

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 107

July 2023



The Church Roof

About 7 years ago, an inspection showed that the northern part of the church roof, shown here outlined in red, would have to be re-covered in the next few years before it started to become leaky and dangerous. If you look there now you can see a few stone tiles that have broken off. (In one place above the porch you can see a blue plastic patch!)

This is a very expensive job. It's a listed Grade 2* building, so the Cotswold stone tiles have to be replaced with the same, and replacement wooden beams, plaster and cement have to be of the same type that was used two hundred years ago. The lowest, most optimistic cost estimates are £250,000. It will almost certainly be substantially more than that.



Can you help with a donation, or organise a fund raiser? Read more on the next page



The Upton St Leonards Show

Just 5 weeks to go. It's that time again! The show is on Saturday 9 September at the Village Hall.

You can get a schedule of classes from the show's website, and printed versions will be available in August.

See also a short article on page 6

The Church Roof -

continued

A few years ago the church sold a field it owned and that was a significant start to raising the funds. It means that if it can find grants (that usually require match funding), the amount it already has, and matched amounts, come near to making it possible to start work. But with such a huge total needed, the Church Council will have to make a big appeal to all of us.

This is our Village Church
It is there for everyone, whether a regular worshipper or not. So this appeal is to everyone in the Village or friend of the Village. The church was passed down to us from hundreds of years ago, and we need to pass it on for the next generations.
The regular worshippers can be expected to pay for most of the running costs, and they do, but they can't raise the sort of money needed to repair the roof.



PLEASE HELP

CHURCH ROOF FUND RAISING & EVENTS

Fund raising with events and appeals to individuals has already started and in the months since the end of last year another £5,556 (at the time of writing) has come in.

- ◆ **The next event is a Ukulele Concert in church on Friday 14 July.** See the church pages.
- ◆ **Saturday 2 September – FLOWER FESTIVAL & GIFT DAY** – The church will be open and we ask you, please, to come to the church, enjoy the flowers, see the architect's plans and make a donation.
- ◆ **Sunday 3 September – HARVEST FESTIVAL with a service on the Village Green and FLOWER FESTIVAL** in the church. A second opportunity to make a gift and see the plans and the flowers.

Please mark these days in your diaries. Without your generous help nothing will be possible and the church will teeter forward under the threat, literally, of a falling roof. Thank you. The Church Council

PS - of course you can make a donation at any time, no need to wait for the Gift Days. Contact one of the Church officials, and please allow the church to collect Gift Aid on your donation, if you are able to.

Reports

LADIES PROBUS

Our May meeting left us all in wonderment at the exploits & adventures of our speaker Celia Hargrove. The Himalaya 100 turned out to be the Himalaya 100 MILES – a mammoth 'cross country' endurance marathon of 100 miles. Our speaker undertook this race in 1999 & did herself proud finishing in only 20.5 hours over 5 days. Celia's competitive spirit was fulfilled by finishing as 2nd fastest 'lady' & 11th overall from a cohort of over 50, all from various countries of the world. WOW!

Our June meeting sounds very interesting – a talk on Tristan da Cunha, by villager Gerald Buck who has visited the island and has made friends with some of the islanders.

On Wednesday 12 July we make a visit to the Gallery in Cheltenham – names to indicate interest will be collected in June. Those booked for this Gallery visit in July should meet first of all in the BMI at 10.15am as usual. Shopping & lunch might be on the cards afterwards.

UPTON WI JUNE MEETING

We welcomed our speaker Patrick Howell for a knowledgeable talk on an overland journey with his wife, in 1984, from London to Hong Kong via the Trans Siberian railway, Mongolia and Beijing, covering 9,331 miles. A wonderful experience, much of it inside the Soviet USSR and Communist China.

We meet again on Monday 3rd July, 2pm at the Pavilion, and the speaker is Pamela Holland talking on 'Enchanted Islands'. All are welcome.

Kathy Quant

Keith Pearson stands down as Chair of the Parish Council



After 18 years as Chair of the Parish Council, Keith Pearson has stood down. Our new Chair is Chrissie Castle, and the photo shows Chrissie handing a present to Keith to mark his retirement. The present is a watercolour painted by David Hunt, of the Rec in winter, with Robinswood Hill in the background.

Keith has been the epitome of a servant to the community. Chair of the Parish Council is no easy job - you get all the brickbats when people disagree with you, and very little praise when they agree with you. Keith has put up with it and filled this vital role in the community for a long time. USL Life is proud to send him our hearty thanks, and to wish Chrissie well in this job that she has taken on so willingly.

Keith remains on the Parish Council and is still one of our District councillors, plus, of course, still chair of the BMI and of the Village Hall Trustees.

Recent Events at the BMI

At the end of May, over 100 members of the BMI attended the second 'Comedy Night' of the year. Once again it was hosted by Nik Hill, doing a fine job of compering the evening. In addition to Nik, there were 3 comedians, each doing a set of 20 minutes which had the audience in stitches. The third evening of comedy will take place on 29th October, a date for your diary.

There was also an entertainment night on Saturday 3rd June, when the BMI welcomed Michael Ian Brown once again for an evening of music and dancing. As on previous visits Michael played guitar and sang all the songs we all love to hear.

During the past year the fund for the BMI charity, The CT Scanner Appeal, has been steadily growing. We are pleased to say that we were able to send £2,765.50. This is thanks to all members who have contributed to raffles, quiz nights and the Saturday Bonus Ball, together with ticket money from the comedy night and the amount raised on the race night earlier this year. A big thank you to you all.



CAMRA AWARDS for the BMI and BRIAN!

The BMI and Brian have received two awards from CAMRA - and these are on display in the Lounge. One is for the best Club in Gloucester. The second is the award for the best Club in the County. Many congratulations.

We have two reports from Twyver WI, because of the altered date of the May meeting, too late for the last issue.

TWYVER WI MEETING 22 MAY 2023

Having foregone meetings in April and at the start of May due to extra public holidays and the King's Coronation, this meeting was arranged in order to stay focused on WI matters and ensure continuity of our group.

Speaker for the evening Ged Cassel, butterfly enthusiast, gave an interesting and colourfully illustrated lecture on butterflies in and around Gloucestershire. The wide range of habitat on offer here and the different species was insightful. For instance, did you know that the difference between a butterfly and a moth is simply as plain as night and day – and that butterflies rest with wings open and moths with wings closed and there are no nocturnal butterflies? There are 2000 species of moths in

the UK and 60 species of butterflies so theoretically we should see more moths. Most butterflies die soon after mating though some hibernate then die soon after. Painted ladies migrate so some years you see very few. We have all noticed a decline in butterfly numbers in recent years, however this is not unusual due to weather patterns and loss and changes of habitat. However if you know where to look there are still plenty about in our county and who doesn't like to see them? Check out Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire Branch and acquaint yourselves with these amazing creatures in our area, lots of information for both yourselves and children alike. A lovely evening's talk was followed by the usual business.

TWYVER WI MEETING 12 JUNE 2023

We met on a very warm evening, and lovely to see lots of faces we haven't seen for a while – welcome back!

We began with our Speaker, Nigel Warwick from BLOOD BIKERS. Most of us it seems had never heard of these unsung heroes who volunteer through the night delivering as a support charity for the NHS (unpaid) to hospitals, care homes and other facilities such as baby care units, from 7pm to 7am.

Many of these riders have day jobs too, so obviously they have to bear in mind safety regulations: getting tired on a motor bike at speed is not good. However, they have a good track record of safety.

They deliver blood, frozen breast milk and other lifesaving medical equipment and supplies, drugs and samples between hospitals. Also they deliver patient notes which are required urgently (not all notes are digitised). He regaled us with stories of strange things they have had requests to deliver over the years but none as bizarre as a medical skeleton, which would have had to be strapped to the back of the rider – this request could not be enacted for obvious reasons and they couldn't guarantee it getting there in one piece. They don't get involved in transporting organs, only corneas, but the one item which is always requested is false teeth!

Blood Bikers save the NHS over a quarter of a million pounds a year; that's the estimated commercial cost of all the journeys the bikers undertake.



Nigel is a member of the Severn Freewheelers, part of the National Association of Blood Bikers. His group covers Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, North Wiltshire and Worcestershire. The bikes they use cost around £16,000 each and the Severn group needs £1,800 per week to run the service, all paid for by fundraising. If you feel you would like to send a donation or support this service in another way, there is information on their website: severnfreewheelers.org.uk.

They are well supported by local companies and organisations. GCHQ even had a cake sale – they must have sold a lot of cakes as they were able to fund another bike.

Nigel was most insistent that Blood Bikers is not a Biker Group (such as Hell's Angels!). In bad weather they are using cars more and more but the Bike is still no. 1 for getting around quickly and efficiently. They are always wanting coordinators and we were told women are good at it and shifts can be booked on line: they will be very grateful for your help.

The next meeting is on 10th July, all welcome.

Linda Munnoch

Coming up . . .

Events at the BMI

Saturday 8th July at 8pm

Entertainment Night

We welcome the return of

Summer Night City

Open to members and signed in guests



The Sunday Lunchtime Jazz that was due on 30 July has had to be cancelled



Saturday 12th August

BMI Annual Pig Roast

from 7p.m.

Come and meet your friends once again on one of the most popular nights of the year

UpStagers Amateur Dramatic Society

For their next production, the UpStagers are presenting a Murder Mystery, including a meal. This has proved to be a most successful and entertaining format, so don't miss out!

'DYING FOR A LEEK'



Can you follow the clues and identify the murderer?

10, 11 and 12 August

In the Village Hall

Doors open 7pm, for a 7.30pm start

Tickets cost £15 and include a 2 course meal
Pre-booked only

Licensed bar



HISTORY GROUP

The History Group holds its next meeting on July 20, and this will be the AGM, plus a talk by Mike Stratford on a personality in Upton's past. All are welcome.

The group publishes an annual booklet containing write-ups of all the talks in the year. These are for sale at each meeting.

AUGUST IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

So come and join in with Tea and a Chat, not forgetting CAKE on **17th August 2pm** at the Old School Room. Let's have a great afternoon and raise funds for such a good cause. There will be a raffle too.

Any cake donations or raffle prizes greatly appreciated. Don't hesitate to contact me for further details.

Carol Evans





UPTON SHOW

Saturday 9th September at the Village Hall
2.00-4.30p.m.

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

Make something, bake something, grow something, or just have some fun.

Come along and support the Village show!

Schedules and Entry forms will be available from the Village Stores or downloaded from the show website uptonstleonardsshow.com

Programme of Events on the day

- 2.00p.m. GATES OPEN
- 2.45p.m. FAMILY DOG SHOW*
- 3.15p.m. DOG MOST LIKE ITS OWNER*
- 4.15p.m. PRIZE GIVING

Also throughout the day:

- BOUNCY CASTLE
- TEDDY TOMBOLA
- FACE PAINTING
- PLUS MANY STALLS

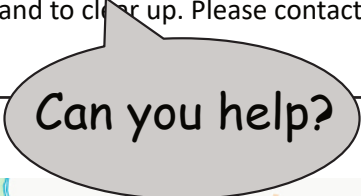
Please can winners from 2022 return their trophies before the end of July to Kate Brooks

* Family Dog show classes, £1 per entry, on the day:

- ▷ Best bitch
- ▷ Best dog
- ▷ Dog with the waggiest tail

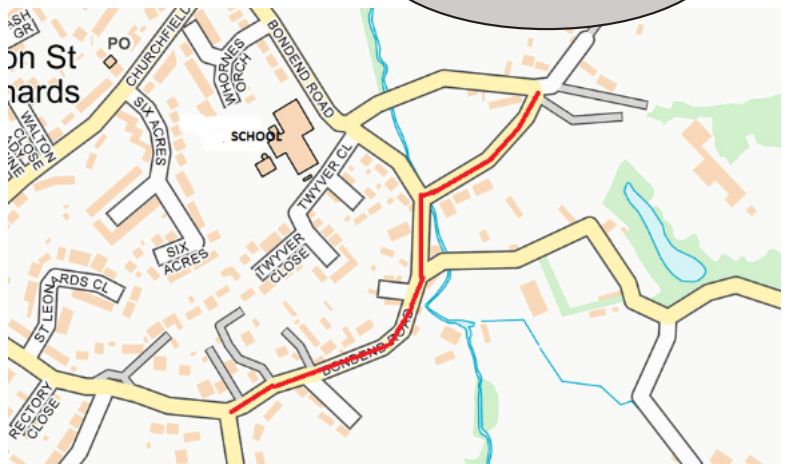
* Dog most like its owner, 50p entry on the day

We would be pleased to receive any donations towards the teddy tombola and the bottle stall and cakes for the refreshments. We will need volunteers to help set up on the Friday and Saturday, and to clear up. Please contact Kate Brooks.



ROAD CLOSURES IN JULY - BONDEND ROAD & BONDEND LANE

Further road closures are planned in July in Bondend Road and Bondend Lane, this time for Virgin Media to renew their cables. The dates published are from 25 July to 31 July, and the sections affected are Bondend Road from The Stanley to Bondend Lane, and in Bondend Lane from Bondend Road to Home Farm. See the map on the right.



Focus on a local business

DJH Home Services

See the DJH advertisement on page 13



Dave Holder's DJH Home Services is a single person building and decorating business. Dave has been advertising with us for many years now, and in that time he has gradually built up a reputation in the Village for his caring attitude and attention to detail. He holds an HNC in building and design technology. When his jobs, kitchen and bathroom fitting, decorating, for example, need it, he brings in friends who are qualified electricians and plumbers. Favourite part of any job for him is the decorating, making the whole look at its very best. He's always keen to help and advise customers on



choice, and often makes suggestions on the designs. He's a very caring person, taking trouble to meet his customer's wishes. The illustrations show, on the left, making best use of a small bathroom space, and on the right Dave himself, in a room he decorated, showing floor tiles - he's proud of those!

The new houses at Bowden Hall Farm

As you will almost certainly have seen, building is now going ahead on the plot of land within the Bondend 'loop'. We felt readers might like to see the site plans. There are due to be 15 dwellings built: 1 x 5 bed detached, 3 x 4 bed detached, 1 x 3 bed detached, 8 x 3 bed, 2 x 2 bed. If you want to look at the various planning permission documents on the Stroud District website, look for reference S.13/1844. Planning permission was first applied for in 2013! Shown here is the 2013 layout plan, and while we believe this is still the proposed site layout, things may have changed slightly.



FOOTBALL - News of changes at the club

USL AFC will enter the 2023/24 season with two senior men's sides and two boys' sides.

This is possible following a merger with another local club, Robinswood Athletic. COVID and the cost of living crisis has affected grassroots football across the county and we need to be proactive to ensure that USL AFC, who were formed in 1919, are not impacted by these events and that we are around for another hundred years! The name will remain as Upton St Leonards and all games will be played at the Rec.

The two men's sides will play in the Stroud & District Football League. The U13s will play on a Sunday afternoon in the Cheltenham Youth League and the U16s will play on a Saturday morning in the Severn Valley Youth League.

With a new look management team and club committee, the future is looking bright for the club.

Pre-season training for the senior sides on Tuesdays at the Rec has started. If anyone is interested in joining any of our teams, adult or youth, please get in contact.

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Guest Suite to rent in USL



Newly available: Delightful ground floor Guest Suite. Central to the village. Lovely views. Private parking. Perfect for visitors whatever their needs. No dogs. For details call 01452 621741 or 07815 197375.



View from the french windows

St Leonard's Church

Website

www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Services for July

2 nd July	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
9 th July	10.00 am	Holy Communion
16 th July	10.00 am	Holy Communion
23 rd July	10.00 am	Holy Communion
30 th July	10.00 am	Morning Worship led by the Flourish team



Churchwarden: Gill Howell

**Church Administrator:
Jenny Cunningham**

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Downey

Vacancy Update

From Revd Ali Mepham, Diocese of Gloucester

The PCC recently met with the Archdeacon of Gloucester, Hilary Dawson, our Assistant Area Dean Sarah Todd, and me, to discuss the next steps for the appointment of a priest to serve the parish.

We are immensely grateful for the interim ministry of Philippa Donald and the work she has done in the parish, not only in supporting the ministry here, but in enabling frank and open conversation about the future. All this has been happening at a time of much change as the whole diocese has been exploring, through a strategic review in every deanery, how to be the Church in our communities with the challenges that face us.

Following conversations emerging from this deanery review and Philippa's interim ministry in Upton, a process will begin to enable the two benefices of Hucclecote and Upton to begin working together, informally in the first instance. This will help to enable long term sustainability and build on long standing relationships.

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Group, which is responsible for approving all clergy posts, met last week and endorsed the appointment of a half-time priest based in Upton. As the parishes of Hucclecote and Upton St Leonards begin working more closely together this will mean there will be one full time and one half time priest across the two parishes.

In addition, Gloucester City Deanery is exploring external funding for a 0.5 youth work facilitator for the deanery. It is possible that this could be combined with the 0.5 post for Upton and Hucclecote, which would link well to the work that is already happening in this part of the deanery.

June 500 Club Winners

1st Prize £30.00 No. 59

2nd Prize £20.00 No. 19



Whilst the 0.5 appointment is being made, Upton will continue to receive care and support from deanery and diocesan colleagues, including me.

Revd Ali Mepham

The notice below recently caught my attention in a churchyard in Studley, Warwickshire

Welcome to our churchyard

We hope you find peace and time for reflection here. This churchyard is managed by a group of volunteers with sympathy for all God's creation so that it can be attractive to people as well as plants and animals. Parts of this churchyard are mowed regularly, other parts are cut once or twice a year to allow flowers to grow and animals and birds to flourish. In order to maintain a natural environment we ask families and visitors to remember their loved one with real flowers and not artificial ones.

Thank you.

Our churchyard is also managed entirely by volunteers and without them the churchyard would look not only a mess but also un-cared for, which would then reflect badly on our beautiful church. During the pandemic and all the social restrictions imposed on us the churchyard became a safe and restorative haven for walkers and a place where it was somewhere to speak and converse with a volunteer and for some the only chance to talk to a real person whilst observing a respectable and safe social distance. For me personally I welcomed the opportunity to talk to the passers by and hope they too welcomed the opportunity to have a conversation. The churchyard is a precious extension of our church and provides a wonderful place to walk through to enjoy the natural world in all its glory and I say a big thank you to ALL the

volunteers who help to keep our churchyard looking so beautiful.

You may concur with the current mantra "No Mow May" but I'd say "fine" but who's going to then help bring it back to being manageable again?? Oh yes, the volunteers of course! It was a real challenge in May to get a first cut done and those who walk regularly through the churchyard will have seen how rampant the grass has grown this year especially the buttercups. There are parts of the churchyard which do enable flowers to grow such as forget-me-nots, cow parsley, bluebells and many more. There has also been a glorious abundance of cyclamen and primroses earlier in the year. However with the constant rain in the spring it was really difficult to get going again until recently and with the extra willing help from the Footpath Volunteers we have been able to gradually get on top of the grass. Unfortunately it's not possible to have cows grazing in the churchyard despite the Biblical reference in Psalms 104 v14 "He makes grass grow for the cattle." Instead we rely on our wonderful volunteers so I say once again a big thank you to ALL



Sheila Thomas

Sheila Thomas



Thank you!

To the many dog walkers who 'pick up' after their dogs as they pass through our churchyard



Please

Can we ask you to dispose of it elsewhere and not in our bins or grounds

The bins are emptied by our volunteers into their own composting / garden waste bins as collection by the council isn't available to us, all of your 'poo' bags have to be removed and disposed of before this can happen!



We love our helpers. Please help us to take care of them!

Safe Spaces
is an independent and confidential support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can support you.

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WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK

Raise the Roof



Forthcoming Events

Church Open Day

Saturday September 2nd

And Sunday 3rd on the green

More details below

**Roof Fund
Raised so far
£5556**



Ever wondered what it would be like to be able to ring Church bells

English Style?

Why not join us at our regular practice events to find out how: have a go and discover if you would enjoy a new experience for an original 'life skill'

Upton St Leonards Parish Church has the loveliest sounding peal of 8 bells in Gloucestershire and one of the warmest welcomes.



Wednesday 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

(tower door entrance)

An English tradition that can always do with more ringers, new and returning. Others who have recently started ringing at our tower will tell you: come along to ask them.

Ages from 9 to - any age

(u18 accompanied)

Contact: Charlie

Please take the opportunity to come and have a good look around your lovely village church

You can be sure of a warm welcome

Pop over the road and have a cup of tea/ coffee and cake in our refurbished Old School Room

We are (of course) trying to raise money for a new roof, essential to keep this building in good repair for future generations to enjoy. This will be your chance to see how we're getting on and our plans, hopes and dreams for the future.

Sunday 3rd Harvest Festival

On the green

Come and join in, we look forward to seeing you

(Further information in August magazine)



Friday July 14th

7.00 pm in the Church

Ukulele Band

&

TLC Choir

£8.00 (to include glass of Pimms)



Mothers Union

We welcomed Paul Hobbs to our May meeting; he is a Christian artist living locally and his work proved to be both fascinating and illuminating. At first the images he showed us were of ordinary everyday items, a dartboard, road signs and a collection of shoes but with his insight and guidance we were able to discover the Christian concepts hidden within the artwork. It was very thought provoking and some of our members visited his exhibition in St Mary's Church, Bibury over the Spring Bank Holiday to see further examples of his work.

On Saturday 1st July we will be joining other members from all over the Diocese for a Festival Service at St Mary's Church, Charlton Kings at 2pm. Banners, including our own will be displayed as we are all getting a little long in the tooth to process with them! Please contact me if your need help with transport



The next meeting is on Thursday 20th July is our annual "Bring and Share" Lunch to be held in the Old School Room in Upton at 1pm. **Please note the change of venue** as St Oswald's will be holding their Food Bank lunch on that day

Kate Gale - Branch Leader



If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or any other reason, please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details.



Children's Corner

Story

The Old Testament

Book of Genesis, Chapter One.

In the beginning, there was nothing; everything was formless, and darkness covered the surface of everything. Only God existed. One day, God commanded that there should be light, and the light was created. On the first day of creation, God made night and day. On the second day, God created the sky to separate the waters.

On the third day, the creation of land and sea took place. He also commanded that the land produce vegetation and seed-bearing plants, and that they must all multiply according to their own kind. On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars, in order to serve as markers for the day, the night, the years, and the sacred times. On the fifth day, God created all the living creatures in the sea and the air, and commanded that they should multiply according to their own kinds.

On the sixth day, the creation of all the land animals was done, and he commanded them all to go forth and multiply across the earth, according to their own kind. Then, he formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. From the rib of the man, he created the woman, and he gave man and woman authority over all the earth.

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid?

s	d	p	r	t	q	w	s	l	s
w	e	h	r	n	q	s	a	p	e
a	k	e	j	e	e	u	r	q	l
s	j	y	s	n	t	o	r	b	p
h	h	b	d	i	p	e	e	h	i
i	u	o	r	h	r	d	n	i	c
n	o	d	e	p	a	a	y	d	s
g	s	t	r	a	e	h	h	o	i
s	c	r	i	b	e	s	t	P	d
i	z	y	J	e	s	u	s	l	j

Pharisees
scribes
disciples
goodness
pretend
washing
hearts
ritual
prophet
Jesus

God was pleased by all that He created, and on the seventh day, God rested.

Moral: God is all-powerful and created all that exists.

Angel of God, my Guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here;
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard,
To rule and guide.
Amen.



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There is an article on DJH Home Services on page 6

Arts Page

This month was called QUINTILUS until Julius Caesar became powerful in Rome and changed the name to JULY in his honour. Although conflict played a large part in the Roman Empire, it was also a period of great poets whose works have been translated from Latin by other poets. In this Arts Page we feature poems by Quintus Horatius Flaccus known as Horace, Gaius Valerius Catullus known as Catullus and Publius Vergilius Maro known as Virgil.

HAPPY THE MAN by Horace, translated by John Dryden (1631 – 1700)

Happy the man, and happy he alone,
He, who can call today his own:
He, who secure within, can say
Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.
Be fair or foul or rain, or shine,
The joys I have possessed, in spite of fate are mine.
Not heaven itself upon the past has power;
But what has been, has been, and I have had my hour.

EPILOGUE by Horace, translated by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 – 1894)

Go little book, and wish to all
Flowers in the garden, meat in the hall,
A bin of wine, a spice of wit,
A house with lawns enclosing it,
A living river by the door,
A nightingale in the sycamore.

WHERE'ER YOU WALK by Virgil, translated by Alexander Pope (1688 – 1744)

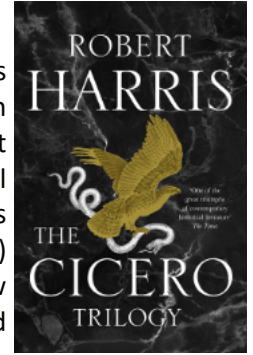
Some god conduct you to these blissful seats,
The mossy fountains and the green retreats!
Where'er you walk, cool gales shall fan the glade,
Trees, where you sit, shall crowd into a shade,
Where'er you tread, the blushing flowers shall rise,
And all things flourish where you turn your eyes.

GIVE ME A THOUSAND KISSES by Catullus, translated by William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850)

Then come, with whom alone I live,
A thousand kisses take and give,
Another thousand - to the store
Add hundreds – then a thousand more.

BOOK REVIEW

The Cicero Trilogy by Robert Harris published (2021), has been described as “one of the great triumphs of contemporary historical literature”. It combines three books – Imperium (2009), Lustrum (2010) and Dictator (2015) – which follow the life of a Roman lawyer and philosopher, Marcus Tullius Cicero, to the role of Consul, disputes with his political rival, Julius Caesar, and conflict with Mark Antony leading to Cicero's assassination in 46 BC. Cicero defended the Roman Republic fiercely in his writing and speeches to the Senate. His political beliefs lost favour and Imperial Rome followed the fall of the Roman Republic in 31 BC. These books are novels and not works of history and we recommend them to you and would welcome your reviews.

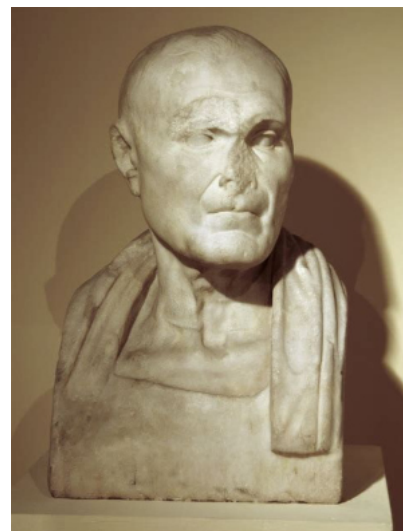


EPIGRAMS

Cicero : A room without books is like a body without a soul.

Horace : No poems can live long or please that are written by water drinkers.

Julius Caesar : Veni, Vidi, Vici – I came, I saw, I conquered. (Is this the best slogan ever created?)



This is possibly a contemporaneous bust of Virgil, but there are no confirmed likenesses of any of the poets mentioned

Feature Article

This is the second of the articles written by Jane Read on Ivor Middlecote's memories. The first appeared in the April issue this year.



Here are a few more of Ivor's general memories of living in Upton plus a few of his memories of what it was like during the Second World War.

The Middlecote family were Methodists and attended services at Wesleyan Chapel with the youngest children going to the nearby Sunday School. The Chapel was situated on the corner of what is now Perry Orchard and the High Street. I found it interesting to discover Upton St Leonards had both a church and a chapel and, I wonder if anyone has a photograph of the chapel they would like to share? (*Ed: See USL Life May 2019, on the website*)

As a young man one of Ivor's first jobs was to deliver newspapers to Upton households but before he could do this he had to ride his bike to Gloucester Railway Station so he could collect the newspapers. Later he had a job with Brigadier Patsy Pagan at Belmont House, Upton Hill as under gardener to Frank White. Also during the time Ivor lived in Upton he worked as a drover for Farmer Jackson who worked the farm near Bowden Hall and, needed his cows and calves moved from Painswick to Upton. According to Ivor "it was easy as the roads were

quiet and they walked up through the plantations and down Upton Hill"; I think Ivor's definition of easy is vastly different than mine! He mentioned that one of his older brothers worked for as a carpenter for W T Nichols, a local building contractor.

It is only in more recent years that a bus has come through the village. When Ivor was growing up, the closest it got was the Kings Head. The landlord at the time was a thoughtful or a shrewd business man because he allowed people to leave their bikes in his barn when they took the bus into town.

During the war the Middlecote's next door neighbours (the Reads) built an air raid shelter in their back garden which, thankfully, was only needed a couple of times. Once, a bomb exploded, without any real damage, close to Whitley Court. Another time a barrage balloon was shot down near Whitley Court with a second being shot down in field opposite where the primary school is now. Some of the villagers were watching and thought they'd witness lots of action but luckily that wasn't the case. To Ivor and his siblings' amusement the lady next door to them came running outside, then instantly turned tail and ran back inside screaming. The following day found children out searching for spent cartridges. Ivor said the "squaddies" billeted on Nuthill were amazing, and very accepting of him and his friends being on Nuthill too. The squaddies manned a Bofers anti-aircraft gun and Browning machine guns whereas over on Belmont Hill there was a 3.7in AA battery.

Other memories include being invited to the squaddies hut to play bingo along with members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). Army Cadet training took place in the village hall and was led by a variety of people including Captain Peacey and Bill Gardener; Bill taught self-defence. And with Upton being as friendly and welcoming then as it is now the BMI welcomed the servicemen stationed locally, foregoing the usual membership rules and fees.

Thanks to Ivor for sharing his memories and to his daughter, Wendy, for contacting USL Life.

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JULY

3	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion	2.00pm
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
4	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
4	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
4	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00pm
4	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00pm
5	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
5	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
5	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
5	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
8	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
9	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts	10.00am
10	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
10	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
10	Mon	Copy date for August issue of USL Life		
11	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
11	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
11	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
11	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00pm
11	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00pm
12	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00am
12	Wed	Bell Ringing Practise.....	Church.....	7.30pm
12	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
12	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
14	Fri	Ukulele Band concert - Roof Fund Raiser.....	Church.....	7.00pm
16	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts	10.00am
17	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
19	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
18	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
18	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00pm
18	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00pm
19	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
19	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
19	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
19	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
20	Thu	History Group – AGM and a talk on a personality of Upton’s past	Village Hall	7.45-9.15pm
23	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts	10.00am
24	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
25	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
25	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
25	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
25	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00pm
25	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00pm
26	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
26	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
26	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
27	Thu	Craft Club	Old School Room	10.00-12.00pm
30	Sun	Sunday lunchtime Jazz - cancelled		

AUGUST

7	Mon	Breast Cancer Tea, chat & raffle.....	Old School Room	2.00pm
7	Mon	No Parish Council meeting in August		
9	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00am
10	Thu	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
10	Thu	Upstagers – Murder Mystery	Village Hall	7.30pm
11	Fri	Upstagers – Murder Mystery	Village Hall	7.30pm
12	Sat	Upstagers – Murder Mystery	Village Hall	7.30pm
12	Sat	Pig Roast.....	BMI	7.00pm
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Thu	Craft Club	Old School Room	10.00-12.00pm

SEPTEMBER

2	Sat	Flower Festival & Gift Day.....	Church.....	10.00-4.00pm
3	Sun	Harvest Festival, Flower festival & Gift Day.....	Village Green & Church.....	10.00-4.00pm
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion	2.00pm
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	17.30pm

9	Sat	Upton Show	Village Hall	2.00pm
10	Sun	Copy date for October issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
16	Sat	Autumn Quiz	BMI	8.00pm
17	Sun	Sunday lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.00pm
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
20	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00am
21	Thu	Craft Club	Old School Room	10.00-12.00pm
23	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm

Contact Paula Quinn to get an event mentioned in the diary

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
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 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Seniors Fitness	Thursdays 9.30am	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
Tai Chi	Thursdays 10.00	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

CRICKET CLUB REPORT - DYNAMOS - STEVE GREGG MEMORIAL GAME - 2nd XI SUCCESS

DYNAMOS is a franchise organised by the England and Wales Cricket Board to get youngsters aged 7 to 11 along to cricket grounds, and the cricket club is running it. The Cricket Board supplies colourful T-shirts, flags, banners and playing equipment and provides training for the volunteer adults that run it, and lots of short game-type activities. It is great fun (indeed that is the emphasis - make cricket fun). Every Thursday evening through May, June and most of July we have had up to 35 youngsters enjoying themselves running around and picking up cricket skills. Most of these girls and boys go on to play for the club.

At the end of May there was a big "Club Day". This was organised by the Gregg family in memory of Steve Gregg, who set up our Junior Section back in 1989. Many of the lads he trained turned up to play or watch, joined by many other past and present players and their families. It was a great day, and something like £1300 profit on bar and BBQ sales went into club funds. Steve died in February this year. One of his sons still plays regularly for the club.

We are about halfway through the playing season. Top team in terms of success is the Saturday 2nd XI, played 6, won 6 at the time of writing. Last season they won just 2 games and were relegated. Looks like they are going straight back up. The Saturday 1st XI is mid-table in its Division. Wins are a bit of a scarcity among the other teams: Wed XI, U15, U13, U11, U9, but every team has won at least one game.



On the back page is a picture from Dynamos

The photo on the left illustrates one of the proudest moments for the club, in 1994. Steve Gregg, on the right, coached and managed an Under 16s team which was unbeaten in all competitions, local, and county. The team went on to represent Gloucestershire in the Midlands knock-out cup and won. (In the next year, Steve's U16 team repeated the success, but the Midlands final was rained off and no alternative date could be found, so USL had to settle for a share of the trophy.)

CHRISTOPHER STOCK

It is with sadness we report the death of Chris Stock, of Six Acres. Chris had been ill for many years, but kept going through it all very cheerfully, even joking about how there was nothing left for the surgeons to remove of his gut when he was about to go in to hospital for the next of many operations. He lived in Upton since the 1980s, a solicitor, working latterly for the Crown Prosecution Service. He was a very talented actor on the stage with the Upton Players and worshipped at the Village Church. A kind, gentle, generous and funny man, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

His funeral will be at St Leonard's Church on Monday 3 July at 2pm.

UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office, The Village Hall, Bondend Road

PERRY ORCHARD ALLOTMENT MANAGER VACANCY

The Parish Council is seeking to appoint a new Voluntary Allotment Manager for the Perry Orchard Allotments. The role is to act as the Allotment Manager, duties include ensuring the site is maintained to a high standard, reporting issues of non-compliance to Parish Clerk, reporting any maintenance issues to the Clerk and carrying out allotment inspections, together with the Chair of Allotments. You will also be asked to show new tenants plots. Finally, you will be asked to maintain an allotment database – training on all of the role will be provided.

Volunteer wanted!

If you are interested, please feel free to contact the Clerk, Roy Balgobin via the email: uslclerk@btinternet.com

ABBEYDALE GARDEN CLUB

Members of the AGC were encouraged to create their own floral designs by using foliage and flowers from their own gardens (where possible). Instructions and ideas were issued prior to Monday's meeting on 19th June and Mair David, our Treasurer, demonstrated a number of different techniques to help the group with their own floral displays. The results were very impressive and varied as you can see from the photograph over the page.

TREVOR and RACHEL HALL celebrated their 69th Wedding Anniversary in early June.

Congratulations to them. Truly remarkable. Can any couple in the Village match that?



UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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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



Barbara Swindin

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Jan Richings' Retirement after serving for 36 years at the BMI



See last month's magazine for an appreciation of Jan's long service at the BMI. The pictures show Chairman Keith Pearson bidding her farewell, and on the right a truly magnificent cake! (Made by villager Clare Foster of Clara's Cakes)

Cricket Club: Some DYNAMOS - kids & parents, just getting started, see the article on page 18.

Abbeyle Garden Club: Floral displays arranged by members at their June meeting. See the article on page 19.

