Gloucester. They, in turn, granted it in 1543 to Thomas Lane. When Thomas died, his wife married Richard Pate who in 1561 acquired a 200-year lease of the reversion (the right to possess or succeed to property on the death of the present possessor or at the end of a lease). He built Matson house and died in 1588. The Manor house was sold in 1600 to Jasper Selwyn to pay off debts.

Jasper Selwyn, therefore, at that time, then owned the land which had belonged to Llanthony Priory and the Lygon family. The Robins family owned the rest although this was eventually bought by the Selwyns, as described above.

After Jasper Selwyn's death in 1635, his Matson estate passed to his son William and George Augustus Selwyn took over the estate in 1751. When he took over the Robins families Manor he owned virtually all of the Matson estates.

On George's death, in 1791, his estate passed to his nephew Thomas Townsend, Viscount Sydney, who in an exchange acquired the Dean and Chapter freehold interest of a part in 1799. Thomas died in 1800 and the estate passed, with the viscounty, to John Thomas Townsend, who died in 1831, and then John Robert Townsend who was created Earl Sydney in 1874.



Subsequently, Robert Marsham, afterwards Marsham-Townsend, inherited the lands. In 1912 Robert broke up the estate. Gloucester Corporation bought a large part of the former Matson estate piecemeal for housing and a Country Park, starting in 1950. The photograph on the left shows Matson House in 1906. **See Part 2 in our August issue for more information on the uses of the hill.*

With thanks to Jeff Dawson for his research on what is now a Country Park/Nature Reserve for all to enjoy, situated in Reservoir Rd , Gloucester.

St Leonard's Church News



Priest in Charge

Vacancy

Interim Minister:

Rev Philippa Donald

*Philippa's parish days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.
Please feel free to leave a message for her on other days
when she is next in the parish*



Churchwarden

Gill Howell

Baptism and Wedding Enquiries

Jenny Cunningham

Dear friends

It seems that summer is now upon us and it's a month since we had the wonderful Platinum Jubilee weekend, with all those amazing events, both national and local, to celebrate the 70 years of our dear Queen. In a few weeks the school holidays will begin and for many families the routine takes a break and is for me is a bit more relaxed. There may be holiday trips and – hopefully – some good weather!

In the church we have some weddings and baptisms to celebrate over the summer. It's wonderful to welcome new people into God's family, and into the family of the church through baptism. And you don't need to be a baby to be christened! If you haven't been baptised before - and you can only do it once – then it's never too late. I once baptised two little girls, who were cousins, and their great-grandfather, all in the same service. The family had been looking through old records and discovered that the great-grandfather had never actually been christened. That was a very joyful occasion.

God welcomes everyone, whatever age and stage they are in life. In the time of Jesus, baptisms were held in the River Jordan, where those being baptised were completely 'dunked' into the river and then lifted out again, as a sign of saying goodbye to the old life – drowning it – and coming up out of the water into new life, following Jesus Christ. When Jesus was baptised in this way by his cousin, John the Baptist, as he came up out of the water, a dove was seen in the sky, as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, to show

the people that Jesus was God's son. This 'dunking' way of celebrating baptism is still in practice today in some parts of the church. In my previous job, a young man coming to be baptised was very disappointed to see the little font in the tiny village church – he had hoped he would be dunked into the river somewhere!

Being christened or baptised is a wonderful way of affirming that you believe in Jesus Christ and want to live your life following his teachings – being kind, thinking of others before yourself, loving and caring for those you meet or work alongside and so on. You join God's family and the family of the local church and can get involved with some of the things going on there.

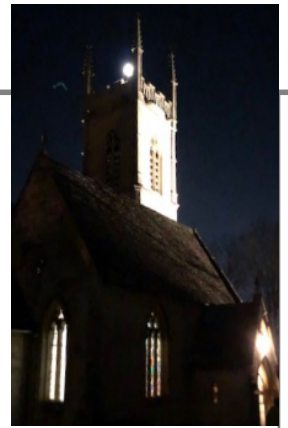
It's also always a great privilege to be asked to be a godparent. The family ask people who they love and trust to take on this responsibility, to pray for their godchild and to be there for them as they grow up through childhood and adolescence.

It's also wonderful to have weddings in our church, and to join two people together in faith and love. We have 3 weddings in the summer and 2 in the autumn this year so far. Some of these occasions have been postponed at least once, due to Covid, so these will also be very joyful times.

We know that some things will never be the same post Covid, and many people will live with the legacy of that for the rest of their lives.

Contd.....

Tower Floodlighting 2022



We would like to wish a very Happy 18th birthday to Sean Cameron on the 6th July. With lots of love from Mum and Dad, Nan & Grandad, and Michael.

On the 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. Loved and missed so much by us all.

On 22nd July, Clive and Julie Winstanley are sponsoring the Tower Lights in celebration of their grandson Blake's 9th birthday, which he shares with Prince George.

Please note the deadline for the Church pages is the 8th of the preceding month contact Jenny Cunningham if you would like the Tower lit for a special occasion or to remember a loved one

Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival



What an amazing flower festival we held in church over the Jubilee weekend.

So much talent and creativity using red, white and blue as the overall theme.

It would be unfair to single out any one particular display as they were all fantastic so a big thank you to everyone who took part and to everyone who came to enjoy our festival in the church.





The May meeting was well attended and following our act of worship, Sarah Cripps, was welcomed into the Branch from Churchdown, where sadly the Mothers' Union has closed.

Members were also informed that Pam Browning, a long-standing member of the Branch had passed away. The entertainment was provided by two of our own members who presented "Floral Harmony" with great aplomb. Judy Jackson produced five beautiful arrangements along with some amusing patter and Margaret Bishop accompanied her by playing CD's of suitably themed pieces of music. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, and some members were lucky enough to win the raffle and go home with a floral masterpiece.



Our next meeting is a "Bring & Share" Lunch and will be held on Thursday 21st July in St Oswald's Church, Coney Hill at 1pm.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE AND TIME

Kate Gale - Branch Leader

Wine and Cheese

We are celebrating not only the Jubilee but the 1st anniversary of the opening of the old Schoolroom.

Friday July 22nd 7pm

In the Old Schoolroom, Bondend Road

Wine and Cheese and a short film of the Coronation.

There will be a list for people to sign up in church or contact Gill Howell

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TWYVER WI JUNE MEETING

Our speaker for the evening, Textile Artist, Louise Parker spoke to us about her journey “A journey from Lockdown Anxiety to Textile Artist” – and entertained us with a most enjoyable and informative hour of a crafter’s life.

Louise was a cookery teacher who spent 25 years in full time academia, but at the start of lockdown her anxiety levels shot through the roof and she realised that if she was to make a change, now was the time, so she quit her job and then sat back and thought ‘What next?’ As a child she had two mentors in her grandmothers, who taught her to knit, crochet and tat, a skill very much on the backburner now.

These skills and the love of making things came to the fore, as she began crafting to keep her hands and mind busy in order to alleviate the anxiety she was feeling due to Covid. She told us that she was a naturally anxious person who has to keep busy, but during this time her coping strategies deserted her so she decided on three things to keep herself sane, beginning with a sour dough mix which was not a great success, but she persevered, joining the WI, and Workshops. She inherited a large amount of threads and scraps from a dear friend who passed away during the epidemic and her creativity was charged. She began by producing work off plan, experimenting with various threads, scraps of material, tearing up old sheets, and her trusty sewing machine and embroidery skills. She takes her inspiration from nature, while walking in woodland, by streams and rocks, photographs of nature, seascapes and flora and fauna.

UPTON ST LEONARDS WI REPORT

In the spirit of adventure, our speaker, Patrick Howell from Cambridge, Gloucestershire sailed 8,500 nautical miles in four and a half months in his 44ft yacht ‘The Incandescent.’ Along with two friends and a very experienced mariner, they began their journey from the Windward Isles, across the Pacific Ocean to Galapagos, finishing in Tahiti where the French artist, Gauguin lived.

From the azure blue of the Pacific, teeming with wildlife, fish were caught daily to supplement their diet; the Humbolt current was a fisherman’s dream. For the most part the locals were friendly and welcoming towards them. One of the highlights of their travels was to witness a total eclipse of the sun – how can you beat that?

A very warm round of applause followed. The vote of thanks was given by Kathy Quant.

Business was brief as President Angela announced the forthcoming events:

- Tuesday, 12 July – trip to Berkeley Castle.
- Monday, 8 August – Janice and Colin Pearce are opening their garden for a ‘Strawberry Tea’ to raise funds for our Centenary Fund. Tickets £10
- Thursday, 15 September – Fish and Chip Supper on Gloucestershire/Warwickshire Steam Railway; £18

We meet again on Monday, 4 July at 2pm in The Pavilion for a talk on ‘The Tales of a Travel Rep’. The speaker is Pamela Holland. All ladies are very welcome.

Kathy Quant

Her work can be viewed on Instagram and we were lucky enough to have her bring examples of her work for us to view.

Recycling fabrics, such as lace, knitted items, reusing old jewellery and beads is sustainable and easy and cheap to find, plus we are doing our bit to help reduce waste and pollution.

She praises Tyvek, a cheap material and Lutrador for anyone interested in pursuing this craft as a hobby and recommends Pinterest and Youtube tutorials which are a mine of information and images. Searching charity shops for all kinds of materials was highly recommended – and of course a great source of frames for your work. It’s all about recycling! Further information is available from snipsandthreads@gmail.com

Louise is also running a Mixed Media Embroidery Workshop on Tuesday, 2 August at WI House, 2 Brunswick Square, Glos 10am – 3.30pm. Further details in the WI Gloucestershire News, June 2022 issue.

A great and informative speaker, well received.

Our next meeting will be on 11th July, all welcome. Our speaker for the evening will be Pamela Holland talking about ‘A ride along the Amalfi Coast.’

Linda Munnoch



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Oak Tree Dedication

On Sunday, 5 June at 11.30am, our Parish Council Chairman, Keith Pearson met with our local Priest in Charge, Philippa Donald, to dedicate a new oak tree in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



This was effectively a replacement for the tree which had recently been lost on the village green.

Tree Planting in Glebe Field - update

We have lost a few trees along the way since being planted in May 2021 (this is in line with The Woodland Trust expectation) but due to the efforts of those who



initially planted the saplings, together with a few people who have helped weed the areas around the trees, you will see from the picture that there is much strong growth taking place with the 85 remaining trees.

A big thank you to those who have kept an eye on the trees and helped with maintenance.

Peter Wilson

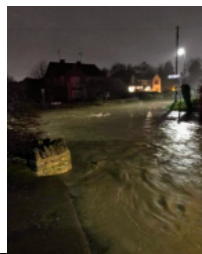
Flooding Risk Update - Workshop for Residents

As highlighted in the May edition and following pressure from the Parish Council and our County Councillor, Sue Williams, we have made progress! Having made their surveys in the village during April and May, the specialist Flood Risk Team (FRT) in Gloucestershire and their contractor Hydrock will update residents at a

FLOODING RISK WORKSHOP – Monday 18 JULY 1.30pm to 3.30pm Pavilion (upper room at the Recreation Ground)

Some residents who were contacted previously by the FRT will be contacted again about the Workshop. Other residents in the village who can provide local knowledge will be very welcome to attend to contribute and share their ideas and experiences. Hope to see you there!

Roy Roberts, Parish Councillor and Staites Orchard resident



Photographs from December 2020 show the culvert by the school car park, flooding in Bond End Lane and the junction of Churchfield and Bondend Road.

Hedges on Private Property

Hedge owners' responsibilities

It is important that owners of land next to the highway/pavements ensure their hedges are regularly cut back to the boundary and that trees do not overhang, causing an obstruction of roads and pavements. This is to protect the safety of pedestrians and vehicle users.

If you report issues with a privately owned hedge (08000514514)

If you report an overgrown or an overhanging tree or hedge on private land, the County Council will carry out an inspection. If it endangers or obstructs road

and pavement users, the Council will contact the owner requesting that they cut it back.

If the owner does not take action

If the overgrown tree or hedge is not cut back by the owner within the Councils timescales, they may serve them with a notice to do the work under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980.

Of course it is hoped that this course of action won't be necessary and that owners will ensure the safety of their fellow residents.

Roy Balgobin - Clerk to the Parish Council

Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)

The Patient Group met recently as a full body with Practice staff including senior partner Dr Rhys Evans. Most will have seen his long article in the May Beacon setting out the realities of life in the NHS in England now, with central directives coming thick and fast on top of major post-pandemic backlog pressures. Patient members agreed that the article had been useful, if sobering, giving us all better insights.

Updating us further Dr Evans spoke of the 'huge' amount of anxiety evident in the community now, conflicting somewhat with NHS England's current 5 year GP contract that was set out before the pandemic arose. Every relevant organisation is looking for a recovery plan and a future emphasis on preventative medicine rather than illness treatment but this is difficult to progress in a 'keeping heads above water' situation.

eConsult continues to ensure that a Doctor triages each patient who contacts the Surgery on the basis of detailed preliminary information. Patients finding an IT led approach difficult can phone the Surgery and be talked through the process by a receptionist. This 'total triage' approach has one flaw though – some people

have simple routine requests that don't need a full triage process, so the Practice is working on ways to achieve greater efficiency in that respect.

Our Surgery has for some time kept the eConsult system online throughout weekends when the Surgery is closed. The Patient Group considered this situation and the potential for patients using eConsult early in a weekend waiting until Monday morning for a first response. We therefore considered all-weekend availability potentially unsafe and unnecessary. Unnecessary because NHS England also provides the Out-of-Hours doctors service and the 111 telephone consultation service through which patients can get quicker access. As a result we have recommended that the Practice close eConsult over weekends.

An important achievement for the local Primary Care Network of five practices is to have employed two counsellors to support children with mental health needs, halving their time to treatment which remains though at an unacceptable six months locally. We hope this is an example of progress being achieved despite the current pressures.

David Perry, Chair

In Praise of Upton's Bus Service

There can be few villages near us who have a better bus service; we are very lucky indeed. We have a service which runs every 20 minutes and there are four



bus stops on the road through the village, two of them with a shelter.

Over 50 years ago, before the motorway was finished, our bus route was an hourly service from Gloucester to Malmsbury via Upton, Painswick, Stroud, Nailsworth and Tetbury. Our bus stop was at The King's Head. What a shame this service is no longer in use, for now we cannot access Painswick or Stroud directly and yet, both are so near to us, in Upton.

At about the same time, the WI ran a lovely service on Tuesdays and Fridays in conjunction with the playgroup

at the village hall, where we left our children and enjoyed our shopping trip to Gloucester. As newcomers to the village some of us made lasting friends on this bus journey.

Then a Supermarket was built at Abbeydale, in the centre of new houses and Upton got a brand new bus route. It has changed slightly over the years but it has always been a circular route. Today it passes by the Glevum Shopping Centre with its various shops, supermarket, doctor's surgery, pharmacy, opticians, solicitors, dentist and pub. The bus continues past Coney Hill Church and the Crematorium, then up Barton St, past the Mosque and the Salvation Army Citadel before it finishes in Clarence St, Gloucester. A lot of needs can be catered for on this journey!

Everywhere bus routes are being disbanded, so we are lucky to have both the 2 and the 2 A service. Why not be greener and sometimes leave the car at home and try the bus, or it might just be the case of use it or lose it.

Ann Morphew

Arts Page

Perhaps after experiencing all the pleasures of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations we need to be reminded of desperate conflicts and causes of misery in our world. We see it daily on the TV News.

THE END AND THE BEGINNING

After every war
someone has to clean up.
Things won't
straighten themselves up, after all.

Someone has to drag in a girder
to prop up a wall.
Someone has to glaze a window,
rehang a door.

Photogenic it's not,
and takes years.
All the cameras have left
for another war.

We'll need the bridges back,
and new railway stations.
Sleeves will go ragged
from rolling them up.

Those who knew
what was going on here
must make way for
those who know little.
And less than little.
And finally as little as nothing.

by Wislawa Szymborska
(Translated by Joanna Trzeciak)

Epigrams on technology

If it weren't for electricity, we'd all be watching
Television by candlelight.
(George Gobel 1919 – 1991, American Comedian)

Our Toaster works on either AC or DC but not on
bread. It has two settings – too soon or too late.
(Sam Levenson 1911 – 1980, American Humorist)

The thing with high-tech is that you always end up
using scissors.
(David Hockney born 1937, British artist)

**Compiled by Catherine McClean and Ann
Morphew**

EVERYTHING Is going to be ALRIGHT

How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The lines flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart;
the sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be alright.

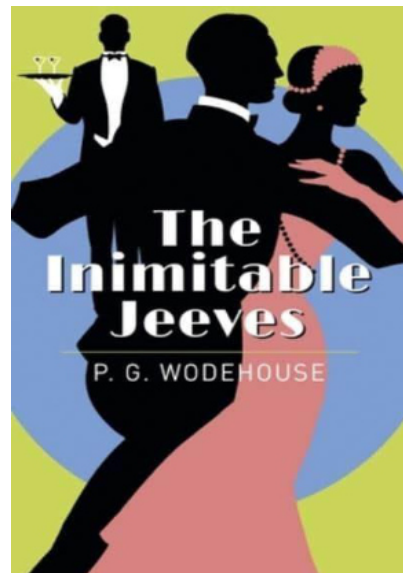
By Derek Mahon

BOOK REVIEW

Cheerfulness will surely break in if you are reading a book by P. G. Wodehouse which involves the characters Jeeves and Wooster, memorably played on television by Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie.

This month we recommend "The Inimitable Jeeves", published in 1923. The novel combined previously published stories, many of which appeared in the Strand magazine.

If you enjoy the Wodehouse style then there are 11 Jeeves novels for you to read or listen to. They all follow the feather-brained Bertie Wooster and his wise valet Jeeves. Wodehouse (1881 – 1975) spent much of his life in America and is one of the most widely read humorists of the 20th century.



JULY

3	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
4	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
5	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
5	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
5	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
5	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
6	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
6	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
6	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
7	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00p.m.
9	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for August USL Life		
11	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
12	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
12	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
12	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
12	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
12	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
13	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
13	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
14	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00p.m.
17	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
18	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
18	Mon	Flood Risk Workshop (see page 14)	Pavilion	1.30p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
19	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
19	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
20	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
20	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
20	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
21	Thu	History Group – AGM – Talk by Edward Wyatt	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
24	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
25	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
26	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
26	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
26	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
26	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
26	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
27	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
27	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
27	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
28	Thu	Craft & Chatter	Old School Room	10.00-12.30p.m.
31	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.00p.m.

AUGUST

1	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Garden Party (Members Only)	2.00-4.00p.m.
20	Sat	Annual Pig Roast	BMI	Time tba
24	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
25	Thu	Craft and Chatter	Old School Room	10.00-12.30p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Sat	Copy date for October issue of USL Life		
10	Sat	Upton Show	Village Hall	2.00p.m.
12	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Thu	History Group	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
17	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
18	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club; Mini Show	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
21	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
24	Sat	Autumn Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
29	Thu	Craft & Chatter	Old School Room	10.00-12.30p.m.

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Brickhill	07876 764425
Yoga	Fridays 10am	Pavilion	Sylvia Bennett	07921 591521
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 2pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Seniors Fitness*	Mondays 1.15pm	Pavilion	Helen Osborne	07872 941324
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227
Stagehoppers	See Below	Pavilion	Amanda Williams	07737 500769

* Note the new time for Helen Osborne's Senior Fitness class



Amanda Williams is a local, fully qualified dance teacher with 20 years experience. Amanda introduced 'Stagehoppers', a kids theatre club with weekly classes, including singing, dancing and acting at the Pavilion in June and classes will continue on 4th, 11th and 18th July. Times are 3.30pm-4.45pm for 4-7yr olds and 4.45pm-6pm for 8-12yrs.

Classes will resume in September and will then be held in the Village Hall Annex.

Amanda is DBS checked and fully insured. Her contact details are: Mobile: 07737500769 and email: amanda@awdanceandfitness.com

All further information, dates etc can be found at www.awdanceandfitness.com/stagehoppers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers required to lead Health Walks from Hadwen Health Car Park on Mondays at 11am



This will be a shared role, filling a rota to lead these short walks or support another walk leader.

Walks will be around an hour's duration. No experience needed as training and support available.

Skills required are common sense and an ability to assess and support those not used to walking due to health issues.



Volunteer required with Apple Mac knowledge, to teach basic skills to an older person in the village, both on iPad and computer.

Work on a one-to-one basis at a time to suit both.

Remuneration by agreement if required.

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Abbeydale Garden Club



Members enjoyed a superb talk from Alun and Jill Whitehead entitled 'A Clutch of Charity Gardens' on 20th June. We were whisked around the UK as the husband and wife duo took us on a whistle stop tour of the many gardens open to the public, under the National Garden scheme. From the magnificent gardens of those with acres to develop, to more modest terraced homes – all had wonderful planting schemes, structures, art forms and trees to inspire us, some of which could readily be adapted to our own gardens.

Who doesn't love sitting in their garden on a warm sunny day, entertaining friends or just relaxing with a book? In the past two years we have all grown to appreciate our outdoor space even more and it doesn't matter if you've been gardening for years or are a relative newcomer to this satisfying pastime, as there is always plenty of advice and information to share amongst other members.

What are the benefits of belonging to a Garden Club? One of the best things is listening to people and taking advantage of everyone's knowledge. Interacting with garden-minded people you will be astonished at how much you learn when you actually begin to attend events and get to know everyone. The vast knowledge members possess and can share will change the way you see gardening, especially when we have our monthly speakers, talking to us on a wide range of topics.



Abbeydale Garden Club is actively looking for new members so why not pay us a visit us on the third Monday in the month at the Village Hall at 7.30pm? You will be most welcome!

On 15th August we have our Mini show where members exhibit some of the plants and vegetables they've grown and on 19th September our speaker, Richard Harvey is coming to talk to us on UK Castle Gardens.

For further information please contact the Secretary – Val George

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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 Treasurer: Owen Stinchcombe
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 Linda Munnoch
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Next month's editor

Andrea Dawson



Contact via the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page

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