

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 94

June 2022



**Platinum Jubilee Village Picnic
2-5pm at the Village Hall
Sunday 5 June**

See also page 2

The Lady Downe Trust

The charity's objectives are primarily to provide grant aid to residents of the parish who may find themselves in conditions of need, hardship or distress; to provide special benefits for Upton St Leonards Primary School and other schools attended by children who live in the parish as well as providing financial assistance to advance the education of such children who are under the age of 25.

Can the Lady Downe Trust help you with a grant? Do read this article to find out.

At the start of the pandemic, the Trustees became very concerned about the impact of lockdowns, home schooling and loneliness on peoples' mental and physical health and financial stability. As this fell within the charity's objectives, the Trustees decided to set up a special fund to provide financial help to those in need and to support related educational initiatives. Since then, the charity has provided many thousands of pounds of help for a variety of requests from funding equipment for

children who had no electronic devices on which to be home schooled, providing financial assistance to playgroups and Brownie packs to keep them going after months of being unable to meet, to supporting a series of play therapy sessions at a school to help children who had been severely affected by months of lockdowns.

Although life is returning to normal after the removal of the final Covid restrictions, we are now faced with rising living costs, financial hardship and fuel poverty with some families having to choose between heating and eating. If you are struggling with financial hardship or mental health issues, and live in the village or surrounding streets, please remember The Lady Downe Trust can help. Either visit our website – The Lady Downe Trust, contact the Clerk email clerk@ladydowne.org or phone 01452 621324.

"I cannot express in words how much this means to me and how grateful I am. This is going to make a huge difference to me and my children's life."

"The grant from the Lady Downe Trust during the Covid-19 pandemic was a lifeline for the USL Playgroup & Preschool."

Also, for all potential students going to college or university this September, remember you can apply for financial assistance with the costs of books and equipment. See the website to download an application form. (ladydowne.org)



The old School, donated to the Village by Lady Downe

The Platinum Jubilee Village Picnic - 5 June

The time is nearly here for the residents of Upton St Leonards, families and friends to get together and celebrate this unique time in History. Bring along your picnic, rugs or chairs and enjoy the afternoon from 2-5pm at the Village Hall.

Don't forget to pop into the Annex to see the Exhibition by the History Group of 100 years of the Village Hall and the Queen's Reign, and to the Church to see the Flower Arrangements.
(The church is open 10am to 4pm Thu-Sun, 2-5 June to see the flowers)

Bondend Road, as far as Perry Orchard will be closed to traffic 1.30-5.30pm

Free Strawberries and Cream, Tea, Coffee, Cakes and squash.
Bucks Fizz and Ice Creams will be on sale.

Teddy Bear Competition: Bears must have an owner's name and age attached. There will be prizes for ages 2-5 and 6-11 (this is a correction to an earlier announcement).

Please bring donated cakes to the Village Hall by 10.30am. Helpers should be at the Village Hall by 1.30pm.



Coronation Mug

We are most grateful for this picture sent to us. It is Ginny Ring's Coronation mug, still one of her treasured possessions. It was specially made for the occasion, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, by the pottery at Prinknash Abbey, and all Village children under 11 were given one. Older children were given crown coins. As a village token of the coronation, two cider press stones, donated by Lionel Stanbury, were carved and placed at the new Village green, one stone commemorating the coronation itself, the second being a memorial to servicemen from the Village killed in action in WW2. The two stones can still be seen beside the bench by the fir tree on the green

Coronation Day to Platinum Jubilee

A poem by Ted Gardner

Now I've been asked to tell you all about the Upton I knew as a lad,
I remember the year of '53, twas the best we ever had.

Our good Queen Elizabeth had just been crowned, we had a party at the Rec.

There were benches and tables, with sandwiches and cakes,
Jelly and ice cream too,
We had games to play, races to run and lots of things to do.
For the mums and dads and older lads there were bottles of homemade wine,
A glass or two was had by a few and they all had a very good time.
We played till the evening when it was almost dark,
With a bonfire and fireworks which lit up the whole park.

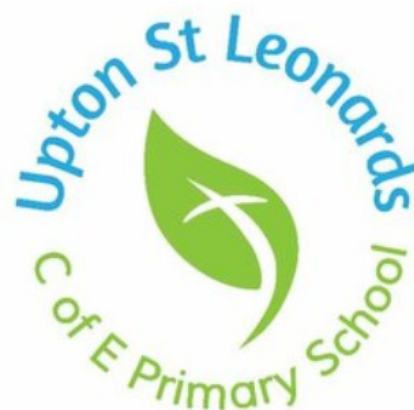
I remember well Coronation Day, and if truth be told,
We never thought that in 70 years time a platinum one we would hold.

Jubilee Celebrations at the School

By the time you read this, the school will have had their great day of Jubilee celebrations - it was on 26 May. Sadly that means we can't report on what went on or have pictures because of our printing schedule. This is what was planned:

- Children receive a Jubilee badge and commemorative booklet
- Red, white and blue bunting everywhere, most of it made for the event by the children
- Whole school assembly with a talk from the headteacher about the Queen
- "Kindness Rocks" which the children will decorate
- Jubilee goodie bags from the PTA
- Parents, carers, governors join for a Jubilee picnic in the afternoon
- Inflatables, an ice cream van, cakes, drinks, giant games
- Year 6 bring-and-buy sale raising money for Ukrainian refugees
- There will be a crab apple tree planted in the spiritual garden, and the kindness rocks will be placed there

We have thirteen school Values which are all firmly rooted in Christian teaching



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Parish Council held their Annual Parish Meeting (the first "live" one since 2019) on May 16. The chairman thanks those who attended. The reports from your Parish Councillors are reproduced on pages 13-16 of this newsletter.

USL Life Community Interest Company

This is the registered company that publishes this newsletter. The AGM was held at the end of April. USL Life is most grateful for continued financial support provided by the Parish Council. Despite our best efforts, income from advertising and fund raisers falls short of

costs of the production, and the Parish Council has made up the loss.

Paul Rosewell has resigned from the board, and has been replaced by John Cowley as a director.

We are most grateful to the whole team that produces and delivers the newsletter.

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 7am-6pm
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The Church Bells



On Saturday 6 May we were treated to the magnificent sound of the church bells ringing in perfect rhythm for over 3 hours. The ringing was done by a team of 8, pictured here, representing the Bristol and Gloucester Diocesan Association of Bellringers.

They dedicated their efforts to the people of the Village who were victims of Covid, and those still suffering after-effects of Covid.

The bells at Upton form a magnificent set. Experienced bellringers say they are among the best in the area. For aficionados, the ringing on Saturday 6 was a full peal of 5120 changes (each “change” being all 8 bells rung, in a different order from the last change) of “Rutland Surprise Major” composed by Onan N Davies.

Charlie Burnett is the current Tower captain, and on page 11 in this issue he puts in a passionate plea for new bellringers, otherwise the bells will be silent apart from very occasional visiting ringers. He hopes that hearing the wonderful sound might inspire you to join. Any age, you don’t need to be fit, though it might help you keep fit!

Hadwen Health Update

Millie Barnes attended a recent Patient Participation Group meeting at the Hadwen practice, and she reports:

The practice has recruited several new staff including Dr Richards, so are now in a much better place to meet the needs of the patients. We had an update from the Chairperson on two new initiatives to support patients with their health. These are still in the planning phase but look very promising - watch this space.

Hadwen is developing its IT system further to allow patients to book a blood test and annual review from a text message link, so if you haven’t already, please sign up for text messages. Annual check ups start for 40 year olds and recall is every 5 years, around your birthday. This is great way to be looking at your health and raising awareness of risk areas such as smoking, alcohol, nutrition, stress, exercise and sleep. These are the pillars of health and things we have total control over.

The Clinical Commissioning Group has funded the app getUbetter. This will be useful for those recovering from illness or those with back pain, joint pain or discomfort, or other conditions. Its very safe to use and enables you to access excellent physio exercises with regular, monitoring, all on the app. It’s also available 24/7 which is great for our busy lives and it’s free. Your GP will send you a referral which allows you to log on the app.



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Saturday 11 June 8.00pm

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summer months with all our
favourite songs

including a selection of popular
ABBA tunes

QUIZ

BMI Summer Quiz

QUIZ

The new quiz master's idiosyncratic style seems to
be popular - this time there's a cheese tasting
round! - and places go quickly once announced.

Saturday 25 June, 8pm

at the BMI of course.

Tables of up to 6 quizzers. Entry fees are £1.50 per
quizzer, or £6 for a table with fewer than 4.

There's a sign-up sheet in the BMI. You have until
Thursday 23 June to sign up, unless we are full
before then.

Profits after quiz costs will go to the BMI's chosen
charity for 2022-23 (see below)

QUIZ

QUIZ

PS - There is a new dance floor in the lounge at the BMI



The BMI charity for the year 2022-23

is to be the Cheltenham and Gloucester Hospitals Charity
Scanner Appeal. Funds raised in this appeal have already
purchased vital life-saving CT and digital X-ray scanners, but
more of these are needed.



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View from the french windows

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USL Ladies Probus

We have had some interesting speakers & topics so far this year, ranging from a professional genealogist to our own 'Poetry Please' morning, when we found we had our very own poet in our midst! May's speaker promises to bring useful tips as the subject is 'Fraud Safety'.

Elizabeth Odell will be telling us 'All about Matchbox Cars' for our June meeting at 10.15am on Wednesday 29 June in BMI. Please come & join us.

We apologise to the Ladies Probus group for omitting their announcement of the May meeting in last month's issue

Reports from the WIs

TWYVER WI

Our speaker at the May meeting was the well known local artist Fiona Field.

Fiona gave us an insight into the life of an artist who trained for many years and imparted her knowledge and expertise as a teacher and art lecturer in Hereford and Worcester. Her life revolves around Art morning, noon and night and never a day goes by without her thinking about her next project. After training she went into industry, working for Rolls Royce, but the love of art called her back to academia, teaching and moderating A level examinations for aspiring students.

From drawings and paintings of cathedrals to portraits, she has produced a vast portfolio of work, many of which have been sold to collectors and been featured in exhibitions, pamphlets and magazines*.

It's been a while since we have been able to participate interactively in the evening's theme. Fiona handed out blank cards to decorate and we were encouraged to draw and colour from pictures of birds and wildlife. This was a much enjoyed interlude after which prints of some of her work were handed out and signed for our enjoyment. Currently based in Tuffley she now teaches from her home and anyone interested in lessons would be very welcome. Contact details available from committee and WI members.

It had been a most enjoyable evening.

The next meeting is 13th June, all welcome.

Linda Munnoch

* You can see many of Fiona's paintings on her website:
<https://fibromby.wixsite.com/website>

UPTON WI

Standing before a dazzling display of her hand-made hats, our speaker Alex Stanbrook gave us a scintillating talk on her hats, how they shaped and re-shaped her life. Hats come in many guises: decorative, comic, symbolic, or plain head covering and protection. Much liked and used by the Queen and royalty through the ages. Nobility and aristocrats called them "refinery". Workers called them hoods. Prostitutes wore red caps, apparently.

This led to an aside about underwear(!) Alex told us that knickers were not worn commonly until WW1. Queen Victoria was among the first known of the upper class to wear them, or pantaloons, and in her later life they were huge.

Back to hats. Alex wore and frequently changed her hats, all shapes and sizes, delighting us with tales of humour and everyday life. Her final words from this interesting and uplifting talk was: "be looked over, rather than overlooked".

It is sad to announce the death of a long and loyal member Evelyn Kendal.

The Upton WI will be helping with the St Leonard's Church floral display of red, white and blue, celebrating the Platinum Jubilee; the display is open 2nd-5th June.

We meet again at the Pavilion on June 6, for "The Journey of a Lifetime" presented by Patrick Howell. All are welcome.

Kathy Quant

Alex's website shows some of her hats and stories:
<https://alexstanbrook.weebly.com/>



Spotlight on Local Business:

A1 Windows

Simon Green, who is A1 Windows, is one of our regular advertisers, and is delighted by the number of new customers he has in the Village as a result of advertising here.

Simon has lived in Abbeymead for more than 20 years. He started in the window business as a teenager. Having learnt the trade well, in 1998 he set up his own company, A1 Windows, and hasn't looked back since. He works mostly on his own, calling occasional help when the situation requires. He has deliberately tried to stay small, getting to know his customers who deal with just one person and face from quote through to finished job. This builds up trust and the feeling of a very personal service, honesty. That's his business style.



He gets a lot of business by recommendations from past satisfied customers. New business from the Village and elsewhere would be most welcome.

Simon's advert with contact details is below.

From The Stanley Allotments

Musings by site manager Peter Macey

This year we have had the pleasure of welcoming 8 new allotmenters to our site. Everybody is very keen and we have seen lots of activity. Crops are beginning to show themselves, as are those dreaded weeds! Fruit bushes and trees have been full of blossom, so we are expecting a bumper crop. We are already gathering rhubarb and asparagus and are looking forward to onions, shallots, beans, peas, carrots, cabbage, courgettes and beetroot. The giant onions have been planted and the pumpkin seeds have been sown. Very soon the sweet peas, dahlias and gladioli will be in full bloom.

The wildlife has been active too. We enjoy seeing and

hearing the many birds and butterflies (OK - we don't look forward to cabbage whites). The rabbits are cute and the deer are amazing, but slugs and snails are too numerous for our liking. Toads, frogs and hedgehogs gobble them up thankfully!



We have been enjoying the lovely weather even though it means lots of watering, but we WILL be ready for the September Village Show with our produce for you to examine.

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Arts page

As we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we recall the old Royal Navy where the call "Hands to Dance and Skylark" was sounded when a ship's company was in need of cheerful exercise to raise the spirits. Perhaps this month we can all DANCE AND SKYLARK!

This poem was addressed to a youthful Mistress Margaret Hussey and written by Tudor poet, John Skelton (1460 – 1529). We take the liberty of substituting "Elizabeth" for "Margaret" and imagine a youthful Princess Elizabeth before 70 years of royal duty begins.

Merry Elizabeth, As midsummer flower, Gentle as a falcon Or hawk of the tower: With solace and gladness, Much mirth and no madness, All good and no badness; So joyously, So maidenly, So womanly Her demeaning In every thing, Far, far passing That I can indite, Or suffice to write Of Merry Elizabeth As midsummer flower,	Gentle as falcon Or hawk of the tower. As patient and still And as full of good will As fair Isaphill, Coriander, Sweet pomander, Good Cassander, Steadfast of thought, Well made, well wrought, Far may be sought Ere that ye can find So courteous, so kind As Merry Elizabeth, This midsummer flower, Gentle as falcon Or hawk of the tower.
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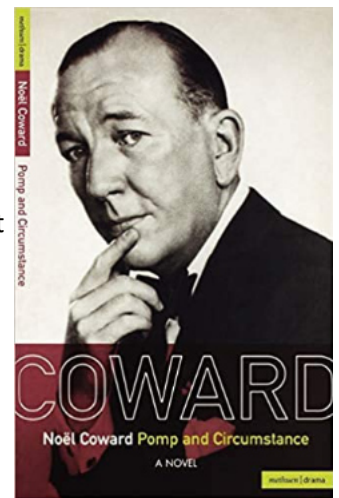
Royal words (spoken in a commanding tone) from Queen Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603) to the Bishop of Ely. "I know what you are, and I know what you were before I made you what you are, and if you do not do as I say, By God I will unfrock you Sir".

Words of two Victorian Ladies after watching a production of Shakespeare's *Anthony and Cleopatra* "How very unlike the home life of our dear Queen".

BOOK REVIEW

"Pomp and Circumstance" by Noel Coward. Published 1960 – his only novel although he published more than 50 plays and musicals.

This book provides a snapshot of a few hectic months on the fictional island of Samolo, a British colony in the South Pacific. These are the months leading up to a proposed visit by young Queen Elizabeth and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh. The story revolves around the social mishaps among the British community on the island and the determination to 'keep up appearances'. It is a light comedy and we hope that you enjoy it.





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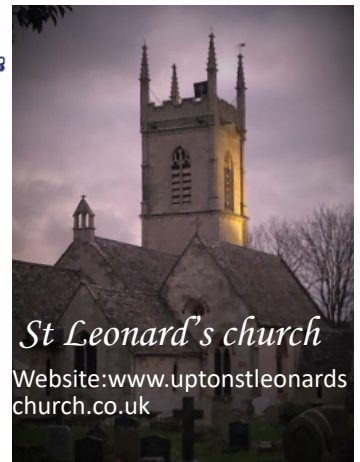
St Leonard's Church News



Priest in Charge Vacancy

Interim Minister: Revd Philippa Donald

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



St Leonard's church
Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Churchwarden

Gill Howell

Baptism and Wedding Enquiries

Jenny Cunningham

Dear friends in Upton St Leonards,

As you read this magazine, we will be preparing to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. And what an historic occasion it is! Elizabeth II - the longest ever reigning monarch in Britain – 70 years as our Queen!

Some of you reading this will remember the Coronation itself in 1953. My own mum – aged 19 - went on the train to London, a couple of days before the Coronation, to stay with a friend who lived in the city. On the day, they joined the enormous crowds lining the Mall, to wave as the golden coach went by. Now, at 88 years old, she remembers being squashed among the throng, and standing on her feet all day and being very tired, but then the glorious moment when the coach passed them, and they jumped up and down, and waved, and cheered until they were hoarse! The young Queen was only a few years older than my mum, but her life was to be very different. She had already told the nation:

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

April 21st 1947

And so it was. She did and she has, until the age, so far, of 96, done just that. She has devoted her whole life to the service of being our Queen. I think it would be fair to say that she is universally loved by all,



whatever their age or views on life, or creed, or opinions. Somehow, she has found a very special place in all of our hearts. Her steadfastness

and consistency, her sense of duty and service are an inspiration to us all.

In the beautiful booklet written in 2016, entitled *'The Servant Queen and the King she serves'* we read these words;

'There are no reliable recorded incidents of the Queen losing her temper, using bad language, or refusing to carry out a duty expected of her.'

Because at the heart of everything our Queen says and does, is her deep Christian faith. As she herself says, in the booklet

I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.. I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.'

Steadily, through the years of her reign, she has referred to her faith in Jesus in her Christmas broadcasts.

'I hope, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth, who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life. He made it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served.'(2008)



St Leonard's Church News

"Jesus' life began in humble surroundings, in a stable, but he was to have a profound influence on the course of history, and on the lives of generations of his followers. You don't have to be rich or powerful in order to change things for the better and each of us in our own way can make a contribution." (1980)

The Queen, just like all of us, has had some hard things to face, even within her close family. Christ's model of forgiveness has helped her through, as she says:

"Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love."

As we celebrate and give thanks for our Queen this special weekend, I hope we'll be inspired by her example, which leads us to be inspired by the example of Jesus, her servant King, and give thanks for him, his life, death and resurrection, and for his offer of eternal life, if we choose to follow him.

I look forward to seeing you at some of the exciting events that have been arranged in the village throughout the weekend, to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It looks like it's going to be an amazing weekend! With my love and prayers,

Rev Philippa



Revd James Turk

On Tuesday 10th May a 25 strong group from St. Leonard's congregation ventured forth to St Laurence church, Stroud to see James installed.

James was with us for a while as our curate and admirably stepped into the breach during Revd Clodagh's illness and during the time we were without a priest in charge, even though he was holding down a full time job at the time.

When we welcomed Revd Philippa into our midst it was time for James to move on and he now holds a full time position as Team Vicar in the Stroud Team Ministry, Diocese of Gloucester.

We wish you well in all you do James, and thank you for your time at St. Leonard's

Services for June 2022

Sunday June 5th 10.00am Holy Communion commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This Sunday is also Pentecost Sunday, when we remember the first coming of the Holy Spirit.

June 12th . 10.00am Holy Communion.

We welcome Revd Michael Butler to lead our service on this day.

June 19th 10.00am Holy Communion

June 26th 10.00am Holy Communion

(There is a wedding in church on June 26th , at 1.00pm)

Bible study group !

From June we will be starting a Bible study group in Upton St Leonards. We plan to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, in the old schoolroom, opposite the church, from 7.00 – 8.30-pm.

There will be coffee/tea and cake, and we will spend an hour or so looking at a chapter from a book of the Bible, and talking together about what it means and also what it might mean for us living as Christians in the 21st century.

Everyone is welcome! No qualifications or knowledge needed. You just need to be interested in what the Bible says, both from a historical perspective and what it says to us today. We will close our time with a prayer. First meeting – Tuesday June 7th – we'd love to see you there!



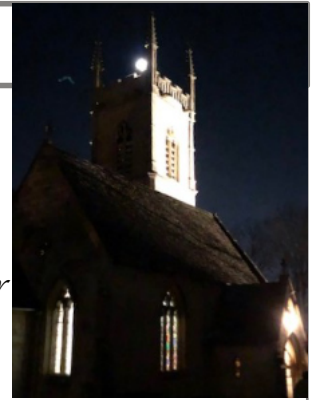
Tower Floodlighting 2022

The Church Tower is lit to celebrate the 68th 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

Congratulations Rachel and Trevor with love and best wishes from your church family xx



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

Dear USL Residents,

I took on the role of the Church Bell Ringing Tower Captain when it was vacated by the previous incumbent due to his health in retirement, and when there was a near costly incident in the belfry it prompted me to take over, even though I do not reside in the village.

The bells are, in my opinion, one of the best sounding bells of 8 in Gloucestershire when rung with skill.

Since I took up the role I have facilitated open days and a musical related Summer holiday event (2019) to encourage all ages from the village to take part and discover if they would enjoy, not just music through different types of instruments, but also, importantly, an opportunity to know more about the bells and the skills required to be a bell ringer.

Attendance of these events just entered the 'slightly encouraging' part of the eventing success curve. Some of those who actually rang a bell said that they very much enjoyed the experience and, in my experience, had talent to become very accomplished ringers but they did not return as promised - for reason(s) that I have not been made aware of - a wasted opportunity for the individual and especially the sustainability of the village to keep the bells ringing.

That was about two years ago now but since the end of 'lock-down' I have been training some new ringers. None are from the village itself but from elsewhere around Gloucester with the supporting [skilled] ringers from further afield.

At USL we are low in numbers which puts any regular ringing of the bells at USL at significant risk of being stopped and their iconic sounds silenced.

So I make this plea to all ages (U18 accompanied) :

Come to any of the weekly Wednesday ringing practice events starting at 7:30pm (entrance to ringing chamber via the Tower door) - when I will introduce you to some of the skills required to ring your Church bells.

<https://sites.google.com/view/the-usl-8-bells/home>
Long may they be rung - only possible with your help.

Charlie - USL tower captain



Flourish

On the first Sunday in May the Flourish Team joined together with the Open the Book Team to lead the 10.00 am service.

They told and acted out the story of 'On the road to Damascus' which was well received by members of the congregation who passed on their compliments to the teams

If anyone would like to join either team (or both!) please contact Dave Knight





The speaker at the April meeting was Lay Canon Margaret Edwards, a past Diocesan President of Mothers' Union and a Trustee of the Gloucester City Mission.

She gave an interesting talk on their work with the homeless and vulnerable providing food, clothes, showers and support. They also run The Revive Coffee Shop 4 days a week in the Eastgate Shopping Centre. It is a place to relax, enjoy ethically sourced hot drinks, homemade cakes and treats or cold drinks whilst supporting their work but it is also more than that. It is a place where they can offer employment to people who have been homeless and run Alpha courses and Life Skills sessions.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 June at St Oswald's Church Hall, Coney Hill at 2.30pm and is a "A Posy of Poems" with Pauline Farman, a Mothers' Union member from Cirencester who has a talent for writing verse, both serious and humorous. An afternoon not to be missed!

Mothering Sunday

Mothers' Union took part in the service reading the lessons and leading the intercessions. After being blessed, the congregation were presented with flower posies made by Jenny Cunningham. Thank you Jenny for all your hard work. As in previous years posies were also placed on the graves of past members.

Kate Gale


April 500 Club Winners

1 st Prize	£30.00	No.18
2 nd Prize	£20.00	No.38

Platinum Jubilee
Saturday 4th June
Wine and Cheese evening 7.30
In the Old School Room
Plus the showing of the Coronation DVD
Dress for the evening red, white and blue

Fundraising for the James Hopkins Trust

Thank You letter to the editor




May I take this opportunity, through you, to express my grateful thanks to Kate Gale and the Members of the Mothers Union. My mother, Norma Brinkley, was a Member back in the 1980's and '90's, until she passed away, suddenly, in 1993. Now, 29 years on, the Mothers Union continue to remember her and all past Members with the placing of flower posies on their graves every year on Mothering Sunday. This act of remembrance and kindness means a great deal to us as a family and I'm sure to all other families too.

My warm and grateful thanks to all involved.


Alan Brinkley.

Please note

**There will be no Tea and Natter on
2nd June**



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Rev Philippa



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UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL - The Annual Report 2022

This report was presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 16

Chairman's Report: Cllr Keith Pearson

We have just gone through another topsy-turvy year with the pandemic still a large part of our lives during 2021 and life now somewhat back to normal, although it has not yet gone away. We learned to organise ourselves with the use of virtual meetings for a part of the time, and a great deal of our contact with Stroud District Council (SDC) is still in that mode. At one point we did resurrect the Support Line, but people had clearly found their own ways of coping so it received no requests for help.

The Parish Council has continued with its work to keep our community sound. There was an election in May and all of our councillors stood again and were re-elected unopposed, no other candidates put themselves up.

We are continuing to try to get the speed problem in the village eradicated. My colleagues will report as usual on the different areas of work, but I would like to thank our Clerk Roy Balgobin who has done a very good job once again during what has been a very difficult year for him personally. Also we will be losing Cllr Paul Long who has stepped down after a period of around 10 years. Thanks Paul for your work and time on the Council.

I hope we can look forward to a much better year in 2023.



Planning Report: Cllr Chrissie Castle

The year to date has been quieter than in the past. There were 20 applications for extensions and modifications to homes, all being approved. There are 5 applications, for renovations and extensions, which are currently awaiting decision. There were applications on 2 sites within the village for new builds, both being refused due to location and various other factors. There were 2 agricultural applications, one being approved, and one refused.

Maintenance of trees under preservation orders were agreed on 2 sites and as we are all aware, there is ongoing management of ash tree die back.

The latest update on the Bondend Lane development by Dawn Homes, is that approval for drainage etc. has still to be agreed with planning. The Parish Council are hoping to have an update

from Dawn Homes who have offered to come and brief the parish on the situation. The Parish Council has asked in the meantime that the site be maintained in a tidy state.

The new footpaths created during lockdown are well used and confirm the importance of the AONB as a place for everyone to enjoy the local countryside. We are lucky to have such a beautiful area on our doorstep. As a parish we are aware that this means retaining a tightly drawn settlement boundary and restricting further development to the occasional infill within the defined settlement. The Parish response to the SDC draft local plan review supported this view and for residents interested in following the process and wishing to find out more look at:

www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview.

For anyone considering any development, we would always recommend that you first pay for a pre-application to the planning department at Stroud who can give the best advice on what would be possible. There is a cost for this service by SDC, but it is better and cheaper than having the full planning application turned down. This is of particular use when full plans are required for a large project.

Planning meetings are still held on the first Monday of each month prior to the Parish Council Meetings as notified on the notice boards by the Village Hall and Village Shops. The public are always welcome to attend. For more information on planning applications, you can register on the Stroud District Council's planning portal website and you will automatically be updated with any new applications in your area.



Environment Report: Cllr Peter Wilson

The first three plus months of 2021 saw us in another lockdown and looking back, the support provided by volunteers and neighbours has been exceptional through all the challenges of Covid.

It was good to see normal life getting back to normal with all our clubs and groups starting up again and thanks to the USL Life team who have continued in difficult circumstances to provide a

village focus even when there wasn't much going on.

The council have continued their focus on maintaining our village environment covering such things as :

- regular grass cutting at various areas around the village
- regular litter picks
- providing financial support for USCAN who maintain our local footpath network (much used by residents during lockdown)
- getting the bottom part of Nut Hill resurfaced (improvements require a lot of tenacity with Highways!! and particular thanks go to our District Councillor Keith Pearson for his efforts)
- repairing potholes in the Pavilion Car Park
- improving signage and road markings in liaison with Highways e.g. speed limits
- providing grants to the Church to support maintenance of their grounds
- maintaining Cud Hill including cattle grazing (our thanks to the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group for providing the cattle)
- providing a grant to support the operating costs of our village newsletter (which the team are very grateful for).

Also, our Parish Clerk, Roy Balgobin has been on hand to deal with any issues raised by residents as they have arisen.

We have encouraged residents via USL Life to raise issues directly with Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire Highways so that they can be actioned quickly e.g. potholes, fly tipping etc. The council really appreciates everyone who has contributed in this way and more involvement can only lead to a better environment.

My colleague, Roy Roberts, continues to work with our County Councillor representative, Sue Williams, on how we can reduce the risk of flooding and this will carry on until we see specific actions being taken, particularly upstream to improve our previous experiences e.g. Bondend Road, Staites Orchard etc.

Village Improvements

In response to a challenge on how the council could improve our environmental impact, we decided to plant some trees in the Glebe Field. We tapped into an initiative from The Woodland Trust who were looking to achieve the planting of a million new trees across the UK. As a

Annual Parish report continued . . .

result, we received 105 saplings and a mix of species and they were planted in



May 2021. My personal thanks go to the Woodland Trust, 21 local adult volunteers, Explorer Scouts and 15 school children from Upton School who physically helped to plant the trees, plus the parish council who paid for some robust sleeves to protect the young saplings in their early years.

USCAN completed improvements to the Village Green Memorial Bench by providing extra boards for memorial plaques and a roof to protect the bench. I am sure all those who have lost loved ones and have placed a plaque on the bench are grateful for this work.

The latest initiative has been to replace the oak lost recently on the village green with a semi-mature oak tree which was planted in the Glebe Field and this will be dedicated to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5 June 2022 during the weekend of celebrations.

The tree stump that remains on the village green from the necessary work to make the tree safe (due to a split in the trunk) may provide an opportunity to create a sculpture and this is being considered by the parish council and ideas will be sought from village residents on possible design ideas.

The council during 2022 will be revisiting a previous initiative that did not come to fruition, how we can help keep traffic within the speed limits and will be working with our County Councillor colleague, Sue Williams, on how this

might be achieved. Any progress will be shared in USL Life.

In conclusion, I would like to give my thanks to everyone who has made a contribution to all the activities mentioned and thereby continuing to make our village such a great place to live.



Recreation Report: Cllr David Hunt

Pavilion: 2021 saw the Pavilion return to full use, and bookings have gradually picked up again to pre-Covid levels. Changing room users have been able to enjoy the new shower and hot water system, fitted early in 2021, replacing the system installed in 1974 which had lasted for nearly 50 years! The carpet in the upstairs room and on the stairs was also replaced in the last year and this time we have opted for carpet tiles which can be replaced easily in cases of spot damage. The outside upper floor rendering has developed unsightly cracks (hopefully not a structural issue) but the Council is actively looking at options to improve the exterior look.

Cricket: 2021 was almost a normal year for the game with a full season of competitive matches. However changing room use was restricted by Covid 19 precautions and there were no 'cricket teas'. The 2nd X1 won their division and were promoted. The 1st X1 just avoided relegation and the Wednesday evening team had a difficult season, unable to raise a team for half their fixtures. The youth section was very well supported and although wins were hard to come by, lots of fun was had by all.

Football: The 2020/21 Seasons was greatly affected by the pandemic. Although some games were played, promotions and relegations were suspended. The current season is therefore the first fully competitive league for some time. Upton's first X1 are now playing in the Glos. Northern Senior League Division 1 (the highest ever achieved by the Club) with a mid-table result looking likely as the season closes. Higher leagues require a high standard of playing surface and team members have assisted the PC in making substantial improvements to our pitch. The Reserves play in the Stroud and District League Division 2 and are currently hoping to avoid relegation.

Tennis: 'Normal service' has resumed and the Club's use of courts and pavilion is back to pre-pandemic arrangements. The Club runs social sessions on Sunday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings and supports Men's and Ladies' teams in the local league. New members are welcome.

Petanque: The piste (playing surface) is now back in regular use but as membership has fallen away somewhat during the past two years, the Club is now looking to attract new members. The Club plays in the Cotswold League and during the last season was ranked 7th (out of 9 teams competing) Members are about to embark on tidying-up work (weeding, fence repairs, etc.) to restore the piste to its pre-pandemic condition.

Children's Play Areas & Adult Exercise Equipment: Only closed during the height of 'lock-down', all equipment is now fully open for public use. The Junior Swings have recently been completely replaced with new equipment. The Infant swings have been updated with

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new seats and chains. The Glebe Field: During the pandemic, apart from lockdown periods, the Glebe Field facility has proven a strong attraction not only for local dog-walking villagers but to a much wider catchment area. Unfortunately the increased usage has caused problems at peak times relating to the number of dogs in the field and number of vehicles in the car park. It is hoped that as we move back to normality the problem will ease, but the PC is carefully monitoring the situation. The tree planting on The Glebe is also being closely watched as spring growth will indicate whether any of the planted saplings need replacement. A semi-mature oak tree has also been planted on the Glebe in anticipation of the Queens Jubilee. Details of a commemorative plaque unveiling will be announced shortly.

Volunteers: In conclusion I would wish to express a special thank you to all those club members and other volunteers who have helped maintain and restore pavilion and recreation ground facilities during these most difficult times. In particular, a thank you to our Pavilion Manager, Andy Russell



Allotment Report: Cllr Hilary Morris

It has been another good year for the allotment sites in the village despite some very bad weather including extremely high winds and storms. We are impressed that both sites are looking very good given some of the conditions, the effort that people have put in to them is amazing. It is pleasing that restrictions to our lives have been relaxed to enable people to get back to enjoying their gardening.

We have to thank the two site managers, Holly Paton who manages Perry Orchard site and Peter Macey who manages the Stanley site, for the continued support to both sites. They do the work quietly and efficiently, often without people realising the effort they have put in. The Parish Council thank them for their efforts, considering these are voluntary positions.

To all tenants, the renewals have been sent out soon and we would ask that anyone who no longer wishes to continue with their allotment, would they please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. Both the Perry Orchard site and the Stanley have waiting lists which we can reduce if we find

allotments are no longer required. We would ask all tenants to read the agreement they receive and to observe the rules, which specify that allotments are for the planting and producing of produce for consumption. There have been occasions where this has not been adhered to and alterations and changes have been made without first discussing with the site Managers or the Parish Clerk. This causes unnecessary bad feelings which could be avoided.

We have recently, due to the efforts of volunteer allotment holders, been able to provide several additional plots at the Stanley site which have helped to reduce the waiting list slightly. A very big thank you goes to those concerned.

All tenants: thank you for all the hard work you put in and I hope 2022 is a bountiful year. This is reflected in the way the two sites always look so impressive.

Please be extremely careful when attending the allotments and observe any guidelines.



Finance by Roy Balgobin Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer

The Accounts are now available for members of the Public to view them in the Parish Office on any Tuesday or Thursday between 9 am and 11 am or by prior appointment 01452 621688 and will be published on the Council website www.uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk once the audit process is complete.



Motorway Working Group: Chairman of the Working Group Tony Pryce

Noise Pollution

In September 2021 the parish council raised a Notice of Complaint with National Highways regarding its ongoing failure to address the problem of motorway noise. Copies of the complaint were sent to the Department for Transport, the Chair of the Transport Select Committee House of Commons, and Siobhan Baillie MP for Stroud.

National Highways did not respond to this complaint, though its receipt of the complaint has been established by a signed recorded delivery slip and in a letter from the Department for Transport dated 20th October stating it had 'raised your concerns directly with National Highways'.

It had been anticipated that National Highways would reject the complaint and that the council would then be required to engage in each of the four tiers of National Highways' complaints process. Its failure to even consider the complaint has allowed the parish council to by-pass the remaining parts of the complaint process and take its case directly to the newly formed Office for Environmental Protection. On 5th January the council received confirmation from the Office for Environmental Protection that the complaint had been accepted for assessment.

On 3rd February, following a meeting with representatives from National Highways, I sent the following message to the Office for Environmental Protection officer dealing with the council's complaint.

"For years we have been pressing Highways England for an effective solution to the noise problem and repeatedly suggested that the imposition of a 50mph limit could well be the most cost-effective and easily implemented solution. Today it emerged that National Highways have not, and will not, consider this simply because it is not on their prescribed list of remedies – regardless of whether it might be the best. The National Highways representative, Ben Hampson, Route Manager for South West Operations, clearly did not feel able to challenge whoever determines the content of their list, but as an independent body you may feel able to raise this at an appropriate level, it could well prove to be the best way of dealing with this whole matter."

At the time of writing the council is still waiting for the Office for Environmental Protection to complete its review of the complaint.

Hucclecote Parish Council have mirrored our complaint, and have declined an offer by the Office for Environmental Protection for this to be combined with our complaint, their view being that the impact of two, separate complaints over the same issue will be greater than that of a single one. I have agreed with their approach. Submission of the Hucclecote complaint was made approximately eight weeks after ours.

Airborne Pollution

On 19th November 2021 PM2.5 monitoring equipment, which had been loaned to the council by local firm Enviro Technology Services Ltd, was installed at an address in Woodland Green and took continuous readings of air pollutants until its removal on 6th January. The UK Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010

limit particulates according to size: those less than 10 micrometres in diameter (PM10), and those less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter (PM2.5).

For the period under review the average PM10 reading was 13.8 µg/m³ (statutory annual average limit 40 µg/m³) and the average for PM2.5 was 6.8 µg/m³ (statutory annual average limit 25 µg/

m³). There were occasions when readings spiked above the permitted annual average, however there is good reason to believe these are not sufficient to be of concern, and to test this assumption we are planning a repeat of the monitoring exercise in the summer of 2022.



Cricket teas have featured in films, plays, operettas, *The Archers* and all over the place, it seems. There have been books written about them, with famous commentators, cricketers and raconteurs singing their praises. It was part of a perfect Saturday afternoon with hot summer sun, a friendly game of cricket, insects buzzing, slightly sweaty if you had just been bowling or batting. A delight to sit down with a hot cup of tea, sandwiches, cakes, often with cream. It has been said that cricket teas are on a par with strawberries and cream at Wimbledon or Ascot.

Lots of cricket clubs took great pride in the quality of the teas they served. Inevitably this meant there were a few dedicated ladies behind the scenes, who almost considered it to be a cooking competition. Indeed in our area and many others, opposing teams were asked to award marks for the tea, and the best marked club won a trophy at the end of the season.

Once league cricket took off in the 1970s and 80s, the leagues insisted, as part of the league rules, that a tea was provided, and stipulated minimum standards and quantities. The visiting side would be required to pay, usually a fixed amount, for the tea. In 2019 in our leagues this amount was £35.

At Upton St Leonards cricket club, in the nearly 50 years that I have been there, the task of supplying the tea was rostered out to all, so we each had to do just one tea per year. When I say we, for many this meant a wife / parent would be persuaded. In my case my wife firmly told me mine was the name on the roster, not hers! And I can't say the quality of my tea was very high. But some players and wives or parents would provide really fine teas with homemade scones and cakes and other special treats. One of the wives made a delicious curry for our tea,

Cricket Teas - the end of an old tradition

Feature article by Andy Russell

instead of sandwiches and cakes. Dear Evelyn Rumsey, always a Cricket Club supporter, insisted on doing one tea per year, and very good it was too. We always looked forward to that afternoon.

A Saturday or Sunday afternoon cricket game lasts five or six hours, so some nourishment is pretty important!

In recent years there have been fewer and fewer clubs going all out to create a marvellous tea of the sort that would have been produced 40 or more years ago. Making the tea started to be a real chore and a burden on the limited volunteer effort available. I know at Upton nobody looked forward to it being their turn to do the teas, and quality usually suffered, so we quite often got packaged cakes and biscuits, sometimes even packaged sandwiches, crisps, soggy supermarket sausage rolls.

From about 2016 on, cricket leagues started discussions with their clubs about not requiring teas. By 2018 I believe some leagues had taken the step. There were votes in our leagues at the time, but teas survived for a couple more years here.

Then came 2020 and 2021 and pandemic. Clubs were not allowed to provide teas. Players brought their own food. This was a trigger. It showed to all that there is an alternative to the traditional cricket tea, and for the 2022 season, our local leagues, and many others all around the country have had votes passed to remove the requirement to provide teas. I am told the debate has featured recently in *The Archers*.

A few clubs want to carry on - they will provide food and sell it to whoever wants, but for most clubs now, including Upton St Leonards, **there will be no more cricket teas.**

JUNE

1	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
1	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
2	Thu	NO Old School Room Tea and Chat this week, please note.		
2	Thu	Flower Festival	Church	10am-4pm
3	Fri	Flower Festival	Church	10am-4pm
4	Sat	Flower Festival	Church	10am-4pm
5	Sun	Flower Festival	Church	10am-4pm
5	Sun	Jubilee Picnic.....	Village Hall.....	2.00-5.00pm
5	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
6	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
6	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00pm
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
7	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
7	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
7	Tue	Tennis Club night.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
7	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
8	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
8	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
9	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00p.m
10	Fri	Copy date for July issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
12	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
13	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
14	Tue	Rubbish and food waste Week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
14	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
14	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
14	Tue	Tennis Club night.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
14	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
15	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
16	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00pm
19	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
20	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
21	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
21	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
21	Tue	Tennis Club night.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
21	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
22	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
22	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
22	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
23	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00pm
25	Sat	Summer Quiz	BMI	8.00pm
26	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
27	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
28	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
28	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
28	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
28	Tue	Tennis Club night.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
29	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI	10.00am
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
29	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
30	Thu	Craft & Chatter.....	Old School Room	10.00-12.30pm

JULY

4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
4	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00pm
9	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
10	Sun	Copy date for August issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
27	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI	10.00am
28	Thu	Craft and Chatter.....	Old School Room	10.00-12.30pm
31	Sun	Sunday lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.00pm

AUGUST

10	Wed	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
20	Sat	Annual Pig Roast	BMI	Time tba
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
24	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI	10.00am
25	Thu	Craft and Chatter.....	Old School Room	10.00-12.00pm

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

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Brickhill	07876 764425
Pilates - NEW	Wednesdays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Seniors Fitness NEW	Mondays 10.30am	Pavilion	Helen Osborne	07872 941324
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

Note the new Pilates class on Wednesday mornings in the Pavilion, run by Philippa Barker. Call her to book.

Also note the Seniors Fitness class that has just started on Monday mornings in the Pavilion. This is a new venture by Helen Osborne, who leads the very successful Chair Pilates class. Helen writes: "ALL OVER BODY FITNESS FOR SENIORS - With the popularity of my Chair Pilates on a Wednesday at the Pavilion, I'm really excited to begin this fitness session for seniors. Come along if you're new, to feel the physical and mental benefits, or to compliment your Wednesday session with me." Give Helen a call to book a place.

Upton Show - 10 September

We have been publishing items about entries for the show every month, and this month we highlight the **children's classes**. Full details of all classes are on the show's website (just search for Upton St Leonards show) and will be in a schedule booklet. Do check the schedule for important details such as maximum size.

Under 5s are asked to do a hand print and a rainbow picture. Ages 5-7 are asked to make a pasta necklace, use junk to make a monster, a potato person, a crown and draw a zoo animal.

Ages 8-11 are asked to make a bird feeder, a necklace from recycled items, a vegetable or fruit monster, something built from a craft kit, a miniature allotment on a plate (wow!), flapjacks, and use best handwriting to address an envelope to the Queen.

12-16 years: a photo of friends having fun, make some rocky road, decorate a wellie, paint or draw a pop star, make a birthday card for a friend, and write a 50 word short story which must include these words: bird, bicycle, cabbage, turnips, weather, spade, school, spider.



We have mentioned the young gardeners entries before - see the April edition.

Correction: Last month we printed the short story class 157 for adults, with an important comma missing. This is what the instruction should have been - "Write a short story of not more than 50 words, to include the following: storm, queen, linguist, running, dog, tank, Scotland, flag."

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ERIC COX

1937-2022

We are sad to report the death of Eric Cox, a long time resident of Six Acres. After a time as a German and Russian linguist with the RAF, Eric took up a post in the Land Registry and moved to Upton with his wife and two children Libby and Dan. Eric played cricket for the Village team in the 1970s and 80s. He played table tennis in Painswick well into his eighties and was a keen Probus member.



LITTER PICKERS

A note of thanks to a group of people who can often be seen going round the Village picking up litter. Most just do this without being asked or organised. It would be difficult to name all - you know who you are. But I will mention two: David Miller, who is often on Nut Hill and elsewhere clearing up litter, and who sometimes calls himself Uncle Bulgaria on the Village Facebook pages; and Millie Barnes who can often be seen at the Recreation Ground and Birchall Lane tidying up.

Many thanks. It's great to see the Village kept so tidy, and that's due to these two and all the others.

CHURCH TURNSTILE GATE and the VILLAGE SIGN

Thanks also to the indefatigable Alan Gresswell who spent hours scraping, cleaning and sandpapering the church turnstile gate and the support for the Village Sign. They look very good again.

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Next month's editor

Andrea Dawson



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Summertime - an essay in pictures of the Village



We are all hoping for a glorious summer of course - it hasn't yet arrived at the time of going to press!
The flowers above were photographed last summer by Jane Reed in the gardens of Prinknash Abbey



These four pictures were taken by Jim Browne, and show: the Village green after it's re-design in 2014, dancing round the maypole on the Village Day in 2016, songs of praise on the green in 2016, and roses on display at the Village show in 2019.



To finish, some colour in borders and by the pavement, pictures taken in May this year

