# Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 22

June 2016



# VILLAGE DAY!

# SAT JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>

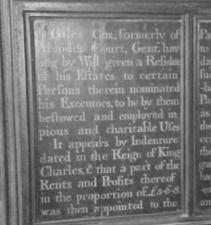
Let's make this even better than last year's!

Don't miss the Parade, the Maypole Dancing, the Morris Men, the exhibits, displays and stalls, etc. etc.

For a full timetable and list of things to do and see turn to page 4



Please note that Bondend Road, from the Church to Perry Orchard and beyond, will be closed for the Village Day - details on page 4



Parith of Upton S Lectured, to be paid Yearly on thei day of May, for the Relief of fuch poor labouring Houlesholders, dwelling in the faid Parith, both Men and Woucen as thould frand in molt need thereof, and who do not reective Relief from the reli of the Inhabitants, not are Beggues from Door to Door, nor haunters of Alchonfes, nor diforderly Perfons but of good and honeft Convertation.



Last Dambuster visits Upton Twyver Probus Club

It was a red letter day for the Upton Twyver Probus Club when Britain's last surviving Dambuster, Wing Commander George 'Johnny' Johnston DFM paid a visit and stayed for lunch at the BMI.

See article inside on page 2

#### A bit of Parish History

This historic notice, originating from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century consists of two thin wooden panels painted black with gold lettering. For many years it has been sited in the Vestry in the Church, where few got the chance to see it. It will now be mounted in the main part of the Church - do go and have a look. Read more about it on page 6.

### What's been happening in Upton?

#### Last Dambuster visits Upton Twyver Probus Club

Squadron Leader George 'Johnny' Johnson DFM was brought to the club by his daughter, from his home near Bristol.

A sprightly 93 year old, Johnny kept club members captivated by his 40 minute talk about the raid in 1943 when he was a bomb aimer on board one of 617 Squadron's Lancasters.

The aim of the daring mission was to destroy Nazi Germany's hydroelectric dams with revolutionary bouncing bombs and bring millions of gallons of water crashing down on essential munitions factories.

Johnny's plane was one of five tasked with bombing the Sorpe dam near Germany's industrial Ruhr Valley. Sadly his was the only plane to reach the dam and it took 10 runs before Johnny was satisfied that he could drop the bomb with the maximum degree of accuracy.

When the bomb fell the plane was only 20 feet above the water and had to climb steeply to avoid surrounding hills. The dam crumbled at the top but it had been estimated that all five bombs would have been needed to have effected a breach.

Elsewhere other Lancaster bombers from 617 Squadron had successfully breached the Moehne and Eder dams

causing chaos in the farmlands and industrial areas downstream.

During his visit to Upton Johnny had two 'wing' men to ensure his safety - both former RAF personnel - Martin Henshaw and Bill Beedie.

At the end of his visit, club president Ormonde Collet presented Johnny with a picture of the 617 Squadron's RAF crest.



Johnny Johnson (right) with Ormonde Collet and Derek Allen (left)

A copy of the crest signed by Johnny will hang in the BMI bar as a permanent reminder of a memorable visit and of a remarkable man.

John Lovell, Secretary UTPC

#### **LOCAL ELECTIONS - THANKS**

Keith Pearson writes: "I would like to thank all the residents of Upton St Leonards who voted for me once again to secure another term as your District Councillor. I will endeavour, as always, to represent you all, whether you voted for me or not, in the best possible way. I will look after the interests of everyone in the District."



#### The BAI Club (Est 1898)

Bondend Road Upton St Leonards

Members Club, new members welcome. Two bars, wide screen TV with Sky/BT Sports. Snooker /Pool Tables.Skittle Alley. Regular entertainment nights. Function room hire.

Annual Fee £10 plus £5 joining fee. Senior Citizens half price

To join just call in and see Alec our Steward for details. Open Mon-Fri lunchtimes & evenings. Sat-Sun Open all day. http://www.bmiclub.co.uk/ Tel. 01452 616384 Hill Farm Cottages Upton Hill, Upton St Leonards, GL4 8DA

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# What's been happening in Upton ...



#### Gloucestershire Batsman Will Tavare opens the Cricket Nets

The Cricket Nets were formally opened on May 5<sup>th</sup> by Gloucestershire batsman Will Tavare. He was accompanied by representatives from some of the organisations which gave grants towards the cost. The picture shows Will, second from left, with Rob Warnes, one of our newly qualified coaches, and two of the Under-13 team players.

Since they were completed, the nets have been well used - beyond the Cricket Club's expectations. Simon Harkin, club chairman says, "It has been great to see adults and lads out in large numbers. The nets give a much needed boost to what we can offer as a club, and are an

essential part of our plans to grow, bring more cricket to Upton and particularly to young players in the area." One school has already started to use the nets regularly, and a County squad of disabled cricketers will be using them.

The Club received grants from Upton St Leonards Parish Council, Gloucestershire County Council's "Active Together" scheme, the Summerfield Trust, the Allchurches Trust, the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust and the England and Wales Cricket Board. A number of donations were received from people hearing about the nets in this newsletter and the local press, and Club members themselves raised well over £1500 through increased fees, social events etc. The Lady Downe Trust and the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cricket Association have helped with the cost of training coaches.



#### Meet Lianne Hiscock

Lianne has been the Police **Community Support Officer for** the area for a while now. She is based at the Barton Street Station. Lianne regularly attends the Parish Council meetings to report on crime and policing in the area.

The February statistics, the latest available on the web, show there were 4 burglaries in the Village. There are thieves about! Please take care to lock up, don't leave valuables in plain view. Now is a prime time for theft of power garden tools. Is your shed secure?

To report a non-emergency crime or incident:

- Call 101, or
- E-mail 101@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk or
- Go to www.gloucestershire.police.uk and fill in a form there.







#### David Cridland Contracting

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# Village Day 11 June

VILLAGE DAY TIME ABLE VILLAGE DAY TIME TABLE 12pm - Bondend Road CLOSED from the Church end to The Stanley

> 12.30 - School Children, Morris Men, Giants, Dragon and the rest of the procession assemble at the top of Dirty Lane

> > 1pm - Procession sets off to the Village Green led by our Queen for the day

(1pm - Road closure moves up to Perry Orchard)

1.30 - Last registration for dog classes

1.35 - Our Queen Eleanor proclaims the Village Day Open

1.40 - Maypole Dancing with the School Children Followed By the Morris Men

1.45 - Last registration for children's races

2pm - Dog Show starts

2.30 - Children's races start

2.30 - Punch and Judy Show

3.30 - Punch and Judy Show

4pm - Prizes awarded and Raffle Draw

4.30 - Village Day Ends

5pm - Bondend Road reopens for vehicles

7.30 - Dancing in the Village Hall (Ticket only, available from Carol Evans 849350)



We need your help to make village day a bigger success than last year. If you can spare donations of cakes for refreshments, books for the book stall or prizes for the tombola stall or even lend a hand yourselves on the day . . .

Please contact Carol Evans 849350 or Keith Pearson 617349

### ... and on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June ... The Church flower exhibition continues

- Come along with your friends to the BMI to view the TV coverage of the Queen's celebrations on one of the large screens. There will be hot dogs and beefburgers available on the day.
- © "Songs of Praise" on the Village Green, with Gloucester Brass, at 6pm

# Village Day

Things to see and do!

- Watch the Parade
- $\square$  Celebrate the 90th birthday of HRH Elizabeth II
- Say hello to our own Village Queen for the Day, Queen Eleanor
- $\hfill\square$  Watch the Maypole Dancing and the Morris Men
- $\square$  Visit the Church to see the Flower Exhibition (see below)
- Royal Exhibition
- Pantastic Band
- □ Raffle Top Prize is a 32" TV
- Dog Show
- 🗆 Magician
- Reptile Display
- Scarecrow competition

- Stalls and Games
- Have a Pimms!
- Children's Races
- $\square$  Painting Exhibition
- $\square$  Cakes and Tea in the Hall
- 🗆 Hot Dogs
- 🗆 Disco Dome

### Then finish the day at the dance in the Village Hall!

ST LEONARDS CHURCH presents

A QUEEN'S TEA PARTY FLOWER EXHIBITION

CHURCH OPEN Saturday 11th June 2-5pm

Sunday 12th June 2-5.30pm



COME AND JOIN US FOR DANCING and a PLOUGHMANS SUPPER On 11TH JUNE VILLAGE DAY EVENING

7.30PM - 11.30PM

Tickets available from Carol Evans 849350 61 Perry Orchard £10

## From the WIs

#### **BEETLES, CHIPS and TWIDDLEMUFFS!**

**Upton WI** had a "social" evening. Fish and Chips were served, and the evening finished with a fast and furious game of Beetle. In between food and hilarity there was some serious business discussing resolutions being put to the annual WI conference.

The fashion show was a great success and made over £400. The beading workshop was also a success. Upton WI will be organising a canal trip in August to include a cream tea.

Upton WI is sponsoring a class at the Village Show in September: "Knit a Twiddlemuff", all entries to be donated to Carers UK. A Twiddlemuff is a knitted muff with embellishments on it inside and out to keep restless hands occupied. People with dementia find these therapeutic. A pattern is available.

#### ALL THINGS TEA, and STRAWBERRIES

Speaker Margaret Walker told **Twyver WI** about her vast collection of teapots, teacups, teaspoons and boxes of various teas. Her passion on all aspects of tea making and paraphernalia was infectious, and she insisted that the best results were still achieved by using



loose leaf tea in a fine bone china teapot.

At the June meeting strawberries and wine will be served and the speaker will be Jenny Eastwood, who will talk about 'Inspiring Women'. Visitors are most welcome

#### May local election results

Martin Surl (Independent) was re-elected for another term as Police Commissioner for Gloucestershire.

Nigel Cooper, Julie Job and Keith Pearson (all Conservative) were elected as District Councillors for the new combined Painswick and Upton St Leonards ward. (The turnout in Painswick and Upton was about 43%.)



... and of course on June 23 we have that referendum ...

#### PARISH HISTORY - The Notice (pictured on page 1)

Giles Cox, formerly of Ablodes Court, Gent; having by Will given a Residue of his Estates to certain Persons therein nominated, his Executors to be by them bestowed and employed in pious and charitable uses.

It appears by Indenture dated in the reign of King Charles 1st that a part of the Rents and Profits thereof in the proportion of £3.6.8 was appointed to the



Parish of Upton St Leonard, to be paid yearly on the 1st day of May, for the Relief of such poor labouring House-holders, dwelling in the said Parish, both Men and Women as should stand in most need thereof, and who do not receive Relief from the rest of the Inhabitants, nor as Beggars from Door to Door, nor haunters of Alehouses, nor disorderly Persons; but of good and honest conversation.



The text on the panels is transcribed (left) with modern lettering. The frame is more recent, but the painted panels, with that style of lettering and reference to Charles the First, are likely to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Giles Cox set up about 25 similar charities in villages in Gloucestershire. The Giles Cox charities were all wound up in recent years.



### Your Parish Council

At the 5<sup>th</sup> May elections there were only 9 candidates for the 10 seats on the Parish Council, so all candidates were elected without a contest. The members of the Parish Council are therefore:

**Keith Pearson** David Hunt Peter Wilson **Roy Roberts** 

**Chrissie Castle** Graham Haves **Hilary Morris** Rose MacLachlan

Paul Long

Clerk to the Parish Council: **Roy Balgobin** Phone 621688 Email uslclerk@btinternet.com Roy is usually in the clerk's office in the Village Hall on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8.30-11am

# Parish Council Annual Report 2016

# **Keith Pearson:**

I heartily thank all members of the Council for their hard work during the past year.

We lost the services of Helen Webster from Coopers Edge, so we really could do with someone from that area of the Parish to come forward to join the Council.

Last summer the Village had its first "Village Day", which was organised by a small Committee led by Carol Evans. Thanks to all for a job well done. This year's Village Day is arranged for the day of the Queen's birthday celebrations.

USL Life has been very well received and is a valuable addition to community life. Thanks to all the volunteers who produce it.

I continually get comments about the vast improvement caused by the change to the Village Green.

As reported last year, we are on the case of the Motorway noise in a big way now, involving MPs from Stroud and Tewkesbury and there is still continuous dialogue with Highways England in order to get a solution.

I have once again enjoyed the privilege of chairing an excellent Parish Council, which has the benefit of an excellent Clerk, thanks again to all.

# Pete Wilson:

efforts of our USCAN colleagues who have worked hard to maintain our footpath network (a weekly task), various flower beds and helped keep Cud Hill Common in good condition.

grazing commitment on Cud Hill and with effective this together maintenance has attracted positive responses from Natural England and **Butterfly Preservation.** 

As a Council we have kept our focus on the water courses around the village to ensure they are able to cope when rainfall is very high, together with the help of those residents whose land borders such areas.

We have sponsored several improvement projects within the village, one being re-surfacing of the footpath next to our Village Green. The other was to complete the planned work on the section between Rooksmoor and Valley Lane which connects to the footpath. This involved creating a drainage system and a dual surface access for pedestrians and horses. My thanks to David Cridland for his advice and work to improve this area.

USCAN recently organised a Litter Pick to ensure our village continues to look good.

I would like to thank all who have made a contribution over the last 12 months to keeping our village in good condition and making USL such a great in case an interim meeting is required. place to live.

#### Chairman's Report by Councillor Environment Report by Councillor Planning Report by Councillor **Chrissie Castle:**

We have continued to enjoy the This year has seen fewer formal applications, down to 32 from 52 last year. The majority of applications were for extensions or renovations to properties, the general trend being to improve rather than move.

We have also maintained our cattle There were two noticeably larger applications:

- Demolition of Prinknash Abbey and the development of a number of houses. Approval is still pending and there are continuing consultations between the developers and the District Council.
- The proposed solar farm at Rooksmoor has been refused permission, one of the reasons being the impact on the Area of **Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

The Stroud District Plan was finally adopted on 19 November 2015 and provides a positive planning policy framework for the district up to 2031. This can be viewed on the Stroud District Website under Planning and then Planning Strategy. The Parish Council would encourage parishioners to help with the process, to discuss planning applications with their district planning team and neighbours prior to any formal application especially now the new plan is in place.

Parish Planning Meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month prior to the Parish council meeting but always remember to check the Upton St Leonards Parish website

There is a list of recent planning applications on page 16

# Recreation Report by Councillor David Hunt:

Site Assessment: The Recreation Ground is generally in sound condition following a mild winter season. Our facilities were independently assessed by the Glos Playing Fields Association in Sept 2015 with the following outcome:

Site overall including Pavilion: A well looked-after site with excellent facilities for a village playing field.

Winter Sports Pitch: Pitch in need of some care and attention. Grass cover inadequate in parts. Weeds need attention. Goal posts need repainting. Evidence of litter and plastic bottles.

Cricket Pitch: Generally in good condition. Pitch outfield rough where shared with football.

Play Area: A pleasant and well maintained local playground. The goal mouth at the play goal needs some attention.

Although the overall assessment shows that our facilities and their maintenance are generally of a high standard, some items do need attention and these are being addressed by the clubs and the Parish Council.

The newly installed cricket nets have been provided by the Cricket Club with the aid of a major grant from the ECB and a contribution from the Parish Council. This excellent all weather installation is primarily for use by our home club but can be available to other organisations, by agreement, when not in use by the club.

The Parish Council has agreed that the Telecomms mast can be replaced and planning consent has been obtained. It is expected that this work will take place when the ground is dry enough to allow construction vehicles to enter the field without damage. The Parish Council obtains an annual rental from the mast which is used for expenditure on the Recreation Ground.

Noise from the M5 presents problems for Recreation Ground users particularly when SW winds are prevalent. The Parish Council is petitioning Highways England to install a low noise surface as soon as possible and to consider extending the noise barrier southwards. Clubs using the site have agreed to provide written support.

Work on the Jubilee Wildlife Area continues, to maintain an attractive walk through an area rich in wildlife with some new planting. Work will be undertaken shortly to improve the footbridge over the stream

Although in generally sound condition the Pavilion requires some upgrading. Priority will be given to the provision of new lighting in the upstairs lounge and to the provision of washable flooring in the ground floor toilets, kitchen and corridor. Thanks are extended to Andy Russell who undertakes the role of Pavilion Manager on an entirely voluntary basis, overseeing cleaning, minor works and bookings.

An increase in dog owners walking dogs on the Recreation Ground without a lead is reported. This is despite warning notices and the provision of a dog exercising (off lead) area adjacent in the Glebe field. The Parish Council is carefully monitoring the situation and considering what enforcement action might be appropriate.

The Parish Council has been able to arrange for the closure of the car park at night through the voluntary contribution made by Richard Stephenson. Due to a recent accident Richard is unable to carry out this duty at present. The Parish Council wishes Richard a speedy recovery and thanks him for carrying out the gate keeper role over many years.

#### Allotment Report by Councillor Hilary Morris:

The last year has been very successful for the allotment society. As fast as a site becomes available, particularly at Perry Orchard, it is quickly let.

The allotment managers, Peter Macey and Carol Evans, have been amazing, despite on occasions, having been put under duress from some allotment holders. Thank you very much for your hard work; it is much appreciated.

The Parish Council has received many compliments about the standard of care the allotment holders put into their plots. Perry Orchard in particular has been praised as it is in the middle of the village and gives a very good impression of how much care is given. Thank you all very much. A lot of thanks has to go to Carol Evans who goes above and beyond her duties to create a lovely happy community.

# Financial Report by Roy Balgobin:

The Council received £42,000 income, of which £28,000 was collected from the public via the precept. The remaining income came from Allotment Rental, Pavilion Hire and ground rent for the Vodafone Mast. The Council continues to spend its funds on maintaining and improving the facilities on the Recreation Ground, the Glebe Field and the Pavilion. It also carries out grass cutting and maintenance of its watercourses and its Village The Council has also Green. subsidised USL Life to ensure that it can be provided free of charge to the local residents.

The accounts have been audited and residents can ask to view them at my office (see previous page for office hours).

Rev Robbin writes this month about Vision and Goals

## Dear Fríends

We've now celebrated the major festivals of the church calendar and are about to begin another sort of celebratory season - Summer! We think about holidays and long days to enjoy warm, sunny weather. I'm particularly looking forward to kicking off the season with the USL weekend on June 11-12 and will be delighted to meet many folk at the Village Day on the Saturday and the Songs of Praise on the Green on Sunday.

Summer is often a time when we step back from "business as usual" and take stock of things. Part of that is reviewing what/where we have been and asking ourselves where we are going and who we are becoming. It is a time for setting goals and working out how to reach them. To do that effectively, we need a vision of our hoped-for future. What do we want to see ahead? We ask these questions on many levels: our own life journey, our family future, the care of creation, and the direction forward for our community and nation. In June, the UK will face a crucial question about the future in the EU Referendum on June 23. I encourage every eligible voter to give this matter careful study and reflection and to vote responsibly. To do so is both a duty and a privilege.

People of faith must ask an even deeper and more important vision question, and that is, "What is God's vision for us and how is God leading us toward it?" This question also addresses us on several levels, both personal and institutional: What is my personal calling or vocation and how do I use the particular gifts God has given me? Where is God calling the Church of England? Closer to home, Bishop Rachel has begun a process of prayer and conversation toward articulating the next steps in our journey together as the Diocese of Gloucester. A time of listening to God in prayer May 5-15 has moved into a period of conversation lasting until July 20. She has set three questions before the wider community of the diocese, whether or not they are involved in church:

- What is your impression of the Church of England in your local community?
- What is your hope or vision for your local community in the next 5 years?
- How might the Church be a part of this?

These build on the questions posed to active church members:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to us in this diocese?
- What is your dream or vision for the Church in our Diocese in 5 years' time?
- What could we do to realise this vision?

Over the next 7 weeks I and other church members will be inviting you to share your responses to these questions in informal gatherings. We really need and value your input, so I hope you'll say yes. Many thanks in advance.

Blessings,

Robbín

#### Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:		CHUR	сн с
Vacancy Rev Robbin Clark - "Transitional Consultant"	Sun 5th	8am	Hol
Churchwardens:		10am	Fan
1 Keith Robbins		12pm	Bar
2 Vacancy		p	201
PCC Secretary:	Co+ 11+h	1.0	
Roy Roberts	Sat 11th	•	
Church Treasurer:	Sat 11th	2-5pm	Chu
Vacancy			Exh
Deanery Synod Representative:	Sun 12th	10am	Cor
Dorothy Cox		2-5.30	nm (
Bell Tower Captain:		2 3.30	Exh
Roger Fry			
Mothers' Union:		6pm	Sor
Rachel Hall			
Church Cleaning Rota:	Sun 19th	10am	Cor
Claire Appleyard		6pm	Eve
Church Flower Rota:		opin	LVC
Evelyn Rumsey			-
Electoral Roll Officer:	Sun 26th	10am	Cor
Naomi Stanley-Gunn			

#### CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JUNE 8am Holy Communion - Rev Robbin Clark 10am Family Service - Rev Robbin Clark

- 12pm Baptism Rev Robbin Clark
- Sat 11th 12pm Wedding Rev Robbin Clark
- Sat 11th 2-5pm Church open for Flower Exhibition
- Sun 12th 10am Communion 4 all Rev Robbin Clark 2-5.30pm Church open for Flower Exhibition 6pm Songs of Praise, on the Village Green
- Sun 19th 10am Communion 4 all Rev David Eady 6pm Evening Service - Rachel Hall

Sun 26th 10am Communion 4 all - Rev David Eady



#### Village Day - Flower Exhibition 11 and 12 June at St Leonards

The centre of the village will be full of residents and visitors for Open Day on Saturday 11 June, and, to join in the celebrations, the Church will be open for folks to view a Flower Exhibition by the flower arrangers from St Leonards. With a wedding on the Saturday at midday, and church services on the Sunday morning, the Church will be open:

SATURDAY 11 JUNE from 2pm to 5pm and

SUNDAY 12 JUNE from 2pm to 5.30pm - then we will all go

across to the Village Green for Songs of Praise from 6pm

#### Songs of Praise on the Village Green, Sunday 12 June from 6pm

We welcome the community and neighbouring churches to our annual Songs Of Praise service on the Village Green at Upton St. Leonards on Sunday 12th June at 6pm.

This will be the third year we have all got together for an outdoor service which has proved very popular. We hope to build on our previous congregations, weather permitting - last year we had over 100 on the Green. Refreshments will be served after the service.

The singing will be led once again by Gloucester Brass, conducted by Mark Knight.



#### SONGS OF PRAISE 2015

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### "Open the Book"

Open the Book is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear major stories of the Bible during the school year. A small team regularly attend Friday morning assembly at Upton St Leonards Church of England Primary School. The same format is used every week following guidance from the handbook - an introduction, the telling and acting of the Bible story (by the team and pupils), a time for reflection and a closing prayer. Visual props and costumes are used.

David Knight said, "The school is very supportive to the team and its

Dave Knight and Mike Stratford act out a Bible story

appreciation was shown when the team was presented with balloons and a gift after presenting the 100th story to pupils".

There is a Code of Practice to follow and team members are registered with Open the Book. The Lion Storyteller Bible is used with handbooks; Open the Book asks you to keep to the 'script' as the material can be used in a Christian or Multi Faith context. St Leonards Church has hosted a training day for Open the Book teams from Gloucestershire.



Enabling every child to hear the story of the Bible at school in their primary years Editor's note: I attended an assembly at the Primary School when the "Open the Book" team was present. I was truly amazed at how much the children enjoyed it and how attentive they were to what was being said and acted.

#### Thanksgiving and celebration

#### by Shahne Vickery, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education

Each June Gloucester Cathedral opens its doors to two and a half thousand Year Six children from the C of E primary schools right across the Diocese. It's definitely my favourite week of the year but most importantly the children say that it's one of the highlights of their entire time in primary education.

The services are first and foremost a celebration. They offer a unique opportunity for children to thank God for the teachers and friends who have supported them throughout the last seven years and to pray for God's blessing on the future as it opens up before them with all its opportunities and challenges.

At each service, different schools dance, sing and share their prayers on the particular theme for the year. This time the theme is Making a Difference. We will be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday and reflecting on her amazing example of service to our nation. We'll also be considering how we will



use the gift of our own lives to change the world wherever we are.

Over the last decade the Cathedral Leavers' Services have become more and more popular and have grown in number from two to six. We are hugely grateful to the Dean and Chapter as well as the staff in the Cathedral who cheerfully accommodate all our sound equipment and screens along with technicians, and Christian actors, dancers and storytellers (this year Bob Hartman will join us) not to mention the hundreds and hundreds of children each day. Hosting these acts of worship is a massive feat of organisation and I have a very dedicated support team who will pretty much begin organising next year's services as this years' conclude on 9 June.

Please pray for all our Church schools. They touch the lives of thousands of families and offer to children an education rooted in Christian faith and values which, of all the things they experience at primary school, is the gift beyond price.

# CHURCHYARD TREES - Much work done and still more to do

We have been blessed with help from USCAN and local farmer Andrew Herring in the past month with a substantial clear out of "surplus" trees, most of which had been damaging gravestones or with "foreign" saplings growing within classic trees. At the time of writing we are still awaiting further authority from the Diocese for a small number of trees to be felled and will also be employing a professional tree surgeon for some pruning work on branches of the taller trees. The long overdue clearance work has helped restore the classic trees - particularly the yews - to health and prominence and overall has given the churchyard a much improved and clearer view - we hope you agree.



# Jpton 500 Club

The "500" Club is a very helpful fund-raiser for the Church. Monthly draws are held, with a mega £500 payout at the end of the year. You can join the Club by contacting Matt Stanley mstanley1980@hotmail.com Lucky winners in recent months are:

February draw: Clive Winstanley Kay Hutton Neil and Penny Owen Evelyn Rumsey March draw: Margaret Jones Margaret Hakim Pauline Sugdon Kay Hutton

April draw: Mike and Peggy Blanch Trevor and Rachel Hall Evelyn Rumsey Janet Carr May draw: Myra Williams Janet Fisher I James Philip and Angela Hall

#### THE BELLS WERE RINGING .....

Did you hear the Church bells ringing out on the afternoon of Saturday 14 May? They weren't playing for a wedding, nor was it just a practice. This was the six-monthly get together of the ringers from the 16 Towers in the local area. Our Tower Captain Roger Fry said, "We meet to ring each month at local churches and twice a year get together at a nominated church for a meeting and short service afterwards. There may be many ringers attending so we won't ring a particular 'peal' - it will just be ad hoc. I hope the village enjoys hearing us!"

Our Church bells are regularly rung at weddings and for practice, and we often get visiting 'bands' of ringers coming to try ours. The eight bells at St Leonards date from the 1750s and a future article will give more details of the history of the bells and the tower.

# The Cakery

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# Kids' Page The Queen



#### Queen facts:

She has two birthdays (wouldn't you like that? 2 lots of presents, 2 parties!). The Queen's actual birthday is on April 21st but she has another "official" birthday in June.

She has been monarch longer than any other British King or Queen, 64 years so far. Next longest was Queen Victoria who reigned for 63 years.

Apparently there are 9 royal thrones, one in the Houses of Parliament, two in Westminster Abbey and six in Buckingham Palace. Have you seen any of them?

She has three "official" residences: Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. She also spends time at Balmoral Castle near Aberdeen, Scotland and Sandringham House in Norfolk. Those two are her "private" residences.

Q: Where do kings and queens get crowned? A: On the head!

Q: Where does the Queen keep her armies? A: Up her sleevies.

Q: What has six legs, four ears and a suit A: A king on horseback!

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Queen? Queen who? Queen your room. It's filthy!

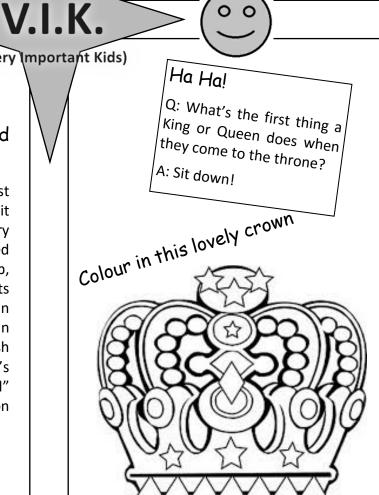
(Very Important Kids)

#### Has a King or Queen ever visited our Village?

Not in recent years. King Charles the First stayed nearby in Matson House in 1643, so it is quite likely he passed through. King Henry the Eighth and Queen Anne (Boleyn) passed through the Village in 1535 on a hunting trip,



stopping for refreshments at Prinknash. There is an avenue of trees (you can walk along it) in Prinknash Park called Henry VIII's walk. The "King's Head" pub shows his picture on its sign.



# The Way to Compostela

This month's feature article is written by Christina Caldwell

In 814 a hermit called Belavio living in the far northwest of Galicia in Spain saw that at night an intense light from the sky lit up a small field on the mountain path to Finisterre. The field was excavated and a tomb was found with the relics of St James the Elder, one of the Twelve Apostles, in a casket. No-one knows how he came to be there but legends abound including one which suggests that after Christ's death some of the Apostles travelled far and wide to spread the Good News. St James came to northern Spain and later returned to Rome. Further excavations revealed that the field had been a Christian burial ground and two of St James' disciples were also found buried there.

When in 830 King Alphonso II of Galicia commissioned a church to be built over the tomb, it was named Compostela, meaning 'Field of Stars'. For Christians of northern Spain, this began the pilgrim route known as the 'The Way to Santiago'. 'The Way' became so popular that in 899 King Alphonso III of Galicia, a patron of the Arts, started an ambitious plan to build a great basilica to St James, houses of hospitality for the pilgrims and hospitals for the weak and elderly along the path. The King wanted for his subjects a place of pilgrimage to rival Rome and Jerusalem. For centuries stonemasons, architects, scholars and artisans from all over Europe came to work at Compostela and along 'The Way'. Every city and town built their own magnificent (mainly Romanesque) Cathedrals and Churches which hosted religious services and hospitality for the pilgrims.

Today the pilgrimage route is known as 'The Camino', and it is still the same path and still done on foot with more than 200,000 walkers a year, making it the most famous pilgrimage in the world. The Camino route from Roncesvalles to Santiago, which is the one I travelled, is nearly 500 miles long, covering two mountain ranges, through spectacular scenery into villages and towns, over rivers and streams, though vineyards and orchards of peaches, apples, walnuts and chestnuts and into fields of yellow sunflowers. Each morning we set off before dawn to get as many miles behind us before the hottest part of the day. There was not much talking those early mornings, just the plod of feet on the earth under the vast dome of stars above.

As we walked and talked with other pilgrims, sharing our experiences and eating together, I found that a natural community spirit existed between us. I developed a sense of freedom in being one of the many and all the



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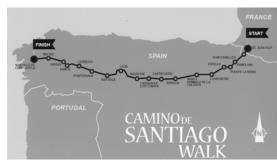
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#### The Way to Compostela ... continued



concerns of my own life gradually walked away from me as I breathed in deeply the clean mountain air and the nourishment of companionship. When days became weeks and there were more miles behind us than before us, I had an overwhelming sense of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims that had trodden the Camino for more than a thousand years: all of us sharing the same great sky above and the earth beneath our feet and our eyes looking towards the distant horizon. These thoughts were fleeting for the job in hand is always the same wherever we are, to take the next step, and I was reminded again and again of Tolkien's song in The Fellowship of The Ring:

The road goes ever on and on Down from the door where it began.

Now far ahead the Road has gone And I must follow as I can. Pursuing it with eager feet; Until it finds some larger way Where many paths and errands meet And whither then I cannot say.

Many pilgrims have a 'reason' for walking the Camino; a break between uni and starting work, coming to terms with a death or a broken relationship, finishing a prison sentence, a job or a book; enjoying the open air, the culture, cuisine or the stunning views. There are as many reasons as there are pilgrims. Once started the journey



Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

became compulsive to complete. When ended, for many of us it became the Journey of a Lifetime. For the 'me' who began the Camino at Roncesvalles was not the 'me' who arrived at Santiago de Compostela.

#### Governor Vacancy at Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School

We are currently looking for a new Co-opted Governor and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- An interest in the performance of our school
- A desire to contribute to and represent the community
- An open and enquiring mind
- The ability to look at issues objectively
- The confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- The ability to work well with others
- Time to spare

Being a governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding. You do not need to have specialist expertise or knowledge as our Governors have a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences. Enthusiasm and interest is much more important to start with and there is training and support available to help you.

If you are interested and live or work in the community served by the school, and would like more information, please leave a message at the school on 616109 or email Beth Gill, Chair of Governors at admin@upton-stleonards.gloucs.sch.uk

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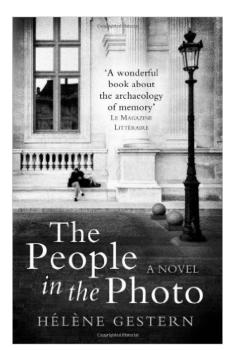
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#### **VOLUNTEER!**

# Book Review



The People in the Photo by Hélène Gestern (Roz Schwartz & Emily Boyce translators). £8.99 paperback and £6.02 Kindle download from Amazon. by Jackie Hunt

This book was recommended to me by a friend, and I enjoyed it so much that I had read it in two days and suggested it to my book club. They enjoyed it too, and I was asked to write a review for USL Life.

Hélène Gestern is a French writer, born in 1971. She lives and works in Nancy as a research teacher at the university and sits on the editorial committee dedicated to autobiographical writing. The book, her debut novel, has received a number of literary awards. It is a dark, yet moving novel, which deftly explores the themes of blame and forgiveness, infidelity and love.

The novel describes the personal journey taken by a Parisian archivist, also called Hélène, as she explores the life of her mother who died when she was just three years old.

The starting point is a newspaper advertisement she placed in order to find out about a photograph of her mother and two men in tennis whites, taken at a Swiss tournament in 1971.

Hélène knows nothing about her mother, as her father and step-mother have always refused to talk about her. Hélène receives one significant reply to the advertisement, from Stephane Crusten, son of Pierre Crusten, one of the men in the photo; she enters into a correspondence with him.

The book is built around the exchange of letters, emails and text messages, phone calls and meetings, which enable Hélène to fill in the blanks about her mother; at the same time Stephane learns about a darker side to his father.

The author provides a good example of how a photo can be dissected for clues in a research journey - even though the book is a work of fiction. I think anyone interested in researching family history would enjoy this book.

Happy reading!

# **Recent Planning Applications**

The big news on planning is that permission has been refused for the proposed solar panels at Rooksmoor.

#### APPLICATIONS:

- At the School Ref S.16/0337/FUL
  - Construction of a summerhouse within the site boundary
- Ockold stables, Upton Hill Ref S.16/0458/FUL Temporary equestrian worker's dwelling
- Ockold stables, Upton Hill Ref S.16/0459/FUL Construction of menage
- 17 Bondend Road Ref S.16/0481/FUL Erection of two detached bungalows (Replaces an earlier application)
- Beside the Shop/Post Office Ref S.16/0683/FUL Erection of a 4 bedroom detached house and associated hard and soft landscaping in disused garden/garage area. (Replaces an earlier application)

It has been a while since we last published a list of planning applications. This list covers Feb - May 2016

- Belmont House, Upton Hill Ref S.16/0617/FUL Demolition of the existing converted garage and erection of a new replacement dwelling (Revised scheme)
- 1 St Leonards Close Ref S.16/0515/HHOLD Single storey extension to the front and rear. Two storey extension to the side, and relocation of vehicular access
- 10 Churchfield Road Ref S.16/0754/HHOLD Single storey extension to rear. Two storey extensions to sides & porch with canopy to front
- The Hawthorns, Upton Hill Ref S.16/0914/HHOLD Creation of additional vehicular access to serve existing dwelling
- Manor Cottage, Portway Ref S.16/0987/HHOLD Single storey side and rear extensions and first floor side extension to provide additional living accommodation

# VILLAGE DIARY

#### JUNE

			JUNE	
1	Wed		Pavilion	
1	Wed		Village Hall Annex	
<b>1</b>	Wed	,	B.M.I	
∎ 1	Wed		Pavilion	
1	Wed	8	B.M.I	•
1	Wed		Village Hall	
1	Wed		Village Hall Annex	
∎ 2	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
2	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15a.m
6	Mon		Village Hall Annex	
6	Mon		Village Hall Annex	
6	Mon	51 1 ,	Village Hall Annex	
∎ 6	Mon	1	Village Hall	•
6	Mon	0	Pavilion	•
7	Tue		Pavilion	
7	Tue		B.M.I	
∎ 7	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
∎ 8	Wed		Pavilion	
8	Wed		Village Hall Annex	•
8	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00p.m.
8	Wed		Village Hall	
∎ 8	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I	8.00p.m.
8	Wed		Village Hall Annex	
9	Thu		Pavilion	
9	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for July issue of USL Life		
<b>■</b> 11	Sat	Village Day	Village Hall and Village Green	1.00p.m.
11	Sat		Church	
11	Sat	Village Day Dance	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
12	Sun	Television showing Queen Elizabeth's event in the	e MallB.M.I	Afternoon
■ 12	Sun	Church Flower Exhibition	Church	2.00-5.30p.m.
12	Sun	Songs of Praise	Village Green	6.00p.m.
13	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30a.m.
13	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
<b>1</b> 3	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)	Village Hall Annex	6.00-7.30p.m.
14	Tue	Needles & Pins	Pavilion	9.30-12.00p.m.
14	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
15	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I	10.00a.m.
<b>1</b> 5	Wed	Pilates	Pavilion	9.30-10.30a.m.
<b>1</b> 5	Wed	Stitchers	Village Hall Annex	10.30-12.30p.m.
15	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00p.m.
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bingo	B.M.Ī	8.00p.m.
<b>1</b> 5	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30p.m.
<b>1</b> 6	Thu		Pavilion	
16	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
20	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30a.m.
20	Mon	0	Village Hall Annex	
20	Mon		Village Hall Annex	
20	Mon		Village Hall	
21	Tue		Pavilion	
21	Tue		B.M.I.	
21	Tue	•		
■ 21 ■ 22	Wed		B.M.I.	
22	Wed			
22	Wed		Village Hall Annex	
22	Wed		Pavilion	•
∎ 22 ■ 22	Wed		Village Hall	
• 22 • 22	Wed			
22	Wed	5	Village Hall Annex	•
22 23	Thu		Pavilion	•
∎ 23 ■ 23	Thu		Village Hall Annex	
■ 23 ■ 23	Thu		Village Hall Annex	
		0	0	
27	Mon	5	Village Hall Annex	
∎ 27 ■ 27	Mon	0	Village Hall Annex	
∎ 27 ■ 27	Mon		Village Hall Annex	•
27	Mon		Village Hall	-
28	Tue		Pavilion	
28	Tue		Village Hall	
<b>Y</b> 29	Wed	Pilates		

29	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I	10.00a.m.
29	Wed	Stitchers	Village Hall Annex	10.30-12.30p.m.
29	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00p.m.
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
29	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I	8.00p.m.
29	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30p.m.
30	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15a.m.
30	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
30	Thu	Zumba	Village Hall	7.30-8.30p.m.
Regula	r weekly ev	vents not listed below this line		
		١٢	LY	
2	Sat	Summer Quiz	B.M.I	8.00p.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI	Vilage Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for August issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Wed	Ladies Probus	B.M.I	10.15a.m.
21	Thu	History Group AGM and talk "The Men from Upton at		
		The Battle of the Somme"	Village Hall	7.30-9.00p.m.
25	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Mon	Lady Down Charity Trustees meeting		
28	Thu	Get Together Club	Village Hall	2.30-4.30p.m.
		A U G	UST	
1	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Wed	Copy Date for September issue of USL Life		
13	Sat	Annual Pig Roast	B.M.I	8.00p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Thu	Get Together Club	Village Hall	2.30-4.30p.m.
31	Wed	Ladies Probus		

... And don't forget the Village Show on September 10<sup>th</sup> - mark your calendars now. Just 102 days to go! Tend those gardens and allotments, snap your snaps, knit your cardies etc.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary



Scarecrows! Have you done yours yet?

Walk around the Village to see how many you can spot.

(In case you had forgotten, as part of the Village Day, you were invited to enter a scarecrow competition, scarecrows to be displayed in front gardens. There was an entry form in May's USL Life. Judging on 4<sup>th</sup> June, prizes awarded during the Village Day)

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#### From Gill Cannon, our Village Agent

There is a big event on June 5<sup>th</sup>, "Walk in my Shoes", to celebrate Carers' Week from 6th to 12th June.

Carers in Gloucestershire last year saved the local economy an incredible £540 million!

The event takes place in Pittville Park, Cheltenham, on Sunday 5th June 2016. The event will see people from across the county swapping footwear with their family, friends and colleagues to walk a mile around the beautiful Pittville Park to show their support for local unpaid carers. Registration is £10 for adults and £5 for children which includes your 'Walk a mile in my Shoes' T-shirt and goody bag (under 16s can register for free if they don't want a T-shirt).

If you are one of the 63,000 unpaid carers and are not already in touch with Carers Gloucestershire I do urge you to contact them. In addition to providing information, advice and support in the form of groups, days out, counselling and a bespoke support line, Carers Gloucestershire also provides the "Positive Caring Programmes". These are free local sessions giving carers the opportunity to meet other carers in similar circumstances to gain and share knowledge and information. Open to all adult carers, whether you are the main carer or not, or whether you live with the person supported, or not. The sessions are run across the county both in the day and evening and are 2½ hours long. The programme covers health and well-being, emotions and stress, practicalities of caring and the possibility of respite, finance and resources, how to access support services, how to juggle caring with other demands.

As a carer, there can be additional worry about what would happen if you were to become ill yourself. That's why there is "The Emergency Carers Scheme" which works on two levels of need:

• Level 1: You nominate 2 contacts (e.g. family members, friends or neighbours) who would be willing to check on the

person you look after if you are unable to because of an accident, emergency or illness. They will then be contacted if an emergency occurs.

• Level 2: If Level 1 will not be sufficient to cover the care needs of the person you look after, Level 2 gives you the additional option of having a support worker from Crossroads Care to come in to offer the support needed, within 2 hours of the emergency call being made. If the emergency lasts longer than 48 hours then other arrangements will be made, working with Gloucestershire County Council.

Most of our local charities which focus on physical and mental health conditions will also offer more specific information to support you as a carer.

Carers Gloucestershire - Telephone: 01452 386283

<u>Gloucestershire Young Carers</u> is a support network for young carers across the county. Working with young carers it ensures that service providers understand young peoples' special needs and respond appropriately. Telephone: 01452 733060

<u>Carers UK</u> is a charity set up to help millions of people who care for family or friends. Telephone: 0808 8087777

<u>The Carers Trust</u> -A charity for, with and about carers which works to improve support services and recognition for anyone living with the challenges of caring, unpaid, for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or who has mental health or addiction problems. Telephone: 0844 800 4361

Village agent, Gill Cannon - 07776 245767 or email gcannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk or through GRCC head office 01452 528491

#### In Memoriam - David Dorn



Many Upton St Leonards villagers will remember David Dorn, who died last month in hospital in South Wales aged 74, after suffering a major heart attack.

David, an Estate Agent and Auctioneer, moved to Upton St Leonards in 1983, with his wife Catherine and their children Alex and Natalie. He soon became involved in village affairs, joining the Parish Council, on which he served as chairman of the planning sub-committee for 15 years. He was also a committee member and strong supporter of the BMI, and a member of the Village Hall management committee.

David's passions were antiques and fishing and he also had a lifelong interest in aircraft, which started as a boy when he witnessed the testing of the new jet airplanes at Brockworth Airfield. He loved the atmosphere of the antiques salesroom, and once helped in a production of The Antiques Roadshow in Nottinghamshire.

David sang tenor in the Upton Village Choir and was also a stalwart supporter of village social events, notably the 'Rent-a-Crowd' fancy dress evenings. His Kenny Everett impersonation in the 'Top-of-Pops' themed evening is still recalled by many. He will be remembered for his tolerance, good humour and undefeatable optimism (as well as for the politically incorrect jokes he circulated by email). The number of friends he made in Upton is attested by the many villagers who made the long journey to attend his Funeral in Kidwelly, South Wales. He will be much missed. Keith Ardron



## Get snapping at the Village Day!



The 2017 Spring show is <u>ages</u> away, I know, but, you see, one of the photography classes will be: "A Village Event", so what better time to put together that perfect picture and win the prize! And by the way, the other classes are: "Pretty in Pink", "View from a Gloucester Hill", "Pampered Pet" (Oh! There's another

one you can snap - at the Dog Show), "Dance to the Rhythm" (Hey - that's another one! Get near the Pantastic Band or at the evening dance), And "Shadows" (black and white).

#### UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE Web site: http://usllife.co.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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