

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 106

June 2023



Young and old celebrated in style for the Coronation. USL Primary celebrated the 'Big Occasion' with a Coronation Picnic on Friday, 12 May. The school grounds were packed with families, ice cream vans, bouncy castles and stalls of all kinds including a 'soak the teacher stall', which proved to be very popular!!



Squirrels for 4–5 year olds: inspiring a new generation with skills for life

Arlo Ely and Charlie Taylor from the USL Squirrels Scout Group showing their hand made crowns, colour themed biscuits and Coronation Coach plates.

Lots more photos can be seen on page 20 when residents and their families enjoyed getting together on Sunday, 7 May, with glorious sunshine – had it been the previous day, it would have been a total washout!!

Letters to the Editor

Village Recollections



Following your article by Mrs Reed, she may not have realised that my wife, Rachel Hall is Ivor Middlecote's first cousin, who was born in the village at Manor Cottage, Portway some 90 years ago and she well remembers the tree planting ceremony. Rachel's mother is the Daisy Middlecote mentioned. We have the family photograph which shows the 5 sons and 3 daughters. Daisy lived with us until she died, aged 97.

Tim went into the Navy and served on the Arctic Run, Les was wounded during the war and Ron was killed in a road accident after the war.

Doris served in the WRENS during the war but when the war ended she was more like a sister to Rachel and spent many hours at Manor Cottage. After retiring, Rachel arranged for her to come to live in Gloucester and she was a great friend of Vera Nash whose father was the BMI's steward at the time.

Trevor Hall

From the Editor

Thank you to Trevor Hall for providing us with some of his recollections relating to Jane Read's first feature on the Middlecote family. It is always appreciated when our readers respond to our content. The second part of Jane Read's feature on the Middlecote family will feature in the July issue.



Meanwhile, June is a busy month and in this issue you will not only find some of our usual articles but tributes and photographs of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla and how residents, young and old, celebrated this unique royal event.

BMI AGM Update

Dear Members



This is for the benefit for those that couldn't make the Annual

General Meeting last Friday. The AGM was my last official duty as an Officer of the BMI Club. I have served the Club for the past 11 years, all of it running the Bar sub committee and for the past 6 years I have been Club Secretary as well.

After the vote on Friday night, which was well attended, we have 3 new committee members who will join the other 9 to form your new committee for the coming year. The first meeting of the new committee will be held on Monday, 12th June 2023 and the committee will propose and vote on your new officers of the Club.

Congratulations to **Andrew Skelton, Louise Rawlingson and Phil Hayes** on their successful nomination.

Commiserations to **Andy Collingwood** on losing out, but many thanks to him for his 5 years of service to the club and his invaluable contribution in the maintenance of our premises.

Another debt of gratitude goes to our long serving Membership Secretary, **Alan Morris** who is also retiring.

We are so lucky to have this Club and I've seen it grow from strength to strength over the years. We are far from the days of the battle cry "USE IT, OR LOSE IT" when the club was in dire straits and risk of closing. Remember it is 'your' club, the Officers of the club and the committee are here to serve you. If you have any suggestions or

The AGM results of several of our village groups can be found within the following pages informing us of the important work that goes on behind the scenes; all thanks to the many dedicated volunteers that work so hard on our behalf to enrich our lives. There are a number of vacancies which urgently need filling plus requests for more volunteers in this issue, so if you can spare a few hours, why not offer your services?

Andrea Dawson

complaints there is a box in the foyer for such purposes. Every correspondence is read out and actioned upon, at every committee meeting and is given appropriate consideration.

In closing, I would just like to thank Mike Long our President, Ian Crowe our very long standing Treasurer, Keith Pearson our Chairman who cajoled me onto the committee in the first place and the Committee members past and present who have supported me for the past 11 years. and to you, the Members who have supported the club and made it what it is today... a lovely and fun way to socialise.

Kind regards to you all.

Jim Browne

Hon. Secretary (retired)

What's been happening in Upton



Events at the BMI

The Officers, Committee, Club Steward and Staff would like to wish Jan Richings, see right, a fabulous retirement. Jan has worked at the Club for nearly 40 years and was awarded Honorary membership for her dedicated service.

Jan will be a big loss, not only to the club, but to the many members she has served during this time. We wish Jan & Neil a happy retirement and look forward to seeing them "this" side of the bar.



Jim Browne



The entertainment night on Saturday, 22 April was very busy at the BMI. There were at least 80 members enjoying the music and songs by Ian Oliver and dancing all evening.

On Saturday, 6 May, the whole of the King Charles III Coronation was shown on the large screen in the lounge. Several members came along and it wasn't long before we toasted the newly crowned King with a few glasses of Prosecco! Lorraine made some "Coronation Quiche" which was quite delicious. However, I'm sorry Charles, but I don't think a quiche which includes spinach and broad beans, will ever go down as a memorable dish!

On the day of the "Eurovision" the lounge was once again very busy as the whole of the competition was shown on the big screen. The lounge was decorated with Union Jack bunting together with that of Ukraine. It was a fun evening which began with a selection of chicken curry delivered from The Spice House.

Paula Quinn

Craft Club Report



In March, Diana taught the ladies how to work with colourful mosaics and they achieved some lovely projects - kitchen pot stands, table stands and wall plaques. Examples, in colour, can be seen on page 20.

In the April meeting one of our talented members, Christina Simpson gave us all a demonstration in making block stamp painting on felt, material and card. These patterns can be used to decorate cards for many occasions. The ladies enjoyed taking part and many completed their painting project in May. Our thanks to Christina for showing us how to perfect this art which we all enjoyed.

Final arrangements are being made to introduce a beautiful new art form to our ladies in Craft Club; all to be revealed soon.

Thank you all for your on-going support and enthusiasm. So many new friendships have been made during our sessions together. Our June meeting will be on Thursday, 29 June and in August we will be celebrating our 2nd Anniversary.

Keep Crafting Anita & Diana

USL Ladies Probos

Mike Stratford's very interesting talk in April was all about the 'secrets' he could now tell us about. The 40 year rule had previously prevented any disclosures involving his role in GCHQ & his temporary role as 'the Queen's Messenger'. What a very interesting talk that was!

Our May meeting was entitled Himalaya 100 presented by speaker Celia Hargrove. The meeting on Wednesday 14th June also promises to be very interesting – Tristan da Cunha presented by speaker Gerald Buck. You are all welcome to come along to the BMI at 10.15am to find out more!

Janet Carr

What's been happening in Upton cont'd



No dancing on the green for the Upton WI ladies, but May Day welcomed us with a real feeling of new beginnings and spring in the air.

We had a wonderful afternoon being entertained by Anita and Maurice Hipkiss, a musical duo well known nationally since the late 1970s. Their latest release is "Reminiscin", and we heard many songs known to us. Maurice described and played his 'Pedal Steel Guitar' with its special tone, similar to a Hawaiian guitar.

The dinner at Bowden Hall had been a fitting end to the centenary celebrations, and Marlene was thanked and applauded for organising it.

We meet again on Monday, 5 June at 2pm in the Pavilion. The speaker will be Patrick Howells, talking about a journey from London to Hong Kong overland via the Trans-Siberian Railway. All are welcome.

Kathy Quant

Upton St Leonards Life AGM

The USL Life Community Interest Company (CIC), which is,



formally, the company that

publishes this magazine, had its AGM in April. For the year 2022 there was a trading loss of about £770, and once again the Parish Council stepped in to cover this loss. We are most grateful for this support, without which we would have to close down. The company has built up a reserve of £5,000, available if we get a drastic loss of advertisers or need e.g new publishing software and IT.

However, there is a continuing need to sell more advertising space. **If any readers know of people we could try to persuade to advertise with us, please let us know.**

John Cowley joined the company board as a director in 2022. The other directors asked him to cast a fresh look at the magazine as a newcomer. His report to the board was most interesting and insightful. A key word from John is that we should be "campaigning", so that the newsletter not only reports on what has happened and what is coming up, but that it should be a vehicle for change in Village life, be it tackling climate change, cost of living, whatever. Readers should have noted some changes in this vein already.

The directors, forming the board - Peter Wilson (Chairman), Cliff Alderman (Secretary), Owen Stinchcombe (Treasurer), Andy Russell and John Cowley - were approved.

Andy Russell

Upton Village Hall Trustees Required



On Tuesday, 9th May 2023 the Village Hall AGM was held. At that meeting one of our stalwart Trustees stepped down due to other commitments. Jackie Lord has been a Trustee for many years and every year, along with her Social Committee, she has organised the Annual Spring Show and the Junior Quizzes. We thank Jackie for all her time and effort on behalf of the Village Hall Committee and indeed on behalf of residents.

Which brings me to another point, we already have one vacancy for a Trustee and nobody has yet come forward. Now of course, there are two vacancies.

It is vital some new people fill these two positions as many of us are not getting any younger and it is important that the Village Hall is sustainable over the coming years for the sake of all the regular user groups and those who hire the hall casually.

I ask therefore for two willing and able people to put themselves forward as Trustees of the Hall so that we can get up to a full complement of eleven as soon as possible. Your Village needs you!

Keith Pearson, Chair of the Trust

What's coming up in Upton

Saturday 3rd June
8.00p.m.

Entertainment Night with
"Michael Ian Brown"



Open to members and signed in guests

Thursday 22nd June
1.00p.m.

Televised
"Ladies Day @
Ascot"



Why not dress up
and imagine a day
at the races?

Afternoon tea with a glass of Prosecco
Tickets @ £15 available in the BMI
Open to members and signed in guests

Saturday 24th June
8.00p.m.



for members and signed in guests
Add your name to the booking sheet by
Thursday 22nd June

£1.50 per person for tables up to 6
(Minimum £6 per table)

Saturday 8th July
8.00p.m.

Entertainment Night
We welcome the return of
"Summer Night City"



Open to members and signed in
guests



A Date for your Diary

The UpStagers next offering is a Murder Mystery Evening
to include a Supper and a Bar. It is called **"Dying for a Leek"**

10th, 11th & 12th August 2023.

Hope to see you there.

USL Climate Group Report

There are a couple of areas we have recently discussed which we thought would be useful to share with everyone in Upton.

Disposal of Waste Items



In an effort to reduce waste items going to landfill, the

Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership (a combination of Gloucestershire County Council and District Councils) have developed an online tool called Waste Wizard. This aims to help anyone who is looking to dispose of an item.

The tool is accessed via the County Council homepage (www.gloucestershire.gov.uk). Click on Recycling, and further down the screen you will see Waste Wizard. Click on this and you will be asked to name the item and confirm your postcode.

You will see different options (depending on the item) from Reuse to Repair and recycle.

Freecycle via USL Life

Your local newsletter also provides a useful option, particularly to reuse eg furniture/other and this has been used successfully by a number of residents over time to pass on things which are in good condition but the owner for whatever reason wants to move on.

If anyone in Upton has an item that they no longer require, they can contact the editor (always shown on page 19) and ask for their item to be advertised (for free). You will need to provide a decent photo of the item/s together with your contact number and any other relevant details.

Conserving Water

Some people are already using water butts to help water



their gardens but it's difficult to assess how many Upton residents have the

means (space/location etc) or already have one in place.

Some Water Companies are already looking at price rises on average of 7.5% (approximately £31 for a two-person household) so anything that will reduce bills will be useful.

Severn Trent offer advice on "Getting Water Fit" via their website and reduced prices for water butts, but it's best to compare these to the usual DIY stores to check you are getting the best deal.

Reducing water consumption collectively will help combat the impact of climate change which is making water supply more unpredictable. Other simple ways of reducing water use as most of us know are things like dual-flush toilets (estimated at saving the equivalent of 150 baths full) plus using showers instead of baths and running them for a shorter time eg less than 5 minutes.

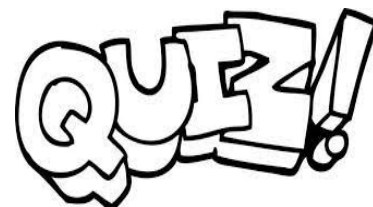
Pete Wilson

Abbeydale Gardening Club

Our May meeting was held on Monday, 15th May. Members enjoyed a horticulturally themed quiz which was won by Elizabeth Stagg, Kathy Quant, Jane Watkiss and Kate and Barry Gale, with a creditable score of 23/29.



Doug Monkman brought along a wide range of plants that he had grown, for members to purchase and he also gave us a talk on the uses of Comfrey and its many benefits, including deterring caterpillars from eating your brassicas. Doug, as we all know is a prize winning gardener so all the tips he passes on to us are much appreciated.



In our June meeting, (third Monday in the month), Mair David will be demonstrating how to make a floral arrangement in a shallow dish. All members were asked to bring along a suitable container. Members were also given a 'Little Dorrit' sunflower seed to grow on for our Mini Show on 21 August.

New members are always welcome and from June until the end of the year, half price membership is available. Further details from our Secretary, Val George.

Arts Page

The National Health Service looms large in our newspapers and conversations. There are many T.V. programmes which portray Accident and Emergency departments, Operating Theatres and Paramedics at work. Hospital visitors seem less newsworthy so we turn to a poem written by the Cornish Poet, Charles Causley, entitled TEN TYPES OF HOSPITAL VISITOR. We have selected four types of visitor and encourage you to complete the poem by finding it in the Library or on Google.

Extracts from Ten Types of Hospital Visitor by Charles Causley (1917 - 2003)

The fourth attempts to cheer
His aged mother with light jokes
Menacing as shell-splinters.
“They’ll soon have you jumping round
Like a gazelle”, he says.
“Playing in the football team”.
Quite undeterred by the sight of kilos
Of plaster, chains, lifting-gear,
A pair of lethally designed crutches,
“You’ll be leap-frogging soon”, he says.
“Swimming ten lengths of the baths.”

At these unlikely prophecies
The old lady stares fearfully
At her sick, sick offspring
Thinking he has lost his reason -

Which, alas, seems to be the case.

The sixth visitor says little,
Breathes reassurance,
Smiles securely.
Carries no black passport of grapes
And visa of chocolate. Has a clutch
Of clean washing.

Unobtrusively stows it
In the locker; searches out more,
Talks quietly to the Sister
Out of sight, out of earshot, of the patient.
Arrives punctually as a tide.
Does not stay the whole hour.

Even when she has gone
The patient seems to sense her there;
An upholding
Presence.

The ninth visitor is life.

The tenth visitor is not usually named.

BOOK REVIEW

Staying with the NHS theme, two very different books are discussed this month. One follows a nurse in training during World War II, the second book features a junior doctor in 2010.

One Pair of Feet by Monica Dickens (great grand daughter of Charles Dickens)

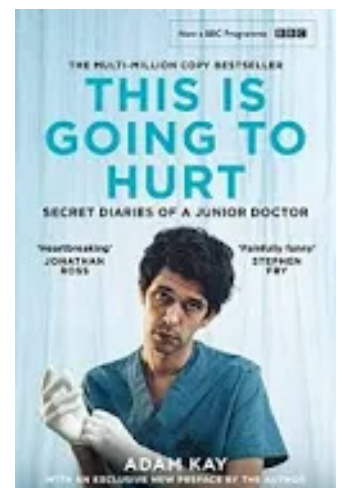


First published in 1942, this book has never been out of print. It gives a brilliantly funny account of the first year of nurse training.

It was written before the advent of the NHS and nurses feel that it gives the most accurate account of the life of a probationer nurse.

This Is Going to Hurt – Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor by Adam Kay

Adam Kay is a comedy writer, author, comedian, screenwriter and former doctor. He was a doctor between 2004 and 2010 and left medicine for a career in writing. He published this book in 2017. The book was adapted for BBC Television as a seven-part comedy drama and broadcast in 2022. Kay describes endless days and sleepless night as experienced on the front line of the NHS. The book is both hilarious and heartbreaking.



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Services for June

4 th June	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
11 th June	10.00 am	Holy Communion
18 th June	10.00 am	Holy Communion
25 th June	10.00 am	Holy Communion

Dear friends in Upton St Leonard's,

Many thanks for the very generous garden token and gift of money you gave me when I left you, on Easter Day.



Here is a picture of the beautiful garden bench that I was able to buy with your gift, and I look forward to many hours relaxing on it and reading, in our garden.

With my love, thanks and prayers

Rev Philippa ✕

Visitation Service

St Philip and St James

13th June 7.30 pm

Please come along and support Gill as she begins another year as churchwarden

Have you got a favourite hymn?

Let us know

And we will do our best to include it in our service

There will be a list at the back of the church for you to add your request

We look forward to your choices

Churchwarden: Gill Howell

**Church Administrator:
Jenny Cunningham**

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Downey

**Roof Fund
Raised so far
£5557**



May 500 Club Winners

1st Prize £30.00

No. 16

2nd Prize £20.00

No. 10



Proverbs 31:8

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.”

Safeguarding at St Leonards is something we will always take seriously. Safeguarding often refers to children, young people and vulnerable adults with care needs, disabilities or the elderly, but the truth is each and every one of us can be vulnerable at different times of our lives.

Abuse can take many forms; physical, emotional, sexual, domestic, online, financial, modern slavery to name a few. It is not always easy to identify.

Of course, we have policies and procedures to follow. We complete safeguarding training. All those who should be are DBS checked but safeguarding within our church is about much more than that. It is a

culture not just a process and it is the responsibility of everyone not only a few.

*St Leonard's
and
Safeguarding*

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our parish churches. Here in St Leonards we are committed to ensuring our church and community is a safe place for everyone to enjoy.

However, we recognise that despite all our best efforts it is still possible for things to go wrong. If anyone should have any safeguarding concerns please contact myself, or our churchwarden in times of vacancy. If we are not available our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is Brett Riches who can be contacted on 01452 835516. As always, in case of emergency, call 999.

Sue Downey
Parish Safeguarding Officer



ITV West Country visits USL Church and its Bell Ringers.

ITV came to our tower to record us ringing in preparation for the King’s Coronation. Broadcast occurred on 6 May as part of news article

<https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-05-05/bell-ringers-prepare-to-sound-peals-across-the-region>

The broadcast was shortened due to a reduced time slot. However, we are much more recognisable by local people since then; almost celeb status !



The Open tower event that occurred on Coronation Day between 4-6pm was a resounding success with 15 non-ringers paying us a visit to see what we do. Each was able to chime a bell - some for the first time - I am sure that they left us with a better insight into some of the techniques required to ring bells with skill and maybe an interest in doing more.

We have had a number of new ringers start in the last 6 months and they are coming along very nicely so that I hope that we will be able to ring on all 8 bells together this year to make a joyful sound performed by local ringers.

We need to continue to recruit people from the local area and would especially welcome younger people. We comply with the CofE Safeguarding Policy (<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>) for all ages and other considerations.

We practice on each Wednesday evening 19h30-21h00 where new and experienced ringers meet to develop the skills needed to handle bells safely and comfortably. English style ringing can help with both physical fitness and mental wellbeing whilst meeting some of the challenges of bell ringing that WILL provide you with a new set of skills.

Experienced ringers make it look easy but we have all started at the same point but with good instruction and practice - you too have the potential to become an accomplished ringer in your own right. No commitments for a ring on our bells - just enjoy the new skills that you will get from something enjoyable and rewarding - see what journey it takes you on. See you Wednesday evening,

Charlie Burnett - USL tower captain.

Matthew 6: 28-30

- 28** *“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin.*
- 29** *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.*
- 30** *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?*



Jenny Cunningham

Similarly, we send flowers to someone who is sick to brighten their day. We also send flowers as a token of condolence during funerals. Thus, we see they have so many uses in so many areas. .

In the Bible, flowers often symbolize various virtues, such as love, faith, and hope, as well as significant events in the lives of biblical figures. For example, the lily represents purity, innocence, and resurrection, while the rose symbolizes love, beauty, and hope.



There are many things in nature for which we should be thankful. One of them definitely has to be flowers. There are many types of flowers which we see in our environment. The beautiful fragrances and flowers enhance the beauty of our planet earth. Flowers carry importance in each nook and corner of the world.

In many weddings, the bride carries a bouquet of flowers when she walks down the aisle. Thus, it is very symbolic in that sense. On special occasions such as Valentine’s Day and anniversaries we gift our partners beautiful flowers as a symbol of our love.

We are very lucky to have an enthusiastic group of volunteers, who arrange our flowers every week for our church services and we are most grateful to you all. If you feel you would like to become involved in the preparation of flowers in St. Leonards Church, please feel free to contact me.

Jenny



Keith Robbins who recently passed away, was a tireless worker for St Leonards church and also a dear friend to many. This was quite evident in the large congregation that gathered to say goodbye.

Keith's working life started when he joined the RAF as a boy at 16, and became a telegraphist, a job he was to continue for 24 years. He also represented the RAF on several occasions as a runner winning several trophies, and when he entered the popular Tredworth road walk he won that as well.

Whilst in the RAF he joined the Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes and remained in the order for over 60 years helping them raise funds for charities.

During his first posting at RAF Innsworth he met and married his wife Diana and went on to have three children, Michael, Deborah and Richard.

On coming out of the RAF Keith entered the building trade and with his two sons set up Robbins Building Services.

His love of his family and his strong faith carried him through the rest of his life, during which he could often be found doing some repairs to our beloved church. He also became Churchwarden, and I for one will be forever grateful for all the advice and help he gave to me when I took over from him, especially when we renovated the old Schoolroom, his help and cheery smile were invaluable to me.



Keith's smile and gentle manner will always be remembered and he will be a much missed pillar of our congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Diana and his family.

Sleep well dear friend, you are much missed.

Gill Howell - Churchwarden

Mothers' Union

The speaker for our May meeting was Diana Godden, who gave us a most interesting and informative talk about the role and work of Gloucester Street Pastors. This is an ecumenical enterprise, and the volunteers receive comprehensive training before taking to the streets. Prayers are always said before they set off usually in two teams of two working along each side of the street. They carry a backpack containing amongst other things, water, flip flops, basic first aid and a dustpan and brush to sweep up any broken glass. In the main the night-time revellers are friendly and grateful for their care and uncondemning approach.



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

Do you like arranging flowers?

We'd like to hear from you

We would like to expand our existing team of talented volunteers to help with the flower arranging in our church, for more information please get in touch with Jenny Cunningham

1 Peter ch 1

"People are like grass;

their beauty is like a flower in the field.

The grass withers and the flower fades.

But the word of the Lord remains forever."

Members will be visiting St Christopher's Church, Warden Hill for their June meeting to see the famous stained-glass windows designed by Tom Denny. There are twelve in all depicting scenes from the New Testament. Afterwards they will be served tea and cake by the members of church's Mothers' Union branch.



Further examples of Tom Denny's work can be seen in the Thomas Chapel in Gloucester Cathedral and Hereford Cathedral.

Kate Gale - Branch Leader

A Poem written by Thomas Henry Basil Webb

An Ancient Prayer

Give me a good digestion Lord,
And also something to digest
Give me a healthy body Lord
With sense to keep it at its best.

Give me a healthy mind O Lord,
To keep the pure and good in sight,
Which seeing wrong is not appalled
But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bored,
That does not whimper, whine or sigh;
Don't let me worry overmuch
About that fussy thing called I.

Give me a sense of humour Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk.

A red rectangular graphic with the words "Breaking News" in white, bold, italicized font.

Archdeacon Hilary will be visiting St Leonard's church on Sunday 14th May when we will hopefully hear news on what will be happening now that Rev Philippa has left.

Watch this space in next month's edition!

Advertising

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Upton St Leonards Parish Council Annual Report 2022/2023

Chairman's Report: Cllr Keith Pearson

It is good to be able to report that we have just gone through a year without the Covid Pandemic playing such a huge part in our lives and that we are almost back to normal, albeit a slightly different normal.

The Parish Council has operated well throughout the year carrying out its duties on behalf of the residents of Upton St Leonards. As always we have dealt with a varied number of issues, planning, recreation and environmental concerns. We have also continued our campaign to try to get a resolution to the Motorway excess noise issue and will continue to do so. The year was dominated it seemed by two major events, our dear late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, something never before achieved by a British Monarch and then so soon after, her very sad passing and funeral. As people will know we had earlier in the year lost the Coronation Oak on the green and had agreed to have the stump carved and also to create a Jubilee Bench out of the rest of the tree. This was changed to a memorial bench together with the magnificent owl, which as I write is about to be named Ollie, chosen from a list of names put forward by residents.

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 an excellent job once again throughout the year and of course all members of the Council for their time and efforts in carrying out their duties on your behalf.

Planning Report: Cllr Chrissie Castle

This year has been quite busy with mainly extensions/renovation applications in the parish. There were 39 total applications excluding maintenance to trees (TPO) of which there were two. Eight of the applications are currently awaiting decision. Two applications were refused and one was withdrawn. Two of the permitted applications were for a new car park (19 spaces) and a 74 bed roomed hotel on the southbound motorway services on the M5. One application, just received and awaiting decision, is for a convenience store by the

Co-Op on Coopers Edge, which is within our parish boundary.

As everyone will have noticed, the development at Bowden Hall by New Dawn Homes has now commenced and a close watch is being kept on the effect of the traffic during school opening hours. It was requested that all deliveries to the site were made out of the school drop-off and pick-up times. Currently it is expected that the first home may be ready for occupation in November this year. The site engineer gave a presentation to the council on the precautions that will be taken to ensure that excess water run-off from the completed site is contained and restricted to ensure the water flow is managed effectively into the river Twyver.

Please do not forget that anyone considering any development, be it new or extension/alteration building works, we would always recommend that you first approach the planning department at Stroud District Council (SDC) to submit a pre application as it is Stroud Planning that are able to give the best advice on what is 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 service has been well used in recent applications and helps the Parish Council (PC) come to a decision knowing that it has initially been submitted to SDC for guidance.

Planning meetings are held on the first Monday of each month prior to the PC Meetings as notified on the board outside the office and in the magazine. The public are always welcome to attend and can ask for a link by contacting the Clerk to the Council, Roy Balgobin. For more information on planning applications, you can register on the planning portal website where you will automatically be updated with any new applications in your area.

Environment Report: Cllr Peter Wilson

It has been another positive year for Upton with the usual activities supported by the Parish Council. The day job includes examples such as cutting the grass in various areas of the village, monthly litter picks, increasing the number of dog and litter bins, arranging repairs to pavements/pot holes and maintaining facilities like the Glebe Field.

The process for Planning Applications also forms a monthly activity for the Parish Council (PC). We have also continued to support the USL Life monthly newsletter which we know residents find very useful. My thanks to Roy Balgobin (Parish Clerk) who works hard in the background to help make many of the things mentioned happen each year.

Thanks must also go to the Footpath Team, who in addition to their core work, help prepare the Cud Hill area so cattle can be placed there to control growth and allow certain plants/flowers to flourish. The Footpath Team has been known for many years under the USCAN banner but is now a stand-alone group funded almost completely by the Parish Council. The village volunteers who make up the team have done their usual great job of keeping our network of footpaths maintained and useable by all in Upton and many who travel into Upton to enjoy the lovely countryside that surrounds our village. They also organise the occasional litter picks (over and above the regular ones funded by the parish council) where local volunteers help to keep Upton looking tidy.

A snapshot of things that have been supported by the parish council in the last 12 months are shown below: -

- The Oak Tree on the Village Green had become dangerous and had to be felled, not just to protect residents but also to avoid potential damage to the nearby house
- An Oak tree (to replace the one felled) was planted in the Glebe Field. The tree was planted by David Cridland at no cost, for which we are grateful and it was formally dedicated by Reverend Phillipa to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee in June 2022.
- The PC continued to look after the trees planted on the Glebe Field – supported by a small group of volunteers who have strimmed grass, filled holes and watered the trees during the hot weather.
- We have applied to Highways for means of moderating vehicle speeds through our village for quite a long time and recently gained agreement from Highways to site two ANPRs (Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems) which capture data allowing us to provide details to the Police who will write to the relevant offenders.

Upton St Leonards Parish Council Annual Report 2022/2023 continued

- Supported a village Climate Group to see what we can do collectively as a village to minimise our impact on the wider global climate (3 parish councillors are members)
- Cleaned the War Memorial in advance of Remembrance Sunday 2022.
- Arranged for Stroud District Council to increase their Litter Picks in Upton.
- Provided financial support to the village newsletter team (USL Life) to close the gap on advertising revenue received and annual operating costs incurred.

Flooding Prevention

Looking at what can be done to reduce the risk of flooding in certain areas of Upton has been another focus for the PC over the last 12 months.

Rainfall in the period has reflected climate change issues - less regular steady rainfall, more sporadic heavy prolonged events. The PC main focus has been to work with agencies to emphasise the local issues and press for mitigation work.

Linking with the Gloucestershire County Council Flood Risk Management Team (FRMT) a workshop for residents was held in July with presentation by FRMT's consultant "Hydrock" with plans for slowing the flow of the Twyver upstream to alleviate pressure on the downstream choke points - the various culverts at lower level. Residents passed their experiences (including from the 2007 floods) to Hydrock and work is ongoing by the consultants and Highways. Culverts have been surveyed and we await plans for remedial work.

In the very heavy rainfall on 16 August the Twyver didn't overflow and culverts held - just - but the central drains, which combine sewage, overflowed in Staites Orchard. County Councillor Williams has elevated this long-running problem with Severn Trent. We remain alert and keep the pressure on the relevant agencies to deliver. Thanks to councillor Roy Roberts for his efforts in this area.

In summary, my thanks to all the volunteers who really make a difference around our village across many activities through the year and help make Upton such a lovely place in which to live.

Recreation Report: Cllr David Hunt

Pavilion. Room hirings are at the highest level since lockdown and generating income, just sufficient to cover running costs. Maintenance work has included the relaying of vinyl flooring in the kitchen, painting in the lounge and a general re-ordering of storage within the building. The 5 yearly electrical safety check has been satisfactorily completed. Forthcoming tasks include cleaning the upstairs carpet and subject to weather conditions, repair and repaint of exterior woodwork. A contract has been awarded for the repair and repaint of the cracked, exterior first floor render. Work to commence in the second week of May, subject to weather.

Sports Pitch and Glebe Field. The weather extremes over the past 12 months have created difficulties underfoot. This is partly due to the heavy clay underlying the topsoil. During the extended drought, cracks in the football pitch necessitated repeated filling to ensure safety in play. Periods of heavy rain were just about accommodated by the underlying pitch drainage network but the Glebe Field drainage suffered blockage requiring a contractor to restore the system. This work has recently been completed.

Since the Pandemic there has been a substantial increase in the use of the Glebe Field by dog walkers. Whilst in principle the Council welcomes and encourages this activity, there have been occasions when the number of free running dogs has caused concern to Glebe Field users. The Council wishes to make it clear that the 'Off-lead' dog walking facility is intended for general public use and is not an area for business activities. Use by private dog walking businesses is not permitted.

The substantial tree planting in the Glebe appears to be doing well and spring growth is showing that few will need replanting. Many thanks to the volunteers involved in this project.

Cricket. A really wet March and April has meant early practice has been concentrated on the nets and indoor training has continued over the close season. Teams will be playing on Saturdays, Wednesdays and occasional Sundays. In addition the Club organises

popular junior teams (U9, U11, U13 and U 15) and hosts a team from Coopers Edge on Wednesdays. A Gloucestershire Disabled team will also be using the nets and square when available.

Football. The Club fields a team in the Stroud League Div. 2 with mid table results in the recently completed season. Last year Upton won access to Div. 1 of the Glos. Northern Senior League but player shortage has meant difficulties have arisen and this team is no longer active.

Tennis. The Club plays Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings 6pm (Summer-time session just commenced). The Club supports two teams, Mens and Ladies Doubles. Congratulations to the Ladies who won their league in 2022. To join the club, just turn up!

Petanque. Unkind weather has affected play over the past few months but the Summer league has just commenced (23rd April). Last year, playing in the Cotswold League, the Club did well and finished 2nd in their group. New members are welcome.

Finally, a thank you to all those club members and volunteers who over the past year have helped with the maintenance of facilities. A special mention must go to the Pavilion Manager, Andy Russell, who provides invaluable assistance, all on a voluntary basis.

Allotment Report: Cllr Mary McLachlan

The Allotments are fully subscribed and there is currently a waiting list. Priority will go to local parishioners, so if you would like an allotment please feel free to email the Clerk at uslclerk@btinternet.com. There has been a lot of maintenance taking place on the allotments over the past 12 months. This has included hedge cutting, repairing the parking area at the Stanley site and creating new storage areas for the horse manure.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the allotment holders who ensure that they are worked and maintained to a very good standard. Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to the voluntary Allotment Managers, Holly Paton and Peter Macey for their excellent support throughout the year.

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JUNE

3	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
4	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
5	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
6	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
6	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
6	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
6	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
7	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
7	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
7	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
7	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy date for July issue of USL Life		
11	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
12	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
12	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
13	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
13	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
13	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
13	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
13	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
14	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
14	Wed	Bell Ringing Practise	Church	7.30p.m.
14	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
14	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
18	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
19	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
20	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
20	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
20	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
21	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
21	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
21	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
21	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
22	Thu	Televised "Ascot Races"	BMI	1.00p.m.
24	Sat	Summer Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
25	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
26	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
27	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those With brown bins		
27	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
27	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
27	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
27	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
28	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
28	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
28	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
29	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

JULY

3	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for August issue of USL Life		
12	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
20	Thu	History Group – AGM and talk on a personality From Upton's past	Village Hall	7.45-9.15p.m.
30	Sun	Sunday lunchtime jazz	BMI	1.00-3.00p.m.

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Kettleball Fitness	Monday 5.30 & 6pm	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
Seniors Fitness - NEW	Thursdays 9.30am	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
Tai Chi - NEW	Thursdays 10.00	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

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PERRY ORCHARD ALLOTMENT MANAGER VACANCY

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

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

WANTED

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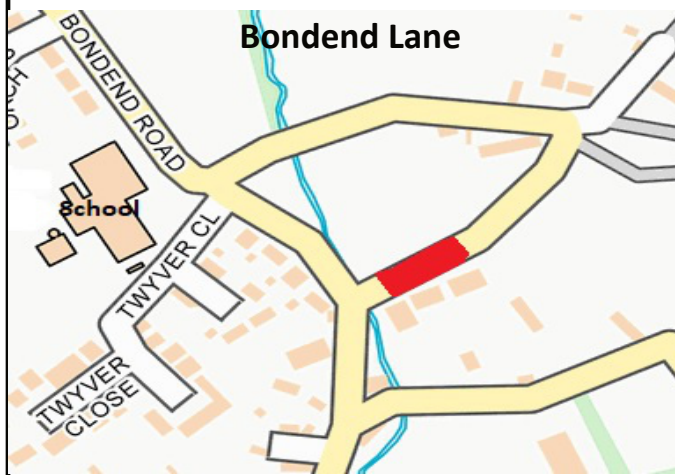
USL Playgroup need someone who is prepared to go into the hall between 7-30am and 9-00am to put out the play equipment.

This is a paid position at National Minimum wage. The Playgroup don't mind if the applicant can only do three days a week or even share it with someone else.

Interested parties should apply to:

07833973122 or uslplaygroup.co.uk

Road Closure and diversion signs will be in evidence from 26 – 30 June in Bondend Lane



Vyshyvanka Day – 18 May 2023

Vyshyvanka Day is an international holiday that aims to preserve the Ukrainian folk traditions of creating and wearing ethnic embroidered clothes called vyshyvankas. It is celebrated every third Thursday of May. Vyshyvankas are, along with pysankas, one of the best known symbols of Ukrainian culture.

Members of our Ukrainian society celebrated their special day on nearby Robinswood Hill.



OBITUARY

Ruth Edgington - 1932 – 2023



Ruth was born and grew up in Upton St. Leonards, and was one of four children.

She attended Upton School, sang in the choir, and was married in the church in 1953 to her late husband Michael, enjoying 53 years together.

Ruth and Michael had a successful restaurant and catering business from the 1960's until retiring in 1999.

Away from work, Ruth enjoyed the company of her close friends, her caravanning holidays and her beloved poodles.

Ruth will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren and by her wider family and friends.

We are sad to announce the passing of two further village residents, Joyce Robbins and Keri James.

Looking for new interests?



Every now and again our interests can be stimulated by joining a new group of people, people with extensive knowledge on a wide range of subjects and the skills to match. Learning a language is something which I have tried several times but with holidays in Spain fast approaching I thought this year, I would definitely do it, instead of just thinking about it!

I looked to U3A to see if there were any suitable classes that I might attend. I discovered that the Cheltenham classes were full, so I looked to Cirencester and found there to be an Improvers course, which I thought would be suitable. It is a small group of 7 people, held in someone's home and we meet twice a month. On one of those meetings, Carla, a lovely Spanish lady comes to talk to us which is great. Any nerves or embarrassment that we might feel are quickly cast aside as she is so encouraging and totally non-judgemental!! Spurred on by this class, I also joined a Supper Club and a Gardening group, all of which are organised by some very knowledgeable and friendly people.

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a worldwide, self-help organisation, providing day-time educational, creative and leisure activities for anyone over the age of fifty, who is no longer in full-time employment. No qualifications are needed and none are given. We are fortunate that there are several groups in our locality, so why not check out the links below to see if there is something of interest for you?

Gloucester, <https://u3asites.org.uk/gloucester/groups>

Stroud, <https://u3asites.org.uk/gloucester/>

Cheltenham, <https://www.cheltenhamu3a.org.uk/>

Cirencester, <https://www.cirencesteru3a.org.uk/> and over 40 different groups.

In addition, all groups have a monthly meeting and speakers come from all over, talking on just about everything. Membership is around £12 - £14 a year which is amazingly good value.



Andrea Dawson

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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Next month's editor



Andy Russell

Use the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page to pass messages to us.

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Residents of St Leonards Close and Perry Orchard 'getting together' to celebrate King Charles III Coronation



It was Flat Cap Friday for some of the Friday night BMI 'boys' when they took Gloucester (or should that be 'Glarster') by storm – and then caught the 9.25pm bus home!!

Two examples of the lovely mosaics made by the ladies attending the Craft Club

