

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 82

June 2021



Upton is Opening Up!



It is with great pleasure that we can have an issue of USL Life full of news of opening up, after 15 months of shutting down to a greater or lesser extent.

On this page and the next, and elsewhere in the newsletter, we are highlighting the openings.

MONDAY JUNE 21 is the key date, of course. As long as the timetable remains unchanged, most restrictions will be removed, at least in terms of local activities. But we are already able to do plenty that we could not do a month or so ago:



Have a meal out or a drink at our Village venues - Hatton Court, Bowden Hall, the King's Head, the BMI, and Prinknash café. Hospitality venues have been really hit by the shutdown. Do go to our local venues now you can, spend, and enjoy it! Meet up with your friends. Have your hair done at TruCuts (the salon beautifully re-decorated). Please also continue to use the Village Shop and Portway Farm shop as much as you can. Barbecue time?



St. Leonard's Church is opening up (see the church pages). Activities are restarting at the Village Hall and the Pavilion (see page 2). Sports activities are in full swing.



People visiting you can stay at the hotels, B&B and self catering places (there are quite a number in the Village, such as Little Court, pictured on the left).



Also in this issue: tree planting at the Glebe Field (page 13), a very old Village map (page 14), the School's Literature Festival (page 17),

Opening up . . .



Bingo at the BMI
Bingo will re-start on
**Wednesday
23rd June
8.00pm**
We look forward to welcoming everyone back again

Coffee Club

The Coffee Club at the BMI is planning to restart in July, and the next magazine will feature this with the details. **We know that lots of people have really missed the Coffee Club since it had to close and can't wait for it to restart. Huge thanks to Mike, Marilyn, Mandy and Gill for keeping in contact with clubbers!**

Also at the BMI:

Quiz nights, live music nights, Jazz lunches are set to return, and Brian and Lorraine will develop snack and meal menus. Details later.

In the Village Hall . . .

Most of the regular activities are returning. **This is in a limited way currently while numbers remain restricted, but will open up fully when the restrictions are lifted.** Adult regular activities so far booked in include:

- > The Tuesday afternoon **art class** restarts. The contact is Christine Hughes
- > Monday morning **Yoga** is restarting and the contact is Lara Bricknell
- > Thursday lunchtime and Friday morning **Pilates** restarts and the contact is Philippa Barker
- > The **UpStagers** weekly meetings (Wednesdays) have resumed, see a separate notice below.

- > **Badminton** is being played in the Hall again, still with restricted numbers of course for now, on Tuesday evenings. Tony Sharp.
- > The **Twyver WI** monthly meetings resume on the 2nd Monday of each month from July.

The playgroup has kept going through most of the shutdowns, initially for children of key workers but now for all. This despite funding difficulties (a grant from Lady Downe has helped) when children numbers were low..

Rainbows, Cubs, Brownies and Guides restarted actual meetings at the Hall in May.



There was drama in the village in May – the UpStagers had their first meeting in the Hall since lockdown. Plans are being made for the production of a pantomime, oh no there isn't . . . oh yes there is! It will be Dick Whittington. We welcome new members who would like to take part in entertaining the community. It is huge fun, we are a friendly group. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

In the Pavilion . . .

- > **Parish Council Meetings** will resume “live” on Monday 5 July.
- > Monday 5 July in the afternoon **Upton WI** will have their first “live” meeting.
- > **Yoga** with Sylvia Bennett returns to the Pavilion after a gap of a few years. Numbers have to be limited initially but will expand when allowed. There are two classes - Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings - phone Sylvia if you are interested.
- > Deb Locke's **keep fit classes** are already happening out of doors. She will probably have something inside the Pavilion in due course
- > Rob Sharpe runs **fitness / pilates / mini trampoline** classes and he is planning to open again at the Pavilion, ring Rob

The people who run adult classes like those above have had a really hard time in the pandemic. They are mostly self-employed, with money from running these activities either their main or supplementary sources of income, so they have all suffered drastic cuts in their finances. Let's hope for a really big take-up from their former customers and lots of new people joining.



First full meal served at the BMI since March 2020.

On May 21st Trevor and Rachel Hall and 7 others, split into two tables to comply with the Covid rules, were privileged to be the first to have a full cooked meal served by Brian and Lorraine Dodd since they arrived, and the first cooked meal at the BMI since March 2020. Fish and Chips. It was great.

In the months to come . . .

JULY As long as Covid restrictions are lifted as planned, the month of July will see the first live meetings of Upton WI - at its new venue, the Pavilion, and new time (afternoon)

Twyver WI - back to normal we hope!

The Parish Council

The History Group has its first meeting since early 2020

AUGUST: The BMI's Pig Roast will take place

SEPTEMBER: The Upton Show returns - see the next page

Longer term plans in Upton . . .

A "Call my Bluff" wine tasting is being planned for the autumn, organised by USL Life to raise funds for the newsletter. The date is Saturday 9th October - look out for details later.

The UpStagers are hoping to do a pantomime in the new Year.

A Village Day is being planned for summer next year - 2022, to coincide with celebrations for the 70 years since the Queen came to the throne.

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It's full steam ahead planning the return of the Upton Show!!!
after a year's enforced absence

In the last few issues we have printed extracts from the schedule of competition classes, hoping this will inspire you to join in again or for the first time. Let's make this year's show a bumper one!

This month we highlight the flower arranging section, always one of the most popular parts of the show both for entries received and for viewing enjoyment. The classes are . . .

- An arrangement within a frame in the style of an old master. A front facing exhibit. Maximum size 500mm x 600mm
- "All green". An arrangement made up of shades of green. (Can include flowers/fruit/ foliage.) To be judged all round. Maximum size 610mm x 610mm
- An arrangement in a tea cup, with matching saucer. A petite arrangement – maximum size 100mm x 230mm in any direction
- An arrangement to describe a song. Indicate the title. To be viewed all round. Maximum size 400mm x 400mm
- Memories of summer holidays. A front facing exhibit. Maximum size 610mm x 610mm
- An arrangement to celebrate queen Elizabeth's 95th birthday. To be viewed all round. Maximum size 610mm x 610mm
- An arrangement in Japanese style – Ikebana. Front facing exhibit. Maximum size 400mm x 400mm
- Candlelight (novices only*) an arrangement to include a candle(s). To be viewed all round. Maximum size 610mm x 610mm
(*a novice is a person who has never won 1st prize for flower arranging in any show)

Notes: Fresh flowers and foliage to be used.

Arrangements will be on a white covered table with a tent backcloth.

Accessories may be used in any class.

No height limit applies except on the tea cup petite arrangement



The Upton Show needs helpers! Can you help to set things up before, look after exhibits and sales during, and / or dismantling afterwards? Contact Kate Brooks

All classes in this section have prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, £5, £3 and £2 respectively.

We will be grateful for any contributions of cakes for the refreshments, contact Kate Brooks



(Pictures from the 2014 Show)

The Village Show in days past

Our Village Historian, Mike Stratford, has done some digging in the archives once again and has sent us a report from the show of 1893.

The show was held in Prinknash Park, thanks to the Dyer Edwards family who were the owners then.

There were the usual competition sections for vegetables, fruit, plants and flowers. There was a section for rabbit hutches made by boys at the school. There was a best garden competition covering Cranham and Upton, won by Mr W Major. Section 8 was a competition for any domestic pet including fowls, won by W Webb and T

Leach. The report of the show says that it rained all day!

Gate money was £4 13s 11d. A band was hired, costing £5 0s 0d, and tent hire cost £3 15s 0d. The report concludes that, though the weather was a set-back, a positive balance still remained in the bank.

What's been happening?



Twyver WI

On Monday, 10th May we welcomed our speaker, Richard Rickett, via Zoom, to talk to us on 'Gardening for Bees'. Richard is the Co-Editor of the BeeCraft magazine, a publication that was launched way back in 1919. A gifted communicator, armed with a wealth of knowledge, Richard took us through the various types of bees, predominantly, bumblebees, solitary bees and honey bees and their life cycles.

However, the main point of the talk was that bees really need our help. Due to changes in land use and modern farming methods over the past 50 years, bees have suffered badly. 97% of our UK wildflower meadows have been lost and 300,000 km of hedgerows, resulting in 78% of insects simply disappearing. In order to help

the bee population, Richard encouraged us to grow pollen and nectar rich flowers all year round as well as herbs and trees. He also suggested that we could all help by being a little more relaxed in the garden and leaving some areas untended, not mowing our lawns so often and even leaving a section to go 'wild', all to help the insect population! Monica, our President gave the vote of thanks.

In June, there will be a departure from our usual Monday evening meeting due to the speaker's commitments. The topic will be Crime and Cyber Crime on **Tuesday, 15th June at 7.30**. Millie Barnes will send members the link. In July, our meeting will return to the Village Hall, where face to face meetings will resume.

Andrea Dawson

Twyver Walkers



"Oh! roses and lilies are fair to see; But the wild bluebell is the flower for me" - Louisa A Meredith

On 6 May, as permitted for organised groups, 9 ladies from Twyver Walkers were finally able to meet up in person, once more, for their monthly walk.

Around Haresfield there are carpets of bluebells in the woods. The 9 ladies from Twyver Walkers set off from Haresfield Beacon to enjoy seeing these beautiful flowers which always seem to establish Spring. For around three miles we walked through Haresfield and Standish Woods and enjoyed seeing thousands upon thousands of vibrant bluebells. With the help of coffee and cake, a flurry of hailstones did not deter us from completing the circular walk which was our first event after lockdown.



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Election results

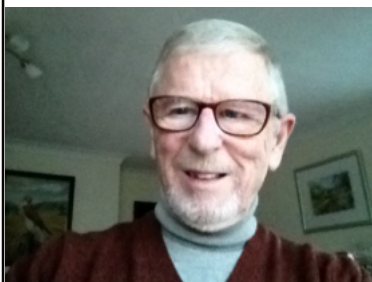
The results of the local elections on May 5 were:

Parish Council - elected (uncontested because there were only 10 candidates for 10 places) were Chrissie Castle, Graham Hayes, David Hunt, Paul Long, Rosemary McLachlan, Hilary Morris, Keith Pearson, Roy Roberts, Matthew Sargeant, Peter Wilson.

Stroud District Council - Painswick and Upton Ward - elected were Jason Bullingham, Julie Job, Keith Pearson.

Gloucestershire County Council - Painswick and Bisley Ward - Susan Williams was elected.

Gloucestershire Police Commissioner - Chris Nelson was elected.



Keith Pearson writes: "I would very much like to thank all those people in the Upton and Painswick Ward who put their trust in me for another term of office as a District Councillor. To all who may not have felt able to support me on this occasion, rest assured that as always I will represent your views and interests in our community with equal zeal. Politics do not matter much, in my view, in local issues. It has been an honour to be your Councillor over the past years and will continue to be so. Once again thank you all."



National Garden Scheme

The National Garden Scheme is getting into full swing now, with over 61 gardens opening this year in Gloucestershire alone, ranging from big country houses to small private gardens in ordinary urban surroundings. There is a booklet showing all the gardens available from the Gloucester Tourist Office and from libraries, or you can get the details of which gardens are open when from the NGS web site ngs.org.uk

The picture below is of Highnam Court, which has open days once a month, and below left is a small garden in Charlton Kings which is open at the end of August.



Annual Reports



Village Hall

In his annual report, Chairman Keith Pearson described the difficulties in managing the Village Hall arising from the pandemic.

The playgroup was able to function for most of the time and last summer and autumn saw limited re-openings. Thanks to Jim Browne and Stewart Tedaldi for their good work with Covid compliance for the first partial reopening

A generous government grant to cover lack of use has meant that the finances are in a decent state.

All the regular bookings are gradually returning, as you can see elsewhere in the newsletter.

There was no 2020 AGM, so the existing Trustees remained in post. They are:

Keith Pearson	Jackie Lord	Stewart Tedaldi
Mike Stratford	Mallory Merrett	Sarah DesForges
Ann Pearson	Carol Evans	James Brown
Michelle King	Chris Patterson	

The biggest disappointment was having to cancel the planned 2020 Village Day, which would have coincided with the centenary of the Hall itself, which was opened in 1920. Plans are starting for the next Village Day to be in 2022.

Keith reports that for Guy Fawkes night the Hall will have fireworks, but will no longer be able to have a bonfire. That has been ruled out by new rules on how far away spectators must be.

USL Life



The Annual General Meeting of USL Life CIC, the company that publishes USL Life, was held in April using Zoom. Chairman Peter Wilson explained that the publication is in a good state, but it still relies on grants from the Parish Council (which they are happy to give) to avoid making a loss, i.e. the income

from advertising is not covering costs. Nor in 2020 could there be any fund-raising events.

2020 was a bad year for trying to sell advertising! The board recruited Kaye Redman for a period to see if some phone calling and pushing could result in more advertisements, but she soon realised how hard the task was in a pandemic, and got nowhere, sadly. But thanks to Kaye for trying so hard.

The board continues to consist of Peter Wilson, Cliff Alderman, Paul Rosewell, Owen Stinchcombe and Andy Russell. The board meets quarterly to review the

company business as a whole.

Against an income of £5,881 (advertising sales and Parish Council grant), the production costs in 2020 were £4,785. Add to that a further £1,066 expenses for insurance, accountancy fees, etc., - gross profit before tax was just £30.

Currently the company has 38 members. Members, ultimately, have control of the company.

Readers may have noticed that the newsletter is no longer printed at Leyhill Prison. Our printing is now done by Pip Printing Nettle of Hereford (managed by Villager Simon Owen).

Many thanks to the hard-working editorial team, feature writers and distributors. Also thanks to Jan Black who does the advertising administration.

Feedback from readers has always been, and continues to be, most positive. USL Life CIC is honoured to know that it is producing something that is considered so highly by Villagers.

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USCAN

The USCAN organisation is tiny. It does spend Villagers' money coming in the form of donations, footpath book sales and Parish Council and Gloucestershire County Council grants. It is therefore important that people see an account of how the money is obtained and spent. There was an AGM (of sorts!) in April via Zoom.

Organisationally, Andy Russell leads the footpaths maintenance team. Cliff Alderman is the secretary and Owen Stinchcombe is the treasurer. The 2020 accounts

show

Income total £1065:	Expenses total £841:
£312 from Glos CC for bridge	£312 cost of the bridge
£400 from Parish Council	£444 footpath works
£80 donations	
£273 book sales	£85 book production costs

The new kissing gates on the Prinknash path were subsidised 50% by Glos County Council, and the other 50%, about £300, was paid direct by the Parish Council and doesn't appear in the figures above.

At the time of writing USCAN has sold 135 booklets and 15 picture maps. About half of the sales and book costs are accounted for above, the other half will be in the 2021 figures.

SPORTS REPORTS

The **football** team's brief 'season' ran through April and May competing in a mini league of 8 teams from the Glos Northern Senior League. At the time of writing, Upton were not doing very well - played 11, won 1, drawn 3, lost 7.

The **tennis** club's Tuesday and Sunday sessions have been very well attended, and the courts have been well used since April when they were re-opened.

Cricket started well with a dry April and a couple of warm-up friendly games and lots of junior training

sessions. Then after the May 1 weekend came the rain, and since that weekend the club has managed 2 games, with 20 cancellations, at the time of writing, and most practices and coaching sessions have also been cancelled.

The old green cricket roller has died. The club has purchased another old (yellow) one as an interim measure, which should last a couple of years, but the club has set a goal of building up a reserve to purchase a much newer one at a cost of five to six thousand pounds.

Haiku for the start of a memorable week

by Ann Morpew

Monday morning came at last,
Lockdown lifts, we can hug,
Life carries on.

Tuesday weather unsettled,
Dry pots once watered,
Now awash from rain.

Wednesday - sun is out sometimes,
Garden is green, tulips flower,
Weeds flourish, as always.

What next is to come from Covid and weather?
We cannot predict either
It seems our fate is in the lap of the Gods



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St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Sara Hemmings



Associate Priest: James Turk

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

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

Services & Readings for June 2021

6th June	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Celebration Service 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5,1 Mark 3:20-end
13th June	10.00 am	Holy Communion 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 (11-13) 14-17 Mark 4:26-34
20th June	10.00 am	Holy Communion 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 Mark 4: 35-41
27th June	10.00 am	Holy Communion 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43



Baptisms and Weddings 2021 - 2022

Baptisms

Our baptism services are held on the 1st Sunday of the month, and we are pleased to say our first baptism service is being held on the 4th July during our 'Celebration Praise' service. It is always a privilege to welcome both baby and his/her family to St. Leonards church and they always receive a very warm welcome from our church family.

We are fairly busy with baptism enquiries, and we have baptisms booked up to November.

Weddings

We have had two weddings recently with all the constraints placed upon the couples by covid-19, but they were both joyous occasions even with restricted numbers. Both of these were re-arranged weddings from last year.

We have five more weddings to look forward to this year, some of which are re-arranged from last year, and we already have five weddings booked for 2022.



The Old Schoolroom Bondend Road.

Open Day

to celebrate and to raise funds for more schoolroom renovations.



Thursday June 24th
from 10 am until 2 pm
everyone is welcome.



We will be serving tea/coffee and cake.
please come and join us and have a look at what we have done.

You are all warmly invited to join us and celebrate this joyous occasion.

Mothers' Union

Throughout the pandemic members of St Leonard's Mother's Union have kept in touch by letters, telephone calls and greetings cards and some members have joined in Diocesan meetings via Zoom. Now that things are looking more positive it is hoped to resume meeting out of doors in July. Despite the name of our organisation Mothers' Union is open to everyone, married or single, male or female and whether a parent or not. Everyone is welcome so WATCH THIS SPACE for further details.



Tower Floodlighting 2021

The Church Tower is lit to celebrate the 67th anniversary of the wedding of Rachel and Trevor Hall, which took place on Saturday 5th June 1954 in this Church.

We are still active members and we thank the Lord for his goodness to us. Rachel & Trevor

22nd June – Chris Gabb. In memory of a wonderful Husband, Father and Grandfather on his Birthday. With much love and so many happy memories, from his loving family.



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

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



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Private William Webb



Private William Webb died one hundred years ago this month and was laid to rest in our churchyard, in a military grave. His grave is located just behind the yew tree (on the footpath row of four) nearest to the nursery school boundary.

Little is known about the circumstances of his death. 241270 Private William George Webb served with 2nd/5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment and died on 25 June 1921. He was the son of John and Annie E Webb of Bondend, Upton St Leonards. His younger brother, John (Junior), was killed in action (KIA) in France on 2 September 1918 aged 18, whilst serving with 22nd Battalion, The London Regiment, having been posted there from his original service with the Queens Royal Surrey Regiment. John is buried in Combles Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. William's headstone includes two inscriptions at the foot (from the family) "*Your memory we will keep*" and "*Also in memory of Pte John Webb, 22nd Londons, KIA 2.9.18*". The record of those men from the village who served in WW1 includes a listing for John Webb (Senior), who appears to have survived the war; it is not known in which Regiment or Service John (Senior) served.

It is presumed that William died from wounds received during his service, hence his eligibility for a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. His death was too late for inscription on the stone War Memorial at the entrance to the churchyard, but he is now listed on the wooden plaques for WW1 fatalities, inside the church (south nave), which were erected in November 2018. May he Rest in Peace.

Any information relating to the Webb family's involvement in WW1 would be gratefully received.

Roy Roberts, St Leonard's PCC.

Flourish.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you."

John 15

In May we re-started our monthly Celebration Services at St Leonard's. On the first Sunday of each month, we will once again be gathering at 10am to do something a little different, to experience a different and less formal way of worshipping. In the months to come, this will also be the service where we welcome our newest members into baptism. This is something that we haven't been able to do for 15 months because of Covid restrictions, but, joy of joys, we can once again start to make plans that enable growth in our church family.

Another exciting thing that has been happening in this church during the past year is 'FLOURISH'. Flourish started as an invitation from the diocese and the Church of England, to create a whole life disciple making church. That means, creating a church culture that supports and enables people to be fruitful for Jesus, Monday through Sunday.

This is happening in small churches and large, suburban and rural, it's happening in churches with robed choirs and churches where the minsters wear T-shirts and trainers. Leaders in Anglo-Catholic, traditional, conservative, liberal and charismatic communities are experimenting in all kinds of ways to engage with the people and places where the members of the congregation spend most of their time outside of the church building, and that is in the workplace and in the home.

Back in the autumn of 2019 Reverend Clodagh Ingram mentioned to me about the Flourish initiative, and whether we should be part of it at St Leonards.

Through discussion and much prayer, we identified a few people who we thought would help us get this off the ground, and the 'St Leonards Flourish Team' was born.

So in early 2020 we began, and together with some 40 lay and clergy from several churches in the diocese we managed one full day meeting in Charlton Kings in February 2020, before the onset of Covid, and subsequently all training since then has been on ZOOM... not the easiest medium given the intensity of the course.

The training that we have embarked on ends this autumn. And after that I will be commissioning the St Leonards Flourish team and they will lead this initiative forward, to help all of us grow in confidence as disciples of Jesus.

It is one of the great joys of pastoral ministry: seeing people growing in fruitful relationship with Jesus in all kinds of places. The aim of 'Flourish' is to enable all God's people to discover the joy of walking with Jesus not only on Sunday mornings in church, but in all aspects of daily life, because It is a universal truth that every day God sends us out, his people, young and old, out into his world. To the places we normally go. Work and school, gym and shop, field and factory. To the people he has put us alongside. To do good work that brings good to others. Ministering love and grace, helping hearts to soften and wounds to heal. In short, God sends us out to make a difference. This is God's work and together we are invited to be part of that in Upton St Leonards, and beyond.

James



Notice of Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) to appoint Church Wardens
to be held at St Leonard's Church on Sunday 27 June 2021 at 11.45 am
Everyone on the Church Electoral Roll or resident in the village is invited to attend.

This meeting will be followed immediately by the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM),
open to those on the Church Electoral Roll
Sunday 27 June 2021 - 11.50 am

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest in Charge

Vacancy

Associate Priest:

Rev. James Turk

Churchwardens:

Gill Howell

Vacancy

PCC Secretary: - Sarah Kent

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

Safeguarding

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

USL Life (Church pages) and Pew News

Rachel Middleton



Annual Parish Report, St. Leonard's Church

During over 830 years of being at the heart of the Upton Community, it is unlikely that St Leonard's Church was closed for worship for any extended period – but that all changed in 2020. The year started off relatively as normal, although Priest in Charge Rev Clodagh Ingram was increasingly in ill-health. Our Curate Rev James Turk came to the fore and led services, building on Clodagh's work. Then in March, Covid 19 came into our lexicon, and "normal" everyday and Church life changed dramatically. The capacity of the church to manage the congregation to conform with 2 metre distancing was radically reduced to 42. Alternate pews were closed off and a one-way system introduced. There was to be no singing, Holy Communion took on a different process and we were all masked up. No lingering for coffee and chat afterwards. Regular annual events such as Plough Sunday, Band on the Village Green, Harvest Festival in the Perry Orchard Allotments, were all put on hold. When lockdowns were eased, limited services continued, but when lockdown came again it meant that church could only be open briefly for Private Prayer. Weddings and Baptisms – the joyful celebrations for the church family - were also deferred. Sadly, funerals and interment of ashes became more prevalent. Traditional festivals of Christmas and Easter were notably missing their usual format and packed attendances, although Charlie has managed to keep the 300 year-old church bells ringing whenever possible. Sadly, Rev Clodagh's health did not improve sufficiently for her return, and she resigned on 31 Jan, with the church then placed "In Vacancy" awaiting a new incumbent.

Throughout, Churchwarden Gill Howell and team kept the church in good – and sanitised - order, the focus on external work enabled churchyard maintenance to continue apace, and above all the leadership of our Curate Rev James – with "streamed" services and links through a "What's App" group - meant the congregation maintained its fellowship and mission. James has finished his 3-year Curacy and is now titled as Associate Priest. He will move on to a parish of his own, inevitably, but perhaps glad that times have changed from the late 16th Century, when the incumbent here was titled as "Perpetual Curate". Spring 2021 gives us hope for the future, with services back on track, and optimism that a replacement Priest in Charge will be appointed hopefully later this year. As James frequently reminds us, "God has got it covered".

Roy Roberts - St Leonard's PCC

8 May 2021

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Glebe Field Tree Planting



On the first morning, Peter Wilson gives some Upton School pupils their instructions



So how many old blokes does it take to plant a tiny sapling??



Nutty Badgers (Explorer Scouts) in action - well, one of them anyway.

Peter Wilson writes: All 105 saplings received from The Woodland Trust have been planted in The Glebe Field.

My thanks go to: Parish Clerk Roy Balgobin who arranged for the grass to be cut before we started; to Jo Woods who helped me throughout, preparing the saplings, marking the planting areas and packaging up the accessories needed for each tree, ready for the planters; to Mrs Harvey and the 14 children from Upton School who kicked off the planting effort on Wednesday 5 May and to the 17 adult volunteers from the village who planted on Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Thanks also to Stewart Tedaldi and the 10 Explorer

Scouts who planted saplings on Friday evening, and to people who loaned tools including Stewart Atkinson, David Hunt and the USCAN Footpath Team.

As a reminder of why we did it, we are helping reduce air pollution from the M5, improve drainage at the bottom end of the Glebe field, provide more habitat for wildlife as the trees mature, and create an improved natural outlook at the top end of the field.

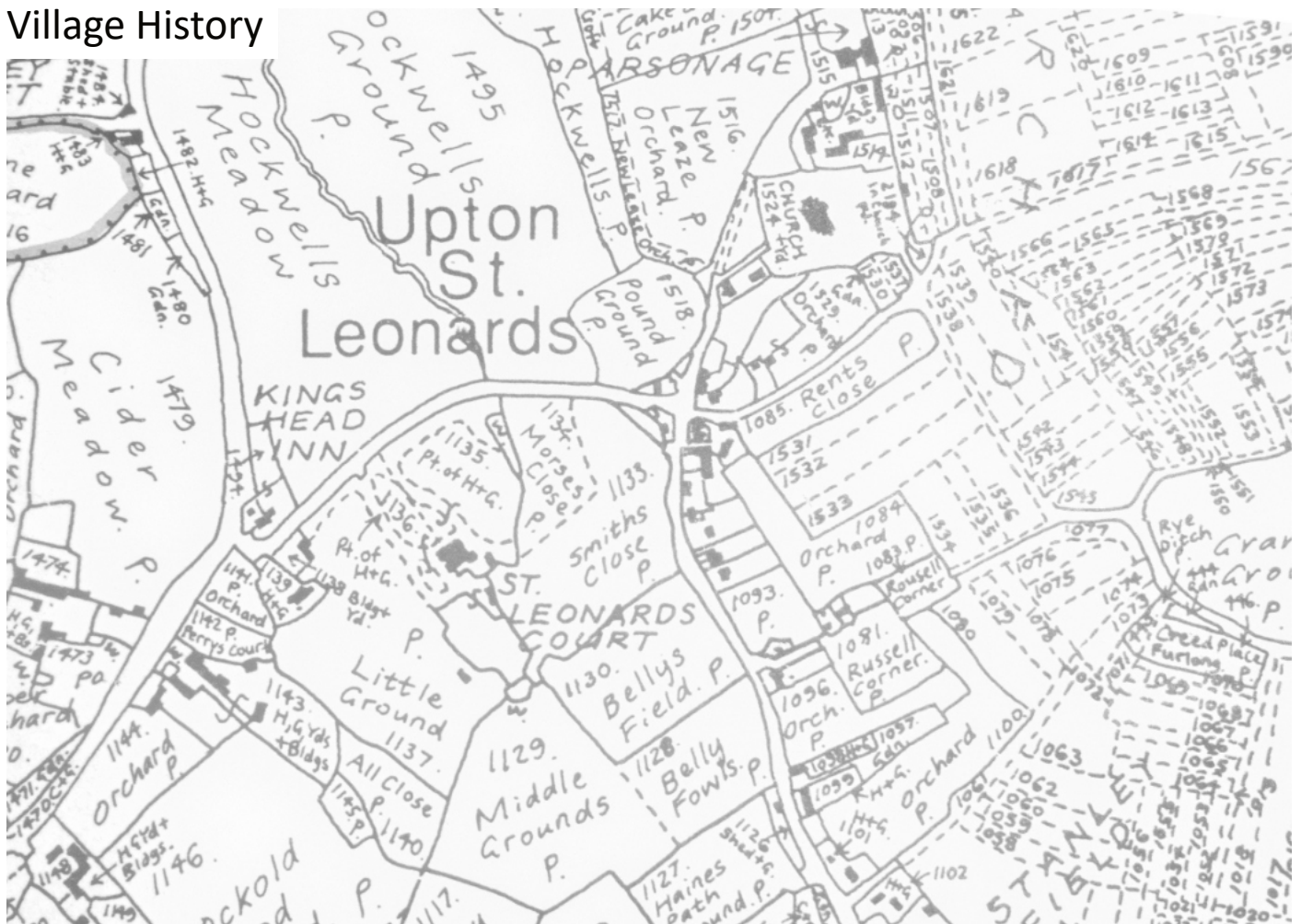
All the dog walkers who we met showed an interest, were very positive and many offered to keep an eye on the saplings when they visited with their dogs, which is appreciated.

The rain that we experienced at the time of the planting was very much welcomed and will help the saplings to start growing.

Overall it has been a pleasure to have been involved in such a worthwhile community project with all the volunteers (ages ranging from 5 years to 80 plus) and everyone who visits the Glebe Field over the coming years will be able to appreciate the end result. Some of the trees will grow several feet each year so it won't take long to see a difference.

Peter Wilson, Environment Lead
Upton St Leonards Parish Council

Village History



To mark the return (we hope!) of meetings of the History group, here are a couple of items from the past.

The map (above) is remarkable. It is dated 1841. It shows, in minute detail, every building, field and track or road. In 1841 field enclosures had not taken effect, and the map still shows the field strips, which were allocated to Villagers. The strips are numbered on this map, as you can see, but we don't have a list of who had which strip. Many of the fields are also named, and I love to see that

my house in today's Perry Orchard is only yards away from 1841's "Russell Corner"! The map will be on display at the History group meeting. I reckon this map - it is a modern copy, I have no idea where the original is - belongs to the Village, not to me. It was passed to me by a former resident, and I can make it available when and where anyone wants.

Andy Russell

Mass Vaccinations are nothing new in Upton:

by Mike Stratford

There was a report in 1896 in the Parish News about an outbreak of smallpox and the rush to get vaccinations: 'No less than 130 people were vaccinated at the school. The accounts from the city still show how strongly people who are suffering from smallpox feel on this subject who were once opposed to vaccination. Those who visit the hospital regularly speak from their own experience and describe the sufferings of those who

have not been vaccinated. A medical officer said, "I am used to look upon sickness and suffering but I trust never again to see, as I have seen this week in Gloucester, wards full of young children sick and dying of an unnecessary disease, a heart breaking and most pitiful spectacle. Prevention is in the hands of everyone. There is no appreciable danger from smallpox to any person successfully vaccinated."

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USL's OUTDOOR GYM

Fun and Free!

Now that Lockdown is over and summer beckons us to a less anxious future, instead of celebrating overmuch by eating out and piling on the pounds it may be worthwhile livening up our minds and bodies by joining our very own gym. This could be an opportunity to develop a fitter version of yourself and enjoy the benefits of a lighter, livelier and cheerful 'you'?

OUR GYM, as most of you know, is at the Recreation Ground and is available all light hours of the day. At OUR GYM there is no need to sign up for a term or a year and there's no one at your back with a 'try harder' or 'could do better' attitude. There are no instructors! 'You' are your own Instructor; you choose to do as much or as little as you please. There are no big challenges, no competitions or competitors, no need to feel exhausted and there are no mirrors!

Each piece of equipment has clear instructions for beginners, intermediate or advanced students. You decide which equipment suits you best. However much you do, you WILL feel livelier, not only from a stronger body and better balance but all the benefits of breathing fresh air with its continual source of vitamin D. Fresh air is not only good for lungs and heart but a great stimulant for the brain and sluggish thinking.

The health advantages of Our Gym are not confined to strengthening muscles and burning calories, there's a definite mood boost in getting the blood pumping round the body. Some folk visit for half an hour, two or three times a week, some go with a partner or friend. I like routines, so I go early 5 days a week for no more than 15 minutes. If you go very early you're likely to find the playing field full of pigeons, or even seagulls searching for worms. When they become aware of your presence they'll almost certainly take flight and head for Gloucester or Robinswood. It is a delight to watch a group of large birds rising together in flight early in the morning and can be a real mood changer. I usually meet the same people either walking their dogs or themselves; we now exchange greetings or have short conversation; another benefit and a reminder of the benefit of belonging to our village community.

Outdoor exercise provides all the physical benefits of indoor exercise, blood flow, cardiovascular health, flexibility, endurance and challenge. Outdoor gyms are referred to as Green Gyms. The colour green in nature is said to bring a calming affect to the mind and a general sense of well-being. Whether the sky is cloudy or clear it's almost certainly more interesting than a gym ceiling with its artificial light that can be detrimental to both mood and sight.

My experience of our gym not being available during Lockdown was a decrease in enthusiasm for getting up early; a definite decrease in my fingers' flexibility, i.e. I was losing my grip! One of the great benefits of our gym is that the equipment offers a variety of ways to grip strongly with the fingers which strengthens all the little muscles and ligaments in all the many joints of our hands and wrists as we use the equipment to exercise legs, hips, back and shoulders. I lost flexibility in my hips and my back started aching because I wasn't using the 'Pull-Down' to strengthen the whole back and shoulders. I continued to walk most days and took one longish walk 5+ miles at weekends, but my hips began to feel stiff because I was no longer using the bicycle apparatus. Walking is great but doesn't stimulate all the muscles and ligaments that you need to feel fit. I'm reminded of the old adage 'Use it or lose it!'

So, if do you want to feel stronger, fitter and younger why not give OUR GYM a try? Not convinced you wish to feel livelier; here's another suggestion for well-being courtesy of Spike Milligan.

Smiling is infectious
You can catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
And someone saw me grin.
When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it onto him.

I thought about that smile
Then I realised it's worth
A single smile, just like mine
Could travel round the Earth.

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick
And get the world infected.

Christina Caldwell



Pictures courtesy of Deb Locke

Arts Page

This month we are looking at the way in which Poets have portrayed MEN.

DISOBEDIENCE by A A Milne

James James

Morrison Morrison

Weatherby George Dupree

Took great

Care of his Mother

Though he was only three.

James James

Said to his Mother,

“Mother,” he said, said he;

“You must never go down to the end of the town, if you don’t go down with me”.

(an interesting role change here, and . . . she disobeyed!)

King John

Put up a notice,

“LOST OR STOLEN OR STRAYED!

JAMES JAMES

MORRISON’S MOTHER

SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MISLAID.

LAST SEEN

WANDERING VAGUELY

QUITE OF HER OWN ACCORD,

SHE TRIED TO GET DOWN TO THE END OF THE TOWN - FORTY SHILLINGS REWARD!”

Sir Walter Scott sees a man as both hero and dashing lover in his poem LOCHINVAR:

O young Lochinvar is come out of the west,
Through all the wide Border his steed was the best;
And save his good broadsword he weapons had none,
He rode all unarm’d, and he rode all alone.
So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,
There never was knight like the young Lochinvar.

He staid not for brake, and he stopp’d not for stone,
He swam the Eske river where ford there was none;
But ere he alighted at Netherby gate,
The bride had consented, the gallant came late;
For a laggard in love, and a dastard in war,
Was to wed the fair Ellen of brave Lochinvar.



And now . . . a real hero. Horatius and two friends, according to legend, defended the Sublician Bridge in Rome against the entire Etruscan army, thereby giving his comrades time to cut down the bridge, blocking the advance and saving Rome.

HORATIUS by Lord Macaulay

Then out spoke brave Horatius,

The Captain of the Gate:

“To every man upon this earth

Death cometh sooner or late.

And how can man die better

Than facing fearful odds,

For the ashes of his fathers,

And the temples of his Gods”.

Another view of heroic men from a Victorian perspective:

ADMIRALS ALL by Sir Henry Newbolt

Effingham, Grenville, Raleigh, Drake,

Here’s to the bold and free!

Benbow, Collingwood, Byron, Blake,

Hail to the Kings of the Sea!

Admirals all, for England’s sake,

Honour be yours and fame!

And honour, as long as waves shall break,

To Nelson’s peerless name!

Three Epigrams show men in a slightly different light.

“I want a man who’s kind and understanding. Is that too much to ask of a millionaire?” Zsa Zsa Gabor

“Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.” Hubert Humphrey

“No one will ever win the battle of the sexes; there is too much fraternizing with the enemy.” Henry Kissinger

BOOK REVIEW

Silas Marner – The Weaver of Raveloe by George Eliot, first published in 1861.

Silas Marner, a weaver, is a member of a small Calvinist congregation in a slum street in Northern England. He is falsely accused of stealing the congregation’s funds. To escape the shame Silas moves to the rural Midlands and lives isolated and alone. He becomes a miser and hoards the coins he earns from weaving. After his money is stolen, his faith and trust are slowly restored by a foster daughter, Eppie. She changes his life.



Upton St Leonards Primary School Literature Festival

Editor: I must admit I had never heard of this - but it has been going for a few years. Top authors of children's books have visited our Village School. Neil Eley, chair of the governors, tells us about this wonderful initiative.



USL Literature Festival 2020-21

The children at school have been lucky enough over the last few years to have had a Literature Festival organised for them by their wonderful teachers. Last year the children had visits from a number of writers of children's books. Most came into school, met the children and gave talks about their work, did workshops and sat on the famous sofa during our presentation assembly. Others joined us via a video link, this caused some confusion for one child who thought they were going on a trip to the Isle of Wight when an author was joining us from the Isle of Wight.

This year was going to be very different. First the authors would all be joining us through a video link and secondly, for part of the fortnight, the children would be doing the same thing from their own homes.

Mrs Wood organised a wide variety of authors. We had some who had

written books for the younger age group and others whose books were targeted at 10-14 year olds. The authors talked about their books, how they came up with the characters, the situations and the settings for their stories. This month, I will tell you about the fabulous authors who spoke to our older children and next month I will do the same with the authors who spoke to the younger ones.

On the first Festival Day this year the majority of students joined from home to listen to Ross Welchford give a master class about how you could write the first chapter of your own novel by continuing three simple sentence starters:

- > When I opened my eyes, I knew I was in trouble . . .
- > I knew straight away who could help . . .
- > What happened next changed everything . . .

Ross has written 'When we got lost in Dreamland' and 'The Kid who came from Space' amongst many others. I cannot wait to see the novels written by our children based on his three sentences.

In the next week, the children were back in the classroom and Jennifer Killick did an author's workshop with our Key Stage 2 children. Jennifer has written a series of books about Crater Lake and another series about a character called Alex Sparrow.

Onjali Q Rauf joined Years 4,5 and 6 to talk about her books which all have a theme of social injustice,

missing information and responses to bullying. Onjali volunteered, from a very early age, to work in homeless shelters and has also worked for, and then set up, charities for refugees and the homeless. Her books reflect her experiences of working with people in these types of situations. Her titles include 'The Boy at the back of the Class', 'The Star outside my Window' and 'The Night Bus Hero'. The children were totally engrossed for nearly an hour and have decided to make a donation to Onjali's charity and are going to look at ways to do more fundraising.

We are already planning for next year and we hope to get some authors coming into the school, working with the children and sitting on our world-famous sofa, 'the best seat in the house'. Organising the festival is hard work and comes at a cost and so we are looking for any local business who might want to sponsor next year's event. We can promise you lots of adverts in the school news and on our Facebook page. Every time we mention the festival we will talk about our fantastic sponsors. If you can help us with this please contact me (see below).
Neil Eley

PS. I hope this might help you in finding suitable books for your own children, nephews and nieces or grandchildren.

This is the first of two articles written by Neil about the 2020-21 Literature Festival. In the second article he tells of three more published authors who were involved. We hope to be able to print part 2 in the July issue.



The pictures were taken during Onjali Q Rauf's talk to years 4, 5 and 6



Live meetings and activities are restarting and the diary is beginning to fill up once again, at last. We still have to put on the caveat we've had for a while: that Covid restrictions could still change the plans.

VILLAGE DIARY

JUNE

1	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins.	
1	Tue	Tennis Club Evening	Pavilion 6.00pm
6	Sun	Tennis Club Morning	Pavilion 10.00am
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	via Zoom 7.30pm
8	Tue	Recycling and food waste week	
8	Tue	Tennis Club Evening	Pavilion 6.00pm
8	Tue	Yoga.....	Pavilion 7.00pm
9	Wed	UpStagers.....	Village Hall..... 7.30pm
10	Thu	Copy date for July issue of USL Life	
11	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion 10.00am
13	Sun	Tennis Club Morning	Pavilion 10.00am
15	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins	
15	Tue	Tennis Club Evening	Pavilion 6.00pm
15	Tue	Yoga.....	Pavilion 7.00pm
15	Tue	Twyver WI - "Cyber Crime"	via Zoom 7.30pm
16	Wed	UpStagers.....	Village Hall..... 7.30pm
18	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion 10.00am
20	Sun	Tennis Club Morning	Pavilion 10.00am
22	Tue	Recycling and food waste week	
22	Tue	Tennis Club Evening	Pavilion 6.00pm
22	Tue	Yoga.....	Pavilion 7.00pm
23	Wed	UpStagers.....	Village Hall..... 7.30pm
23	Wed	Bingo **Starts up again**	BMI 8.00pm
25	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion 10.00am
27	Sun	Tennis Club Morning	Pavilion 10.00am
29	Tue	Tennis Club Evening	Pavilion 6.00pm
29	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins	
29	Tue	Yoga.....	Pavilion 7.00pm
30	Wed	UpStagers.....	Village Hall..... 7.30pm
30	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI 8.00pm

JULY

5	Mon	Upton WI - **Live meetings start again**	Pavilion 2.00pm
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting - **Live meetings start again**	Pavilion 7.30pm
10	Sat	Copy date for August issue of USL Life	
12	Mon	Twyver WI - **Live meetings start again**	Village Hall..... 7.30pm
15	Thu	History Group. - **Live meetings start again** AGM & Picture Quiz ..	Village Hall..... 7.45pm

AUGUST

(No Parish Council Meeting or WI meetings in August)

10	Tue	Copy date for September issue of USL Life	
14	Sat	Annual Pig Roast	BMI 7.00pm

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

Assuming the opening up continues, we fully expect there will be multiple Village events planned in summer and autumn to satisfy a pent-up demand for social gatherings and fund-raisers for cash starved charities etc. It would be a pity if there were clashes of dates between events that would tend to draw on the same pool of potential attendees. Paula Quinn, our Village Diary manager, can play a key role in avoiding this. Let her know early of your planned dates and she can advise on what else is planned around the same time.

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Obituary – Stan Trickett

After a sudden deterioration in his health Stan Trickett died on 16th April. His family were able to spend his last days with him.

Stan and Ruth Trickett first came to the village when they moved in to Six Acres in 1964 before moving to Twyver Close in 1968. This was their family home for over 51 years. Having moved from the Greater Manchester area they both loved the village and appreciated its more rural location. It was an ideal place to bring up their three children: Helen, Paul and Sara.

Stan travelled extensively throughout his career as a technical engineer and Sales Director but liked to join in with village activities when he was home. He was a member of the tennis club for many years, joined Probus after his retirement, and then the Get Together and Coffee clubs in later years.

He was a keen walker around the village and for many years enjoyed taking their neighbour's dog on lengthy daily walks around the fields. Stan was a very sociable man, always eager to host a party with Ruth. These were very much enjoyed by friends and family.



After losing Ruth in 2015 Stan was often seen out and about in the village, keen to meet people, have a chat and appreciating their company. He left the village in 2019 when his health started to deteriorate and he was no longer able to live independently.

In Stan's own words he was "A Cheshire lad, from a modest background who had a good, fulfilling life, a happy marriage and a wonderful family."

His family would like to express their gratitude for all of the friendship, kindness and care shown to him by villagers, especially in his later years.

Letters to the editor

Thanks, from Julia King

Well done Michelle King for all the hard work and dedication on the Easter trail that you started 3yrs ago. I had so much enjoyment creating my window and waiting to see the delight on the faces of children and adults as they find what they are looking for. So a very big thank you from me.

Bats, from Trevor Hall

Last month's article by Jane Reed about bats brought back to me a memory from a couple of years ago. As I sat in church for the morning service, a bat dropped onto my lap. It clung on to my jacket and I couldn't shake it off - I took it outside and eventually got it off after a friend took a photograph.

Welcome to Churchfield Road, Philip and Jaimie Willcock, who are both radiographers, and daughter Erin.

(In past 15 years Churchfield Rd has had 16 new ownerships of houses).

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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Next month's editor

Andrea Dawson



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Jim's Flags



Thanks very much to Jim Browne for brightening up the Village with his display of flags at Twyver Bank. As an ex-military man, Jim started off with the flag of the Royal Corps of Signals (top left). His collection is now much wider, some military, some national and some just fun, as you can see. Father Christmas made an appearance at the appropriate day.

Quiz question: What's the yellow and red flag at the top right? Jim's nickname "Geordie" is a strong hint!



Mike Stratford's house, on High Street, is also a place to see a wide variety of flags. Who spotted the Norwegian Flag which Mike flew on May 17th - Norway's National Day? Mike's



flags are mostly national and military, but he does occasionally fly the Canaries flag - that's for the Norwich City football team, not the Spanish islands!

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