

# *Upton St Leonards Life* *incorporating Church News*

Issue 93

May 2022



Please bring friends and family to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of dedication and service



## Freebies

Strawberries and Cream, Giant Obstacle Course (for 5 to 11 year olds), Facepainting, Punch & Judy Shows, Ukulele Band, Sumo Wrestling for the Adults, Coconut Shy, Cakes, Teas, Coffees and Soft Drinks.

Bucks Fizz for a small charge. Ice Cream Concession

Don't forget to pay the Church a visit with their Flower Displays in Red, White and Blue all Weekend.

The History Group will have an exhibition in the Annex showing the life and times of Her Majesty The Queen.

**See more on  
Page 2**



# **Upton St. Leonards Jubilee Garden Party Sunday, 5th June 2022 In the Village Hall Grounds**



~~~~~  
**2pm - 5pm ❖ Free Entry**

**Bring your own Picnic**  
~~~~~

**Children's Games & Entertainment**

**Bucks Fizz ❖ Strawberries & Cream**

**Live Music ❖ History Display**

(Sorry, no dogs except assistance dogs)  
~~~~~

**Church Flower Festival open all weekend**

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# The Platinum Jubilee Party Picnic

Please make a date in your diaries on Sunday 5 June, 2-5pm at the Village Hall grounds, to come and support a special community celebration to honour the Queen's personal dedication and service to people of the United Kingdom, Realms and Commonwealth for the last 70 years.

We are hoping for good weather so that we can all meet outside and enjoy picnics and one another's company. What better excuse than to bring our community together and meet new people than the Queen's Jubilee.



To enable this event to happen smoothly and spread the load on volunteers, more help is needed.

Examples are, people to watch over children on the inflatable obstacle course (half hour stints), servers for refreshments, assistance in the kitchen making tea, coffee, squash and also people to wash up.

Help with the strawberry stall, people to help with the sumo wrestling and hay bales. The face painter will need help, stewards, setting up and taking down tents and of course tidying up at the end of the day.

We would also appreciate any cake donations, which can be handed in to the village hall between 9-10am on the day.

For any information on The Jubilee Party Picnic, contact

**Carol Evans**

If you visit the Village Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> June don't forget to visit the displays in the Lady Downe Annex.

The 100 years of the Village Hall (planned for 2020) will show how the hall has developed from its opening by the Birchalls to the present day.

There will also be a 15 minute DVD of the BBC National Lottery programme from 1995. You might see someone you know either in the Hall or the BMI.

**Mike Stratford**

## Road Closure For Jubilee Party

For information, on 5 June, between 1330-1730, from the junction of Bondend Road and Churchfield Road to Perry Orchard will be closed in support of the event.

### STOP PRESS:

Best Dressed Teddy Bear, knitted, crafted or a favourite Bear Dressed in Red, White and Blue. Prize given for the Best in 2-5-year age group and 2-11 year age group.



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# What's Been Happening in Upton? - cont'd

## BMI Events During March 2022

March was a very busy month this year at the BMI. It started off with a lunch on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, which was the first day of the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham. Forty members enjoyed a two-course lunch prepared by Lorraine, while watching all the races that afternoon. There was a lovely atmosphere especially with winners of the "lucky dips" on each race. It was decided to do a similar event in April for the "Grand National".

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, Gold Cup Day, two separate groups enjoyed buffet lunches, again prepared by Lorraine. On that day there were at least 80 members and guests in the lounge and skittle alley watching the day's races.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, John Beckingham, together with Julie and Diane, entertained us for two hours with our "Sunday Lunchtime Jazz Session". Everyone enjoyed the music, an ideal time to relax prior to Sunday lunch.

### John will be back again on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

The spring quiz took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Andy Russell was our quiz master once again, taxing our brains. It was a busy and enjoyable evening with 15 teams and 80 quizzers. The winners on the day, who each received a bottle of wine, were the "Good Neighbours" with a score of 118. The runners up were "The Original Quizee Rascals" with 108 and third were "Paula's Lot" with 106 points. "Dicks Dunces", the team with the lowest score, each had a complimentary drink. The BMI quizzes continue to be extremely popular. An amount of £180 was raised on the night, which has been added to the BMI Charity for 2021-2022 which is the Air Ambulance.

### The next quiz will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

## FLOODING RISK UPDATE

It's been a while (August's magazine) since the Parish Council has been able to provide an update on what progress the specialist Flood Risk Team in Gloucestershire County Council and Highways have made in flood alleviation works for the local River Twyver. In the meantime, the Parish Council and our very helpful County Councillor Sue Williams, have been pressing for action and information.

New contractors have been employed to survey the area and you may have seen them last month in Bondend Road and Nuthill. A hydraulic "model" of river flow and flooding risk will be produced. The Flood Risk Team fully understand that the model needs local evidence for accuracy, so a workshop will be arranged for mid-June/July when residents can provide local knowledge. We aim to publish the date/time in the June edition of USL Life.

**Roy Roberts, Parish Councillor and Staites Orchard resident.**

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View from the french windows

# What's Been Happening in Upton? - Cont'd



## New Oak Tree for The Glebe Field

As a result of losing the oak tree on the village green, the Parish Council decided to replace it with a semi-mature Oak and relocate to the Glebe Field.

On Friday 11 March, our local contractor, David Cridland, collected a mature tree and planted it in an open area of the field thus avoiding a number of drainage pipes that cross the field nearer the

motorway side.

We are very grateful to David for doing this in his own time and at no charge to the Parish.

The tree will be dedicated to The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a short ceremony will take place on the morning of Sunday 5 June



## Upton WI Report

At our April meeting we were treated to a display and talk by David Cramp on Garden Birds. From early morning until dusk, bird songs bring joy and pleasure. Birds require food, water, security and safe hidden places for nesting.

Weeks before pairing up, birds check out suitable, safe gardens in which to nest and rear their young. After mating they are busy building the nests, usually intricately made and softly lined with moss and feathers and sometimes mud. The number of eggs varies from species to species and the habitat. In a garden, blue tits will have a hatch of 5 or 6 but larger clutches are found in woodland where food tends to be even more abundant. In our gardens the birds need clean water and bird tables or hanging food in a place safe from predators.

As many will have observed, the numbers of starlings and house sparrows have gone down dramatically, often due to loss of suitable habitat or farming methods. Wrens, one of our commonest birds, are so tiny and shy that we rarely see them under the bushes.

You can attract birds to your garden with berries, sunflower and other seed heads, even lavender, and they will bring hours of joy.

Our next meeting is on Monday 2 May at the Pavilion at 2pm, and the talk will be on Hilarious Hats, presented by Alex Stanbrook. All will be most welcome. If you are not a member, why not come to taste one of our most enjoyable meetings?

**Kathy Quant**

**Twyver Ladies Walkers -  
enjoying the local countryside**



# What's Been Happening in Upton? - Cont'd

## Twyver WI April Meeting

A chorus of agreement from all - how great to be meeting in daylight, at least for the start of the session.

Kathy Quant reported on the events of the Annual Gloucestershire WI Council Meeting which she attended on our behalf. Also in attendance was Princess Anne who congratulated everyone on their continued success. The theme of the meeting was war on waste and especially in the fashion industry, and how much of unused, unwanted clothing is sent to various countries and just ends up in landfill.

There is enough clothing in the world to last us for six generations. Entertainment was provided by the singer, Mary Jess, who honed her singing talent in China after learning to speak Mandarin at school – she is an inspiring young woman who has exceeded all her own expectations by following her dream.

### Our Speaker for the evening was Carolyn Moss, Colour Therapist.

Chromotherapy : - Carolyn decided after losing a child a short time after giving birth in 2001 that she wanted to maintain a positive mental attitude in order to deal with the grief, and so decided to lift her spirits with Yoga and studying to be a Happiness Facilitator. She felt this calling to be a positive approachable person who could help other people who were suffering from depression and 'darkness' .

We learned how the colours of the rainbow each have a different wavelength and that colour affects our mood and health in ways which we are only just beginning to analyse and understand in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The clothes we wear, the food we eat, the colours we choose to decorate our homes with, all affect our mood and wellbeing. Ancient civilisations knew about the power of nature, music, colour and foods, they even built healing temples.

Red has the longest wavelength on the colour spectrum and is a powerful colour, orange is nourishing, yellow for happiness, green for harmony, blue is calming, indigo for healing and violet is inspiring. So many people are now exploring the healing properties of alternative 'medicine' rather than conventional methods.

Scientists and dieticians have proved that a diet of multi-coloured foods on your plate is much healthier and contains all the nutrients our bodies need to function at the optimum level. Exposure to colour in all its forms is good for a balanced and positive life. Colour is a language, key to who we are. Choose wisely!

We all enjoyed this uplifting hour and an applauded vote of thanks was given by Kathy.

**Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May all welcome.**

**Linda Munnoch**

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# What's Coming Up in Upton?

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Sunday Lunchtime Jazz**

**At the BMI**

**From 1.00-3.00p.m.**

**With**

**John Beckingham**

**Open to members and signed in guests**



**Annual Parish Meeting**

**Monday 16 May @ 7pm**

**The Pavilion**

If you would like to know what has been happening in your Parish over the last 12 months, why not come along and listen to the various reports from the council and community representatives.

It is appreciated that meetings are not the most popular pastime for people but most of those involved and sharing reports are unpaid volunteers who work hard for the Parish to make it an enjoyable and pleasant place to live, so it would be lovely to see anyone who can make it.

## Road Closure - Cheeserollers

Nut Hill will be closed on Sunday 5 June 2022 due to the Cheese Rolling event at Cooper's Hill from midnight until 8pm in the evening.



## Summer Skittles at the BMI

Just a reminder that a friendly skittles competition will be held from June to the beginning of August. Most games will be played between Monday and Thursdays.

There are still spaces for more teams so if you are interested and want to enter a team, put your team name and contact name/number on the notice board in the BMI.



## Cricket Update

Cricket league matches start in May. We have junior teams for ages Under 9, Under 11, Under 13, Under 15, and adult teams 1st XI and 2nd XI that play on Saturdays, the first team in the County League Division 6, the second team in the Cheltenham-Gloucester-Forest League Division 1 West.



We also have a Wednesday adult league team, going through a bit of a reset this year, where we hope youth players too old for the U15 team will play with a few seniors.

We will post a notice giving upcoming games at the Rec, in the Pavilion window. You will also see practices going on most evenings - Tuesdays is for adults and U15s, Wednesdays the Gloucestershire disabled team we host come here to practice. On Fridays the ground is swarming with U9, U11 and U13 boys and girls practising hard.

# What's Coming Up in Upton? - cont'd

## September Village Show

Here are further sections of entries for the Upton Show on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September

### SECTION "C" – FLOWER ARRANGEMENT (Prizes in classes 90-97: 1<sup>st</sup> £5, 2<sup>nd</sup> £3, 3<sup>rd</sup> £2)

Fresh flowers and foliage to be used in all classes in this section unless otherwise stated. Arrangements will be on a white covered table with tent backcloth. Accessories may be used in any class. **NO HEIGHT LIMIT** applies except where stated.

#### Class

- 90 "A Right Royal Occasion". An arrangement to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70 year jubilee. A front facing arrangement. Maximum size 500mm x 500mm
- 91 A corsage for a special occasion
- 92 A basket of flowers for a bridesmaid – Maximum size 250mm x 160mm
- 93 An arrangement to include a candle/candles – to be viewed all round – Maximum size 400mm x 260mm
- 94 An arrangement in a fruit or vegetable – to be viewed all round – Maximum size 500mm x 300mm
- 95 The colours of autumn – front facing arrangement – Maximum size 500mm x 500mm
- 96 A Christmas table centre – to be viewed all round – Maximum size 460mm x 460mm
- 97 A table centre for a dinner party (NOVICES ONLY) – Maximum size 380mm x 380mm

### SECTION "E" HANDICRAFTS

Classes 143 and 144 are to be new and unworn/unused. Competitors ticket to be safety-pinned to article. All entries must be the competitor's own work.

#### Class

- |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 140 A soft toy, any medium                                                                        | 150 A cushion cover in any medium                                                                                                                |
| 141 A door stop – any medium                                                                      | 151 A covered box using upcycled material                                                                                                        |
| 142 Dress a doll, any medium. Doll not to be judged                                               | 152 A drawing or painting in any medium. Maximum size 305mm x 460mm excluding frame                                                              |
| 143 An article I have knitted , 4 ply or less                                                     | 153 A birds nesting box in any medium                                                                                                            |
| 144 An article I have knitted, double knitting, Aran or chunky                                    | 154 A "70" anniversary card for Queen Elizabeth's jubilee                                                                                        |
| 145 An article of needlework , other than clothing or toys                                        | 155 An item made of wood or metal. (Not from a kit. Maximum dimensions 375mm square. Space will be made for long thin items, e.g. walking sticks |
| 146 A corsage made from fabric or yarn                                                            | 156 A Christmas tree decoration                                                                                                                  |
| 147 An article of cross stitch (please state size and also whether the work is to your own design | 157 Write a short story of not more than 50 words, to include the following: storm, queen, linguist, running, dog tank, Scotland, flag           |
| 148 A knitted animal                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                  |
| 149 An item in crochet                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                  |

We anticipate the joys of summer and happiness with poems by Robert Herrick and an unknown poet who describes Morris Dancing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

## **The Argument of His Book by Robert Herrick**

**(1591 – 1674)**

I sing of brooks, of blossoms, birds, and bowers,  
Of April, May, of June, and July flowers;  
I sing of may-poles, hock-carts, wassails, wakes,  
Of bridegrooms, brides, and of their bridal cakes;  
I write of youth, of love, and have access  
By these to sing of cleanly wantonness;  
I sing of dews, of rains, and piece by piece  
Of balm, of oil, of spice, and ambergris;  
I sing of times trans-shifting, and I write  
How roses first came red, and lilies white;  
I write of groves, of twilights, and I sing  
The court of Mab, and of the Fairy King;  
I write of hell; I sing, and ever shall,  
Of heaven, and hope to have it after all.

## **The Morris Dance by Anon. 17<sup>th</sup> century**

Ho! Who comes here along with bagpiping and  
drumming?  
O 'tis the morris dance I see, a-coming.  
Come ladies out, come quickly!  
And see about how trim they dance and trickly.  
Hey! there again! how the bells they shake it!  
Hey ho! now for our town! and take it!  
Soft awhile, piper, not away so fast! They melt them.  
Be hanged, knave! See'st thou not the dancers swelt  
them?  
Stand out awhile! you come too far, I say, in.  
There give the hobby-horse more room to play  
in!

### **Some Thoughts**

Go into the sunshine and be happy with what you see.  
(Winston Churchill)  
An unshared happiness is not happiness.  
(Boris Pasternak)

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **The Other Side of the Coin – The Queen, the Dresser and the Wardrobe.**

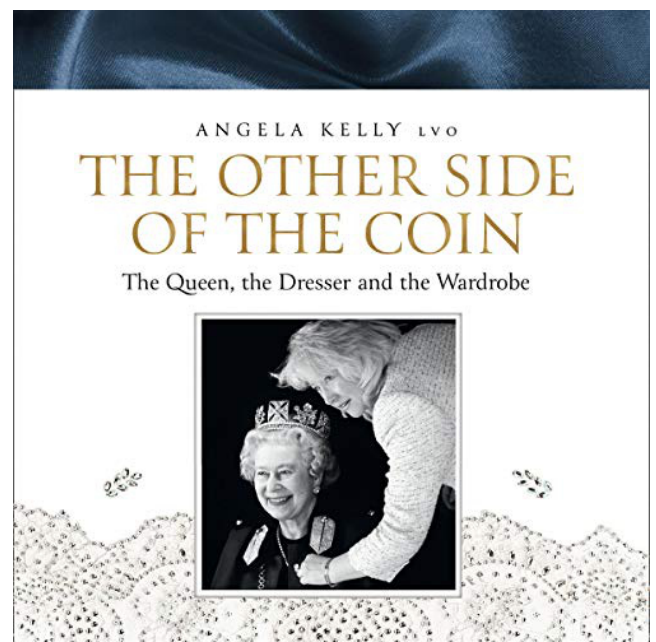
**Angela Kelly, published 2019.**

This is an interesting book which is beautifully illustrated with photographs of the Queen, her clothes and her jewels.

Angela Kelly has worked for the Queen as her Personal Assistant and Senior Dresser since 2002.

She joined the Queen's staff in 1994 and progressed to design and create many outfits for the Royal Family.

A fascinating story, particularly in this Jubilee year.



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**Priest in Charge      Vacancy**



**Interim Minister:              Rev 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*



**Churchwarden**  
Gill Howell

**Baptism and Wedding Enquiries**  
Jenny Cunningham

Dear friends in Upton St Leonard's,

Some of you will know about Bishop Rachel's vision for our Diocese, spelt out in the word LIFE. Over the next few years the Diocese is going to be exploring that vision, which is based on the Bible verse in John, chapter 10 and verse 10.

(Jesus said) "I have come that they might have life, life in all its fullness."

In the vision, the different letters of the word LIFE each have a word attached to them, as follows:

- L for Leadership
- I for Imagination
- F for Faith
- E for Encouragement

The idea is to find out what is happening in our parishes in each of these areas, and to see how we can encourage all that is going on, and to enable other ideas to be expressed and to flourish. So I had a think about this and here's what I came up with:

**L for Leadership.** We are very blessed to have our Flourish Team in the church to help lead some of our services. This year we made a decision that they would lead the service on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month – which happens about 4 times a year. They led our service very ably in January and would have led again in May, only instead Bishop Rachel is coming to lead our service on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May. Put the date – May 29<sup>th</sup> – in your diary! So in May they are going to lead Morning Worship on May 1<sup>st</sup>. They're a lovely team, but very small, and need some more people. If you feel you could help the Flourish Team as they



develop their skills just speak to me or to Dave Knight who heads up the team.

**I for Imagination** As we begin to recover from the worst of the Covid pandemic and our world continues to change, the church constantly needs to think of imaginative ways it can connect with its local community.



An example of this was the wonderful renovation of the schoolroom during lockdown, and now various different groups from the village meet there.

**F for Faith** It was really encouraging during Lent to have some people come and talk to us at our Lent lunches, about how their faith helps them at work. We heard from Ian Donald, a retired doctor, Paul Hobbs, a Christian artist who lives in Gloucester, Graeme Hunter, a Scottish businessman who lives and works in Gloucester, Nicole Rich, one of the managers of the Christian bookshop, Bookplus, in the hospital, and Simon Trapnell, whose family had the vision to set up Nature in Art in Twigworth, and Simon is the Director there now. Each person had a different story to tell about how God enabled them to shine his love to everyone they met. It was also lovely to share in the Easter worship at the school last month and to hear the children reading the Easter story and singing songs of the faith.



**E for Encouragement.** Some people are good at talking about their faith, and others are good at listening to people and drawing alongside those who are lonely or bereaved. And some people have the gift of encouragement. When I was training as a curate, the first thing my vicar always said to me when I had



Contd. From previous page

preached a sermon, or led a service was 'Well done!' Sometimes that meant I had done really well, sometimes it meant that I had just managed to get through, and sometimes it meant that I'd recovered well after making mistakes! We would talk about what had happened later, but her first comment was always the same 'Well done!' Encouraging each other is really important.

I feel very encouraged by all I see happening in our parish and I've only mentioned a few things – there are lots of other things going on too.

This month, let's encourage others in their different gifts, let's keep learning about the faith, let's be imaginative in our thinking as to how we can spread the message of Jesus to others, and let's ask ourselves whether we might be able to help in any kind of leadership in our church or community.

With love and prayers from

*Rev Philippa*



### Christian Aid Week

In 2022, Christian Aid Week will take place from 15th to 21st May.

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate. The impact on the world population is great, as it means that millions of people around the world struggle to get the food and water that they need.

There will be a separate basket as you come into church where donations for Christian Aid can be placed on the 1st, 8th and 15th May



### Tea and Natter Special Afternoon



Everyone is welcome to join at the

Tea and Natter afternoon on

Thursday May 12th

To raise money for the Jubilee Flower Festival

We look forward to seeing you there



If you are unable to come to church and you would like to receive Holy Communion at home at any time, please contact me.

Rev Philippa

### Services & Events for May 2022

|                      |          |                                            |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| May 1st              | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion<br>Led by the Archdeacon    |
|                      | 10.00 am | Morning Worship with the Flourish Team     |
| May 8th              | 10.00 am | Holy Communion                             |
| May 15 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am  | Holy Communion                             |
| May 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.00am  | Holy Communion                             |
| May 29 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 am | Holy Communion<br>We welcome Bishop Rachel |

*All welcome*



We are still looking for more members to join our **Flourish Team** and **Open the Book Team**.

For more information contact:

David Knight (Flourish)

and

Mike Stratford (Open the book)



### April 500 Club Winners

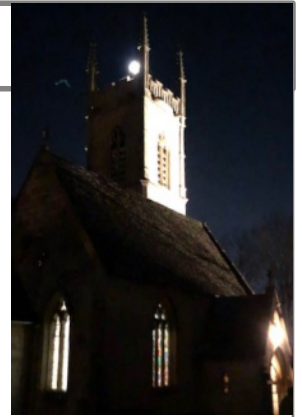
1<sup>st</sup> Prize      £30.00      No. 26

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize      £20.00      No. 22



## Tower Floodlighting 2022

1. On the 26th March, the Church Tower was lit in loving memory of Glenda on the day of her birthday. Loved and sadly missed by all the family.
2. The Tower Lights were lit on Friday 22nd April in loving memory of Tracey Pepperell in what would have been her birthday week. Missed beyond words. With love and happy memories from Emma, and also Jack Barnes.



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

### Lent Lunches

The Lent Lunches were a great success in March / April with five interesting guest speakers who came to talk about how their faith has helped them in their day to day working life. Also excellent homemade soup with biscuits and cheese to follow all served by a band of volunteer 'waitresses'. Many thanks to all who donated, prepared and served the meals. Not forgetting those working hard in the background with preparations and clearing away.



A total of £500.00 was raised for the James Hopkins Trust (our chosen charity for this year)

**Well done & Thank you**



**Maundy Thursday evening meal at the Old School Room and the Good Friday Prinknash Abbey walkers.**

**The walk was followed by Hot Cross Buns and coffee in the walled garden**

**Thank you to everyone who made both events a success especially the organisers and chefs.**

**A total of £150.00 was raised to go to Christian Aid**



Our March meeting was hit by COVID but those who attended enjoyed getting acquainted with our Interim Minister, Rev Philippa Donald, especially those members from St Oswald's. She gave us a fascinating insight into her "Journey of Faith" from her time at a Catholic boarding school during her teenage years, followed by studying music and then becoming a music teacher. She and her husband, whom she met at university, and their two boys "tried out" several churches but finally settled at St Phillip & St James, Hucclecote. It was from there she attended a "New Wine" event where she discovered that God had further plans for her Christian discipleship which in turn led to her becoming ordained. She served as a curate at St John's in Churchdown and then took on a role in the Seven Towers Benefice before becoming our new incumbent.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19 May at St Oswald's Church Hall at 2,30pm when Judy Jackson and Margaret Bishop will present "**Floral Harmony**", a flower arranging demonstration accompanied by appropriate musical items. Afterwards the arrangements will be raffled in aid of MU funds. Do come along and join us.

*Kate Gale - Branch Leader*

*Platinum Jubilee  
Flower Festival*

starting on

Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> until Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>

The church will be open from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm

If you would like to make a flower decoration or arrangement or sponsor one to be made for you or even donate flowers or money, all would be gratefully received.

Please contact Sheila Thomas

**The theme will be red, white and blue**



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**Mother's Union:**

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**Dear resident,**

Please be advised that a rare but very special 'Full Peal' is to be rung by visiting ringers on the Upton St Leonard's Church bells on the morning of Sat, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 which will be dedicated to the residents of Upton.



To be successful the 'Full Peal' is required to be rung continuously for a length of approximately 2hrs 50mins.

We hope that you will enjoy the sound of the bells rung by a very competent team of 8 ringers.

**Church Flowers:**

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**USL Life (Church pages), Pew News and Website**

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## School Literature Festival 2022

The children of the School had a real treat at the 3rd Annual Literature Festival. Mrs Wood, the Lead Teacher for Reading, organised several visitors to help inspire the children to read more and to become writers themselves. The focus this year was on poetry and we were lucky enough to have two brilliant poets visit us.

The launch event had a zoom session with our own author ambassador, Tracey Corderoy. Tracey is the author of many books including the Shifty McGifty & Slippery Sam series and Mouse's night before Christmas. Tracey visited the school during our first festival and has been a contributor every year since. In a great honour to the School, her latest book is dedicated to our children and to Mrs Wood.

Tracey read her book "Impossible" - the story of a dog's amazing trip to return a crab back to the seaside and how they overcame impossible odds to achieve their goal. The whole school thoroughly enjoyed the tale and Tracey then taught them all how to draw her character Crab.

On World Book Day, the Children came to school dressed in something comfortable to read in. They made reading dens and had an afternoon of quiet reading. Then, at 5pm, the children got the chance to come back into school, have some warm milk and cookies and then have bedtime stories read to them by the teachers and governors. The response to this was fantastic and we had lots of pupils and parents who really enjoyed this session.



On the Friday, some of the youngsters had the pleasure of listening to Karl Nova. Karl is a poet and a Hip Hop artist, the winner of CLIPPA 2018 for Rhythm and Poetry, his first published collection. The children loved learning about Rhythm & Poetry, i.e. RAP. Karl excited the children about how, unexpectedly, he went to live in Africa with his father at the age of 8 and this is where he learned about

RAP. Karl then taught them a RAP which the children performed at the celebration assembly later that afternoon.

Karl got all the children to write a Haiku, and this was his:  
Karl visits the school  
He teaches children to RAP  
They all write Haikus

In the 2nd week, children in Y3 and 4 had a visit from local author Petra Crofton. Petra is a scientist, environmentalist, author and children's worker from Barnwood. Her most popular book is "Science Geek Christy and Her Eco-Logbook". Petra explained how she used her own experiences to help her write the book. She also explained about the process of writing and that she had to edit her story many times before she had it ready for publication.



The final visit of the week brought Joshua Seigal to the school. Joshua is a highly acclaimed, award-winning professional poet, performer and educator. He has been nominated for The People's Book Prize. He worked with younger children to help them produce their own poetry. Y1 produced a Monster step poem using lots of adjectives and Y2 produced a 'feelings' poem. Through Joshua's poems we learned a little about his pets and he recited a number of his other poems in a very lively assembly.

On the last two evenings of the festival the Yellow Lighted Book Shop Book Fair were in school, the children had all been given a voucher they could use to buy books from the book fair. This was very popular and the tills were kept busy. The school received 20% of all the book sales, but we are always on the lookout for sponsors for next year's event. If anybody can help with sponsorship, please contact the school.

Neil Eley - Chair of the Governors

# Feature Article - The Moon in May

Back in January, the very visible Wolf Moon became one of the highlights of the month, probably because, on this side of planet Earth, most of the daylight had disappeared by 4pm and, as rainfall was scarce, the sky was clear and we were privileged to see the moon almost throughout the whole month, and not just the waxing and waning of the moon but many star formations as well. If I checked the sky early in the morning, I could see the pale moon descending at the front of my house and at the back, a thin wide red and golden line of the rising sun's rays creeping along the horizon at High Brotheridge as the new day began. Wonderful!

Since then, my interest in all things skyward has increased considerably and now, as soon as I rise around 6am I find myself searching the sky for Venus; this lady is easy to identify because she's the brightest star in the sky and frequently in the morning she's the only visible star. By 6.30am the view to the front of my house in Churchfield Road is already busy, not just the stars doing their own thing in the heavens, but joggers, early dog walkers and runners are already hurrying up and down and to and fro and the paperboy can be spotted pedalling along in a rush to finish his round before school. All this is going on as the hum from the motorway increases, buses start their daylong circuit of Gloucester to Upton to Gloucester and the birds deliver their glorious dawn chorus! Hello Day!

I'm now noticing other stars and formations and I feel prompted to investigate the world that we see from Earth and further to the world beyond. Once interest is kindled, Google is king! Our natural inquisitiveness can carry us to places that exist far beyond sight and tests the imagination about the territory we call 'Outer Space' which has, we are told, no beginning and no end and within that endless vastness, the one constant is change. Imagine that! If you can!

Did you know that each month's moon has it's own name? This year, the moon in May, the Flower Moon, has an eclipse on the night of 15th/16th May; the total lunar eclipse will only be seen from Earth in North America. Here in Gloucester there will be a partial eclipse around 5am. So, mark your diaries, rise early and begin the week by witnessing this partial eclipse. Something as wonderful as an eclipse of the sun or moon is likely to leave a mark on memory whether positive or negative and is all part of living on a small planet in the solar system that we belong to. You may wish to go into the fields in Upton for a moon walk or even up Nut Hill and witness it from there. My own memories of moon walks flood back; did you know the best time to spot an owl is when it's a clear night and a full moon so there's plenty of light to see them! They'll fly off if you have a torch, and please, 'no talking', but they don't seem to mind underfoot noise. You're unlikely to forget the image of an owl, perched perfectly still on a tree branch. Last year Brother Giles from Prinknash told me that there are owls up in their woods; you may wish to do some owl spotting there! Another memorable moonlight walk was on Painswick Beacon, torches are recommended if you're intending to go into the wooded area or to the Lookout Point, to see if you can spot the moon shining on the Severn or descending behind the trees on May Hill.



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## Feature Article - The Wolf Moon cont'd

The moon steadies the Earth as she spins on her axis, she affects the tides, aids navigation and informs farmers and gardeners of the best sowing and harvesting times. It is believed that the moon can be an inspiration for much human creativity, including composers of music and song, poets and painters and who could forget those haunting paintings of a full moon through trees? This lady can be bewitching and is known to be a mood changer for humans. If you're experiencing mood changes, this could be the time for you check what's happening up there in the heavens. I'm now wondering if she's really female for whose face can we see when we stare at the moon?

When my children were between four and seven years old, I spent some time encouraging them to keep a lookout for the moon from their bedroom windows. I suggested that if they looked for a very long time they would be able to see a man's face and this is 'The Man in the Moon'. Later that year, during the Christmas holiday, we were downstairs with overnight guests, our children were upstairs getting ready for their parental 'goodnight tuck-in'. Suddenly our four year old son came rushing down the stairs, burst into the lounge, very excited and a little shocked saying, "Mummy mummy! Come quickly! I've just seen The Man in the moon and He saw me!"

The eclipse date again, May 16th around 5.15am: so mark your diaries and "come on, Upton Villagers" look up, look up and join the millions of people across Earth's five continents and witness the Flower Moon eclipse, with gratitude to Lady Moon for endlessly and graciously lighting up our nights on planet Earth. Christina Caldwell



### Village History - The Church Font

Hundreds of our readers will have been baptized, or had their children baptized, in the font that stands inside the main door of the Church. The upper section with rougher cut stone maybe, just maybe, dates from the very first church on the site built in the 1100's. It is certainly Norman in style. If so, it is the oldest part of the church. The wooden cover on the top was added in the early 1900's. But this font hasn't been in the church continually all that time, and there are stories about what happened to it, no doubt some a bit embroidered. Indeed, there is no real proof that it was originally in our church. It might have come from elsewhere.



In his writing about the church in 1905, Canon Scobell refers to the font pictured on the left as The Font. This picture is taken from a contemporary painting of the church interior, and shows this font in front of the West door and tower. He says "The Font was the gift of Mr Clements, on the birth of his daughter, Caroline." Caroline was born in 1845. This record doesn't state what font it replaced. It wasn't the "Norman" one, for the record goes on to say that much earlier, in 1818, the "old Font in the Churchyard" went to a garden in Barnwood. We have no way of knowing if that was the "Norman" font or not. However, says Canon Scobell, "it (the old font) was received back (no date given) and placed in its present place" – by which, one assumes, he means in the Churchyard, not the Church.

Our Village historian, Mike Stratford, found the following in the minutes of a Church committee meeting in April 1913: "An important discussion took place with reference to the font. A resolution was passed that a faculty be applied for to remove the present font and dispose of it as seems best with the approval of the bishop. To restore the old font now in the churchyard and place it in the church in the north west corner of the church. The rector was asked to take the necessary preliminary steps towards carrying out the work."

The Village History book by Canon Scobell, later updated by Canon Brewster in 1923, confirms this. It says the font pictured on the left was removed, and taken to the church of St Luke the Less on Bristol Road, Gloucester, being built and partially completed by 1910. (On completion, St Luke the Less was renamed St Stephen, and though St Stephen is no longer in use, we believe the font is still in there). The "old Norman font" was moved from the Churchyard to its present location, raised up on a new base that can be clearly seen in the picture.

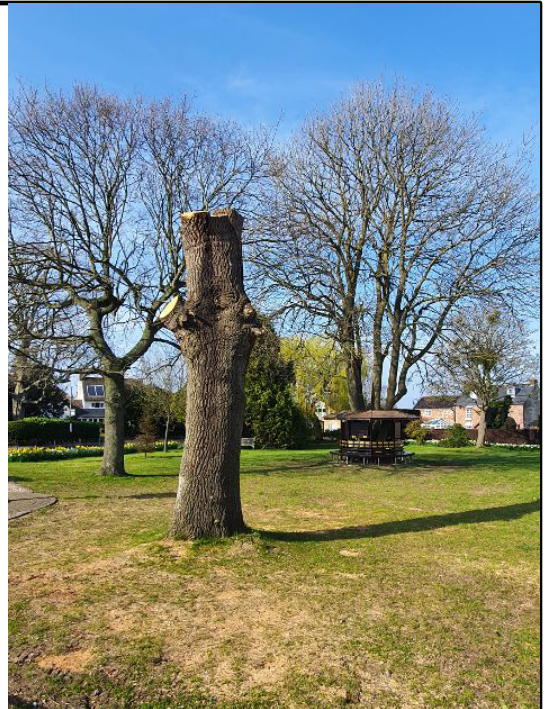
# Your Ideas for a Tree Sculpture?

You will be aware from the April edition of USL Life that much of the oak tree on the village green had to be removed due to a sizeable split in its trunk/branches creating a safety issue.

At the March Parish Council meeting a discussion took place to decide whether to replace the tree or do something with the remainder of the trunk. It was agreed that a replacement tree would be purchased and planted at the Glebe Field (see page 4).

The council also agreed to investigate the possibility of a sculpture being made from the remains of the oak tree on the village green.

A meeting took place in March to scope the possibilities with an experienced sculptor and he was able to show what is possible.



The Parish Council would like to progress with the sculpture idea and would be grateful for any ideas village residents may have on themes.

For information, the person who advised us confirmed that a sculpture could have a number of themes but this would add to complexity and therefore cost. The council will need to decide on a cost ceiling once ideas are narrowed down then check on potential costs with identified sculptors.

**If you have any ideas you wish to be considered please submit either online to [usclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:usclerk@btinternet.com) or via the village hall postbox in hardcopy by Friday 27 May.**

Progress will be shared in USL Life as the project moves forward

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## MAY

|    |     |                                                                      |                         |                 |
|----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Sun | Tennis Club Members Morning.....                                     | Tennis Courts.....      | 10.00a.m.       |
| 2  | Mon | Coffee Club.....                                                     | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 2  | Mon | Upton WI.....                                                        | Pavilion.....           | 2.00p.m.        |
| 3  | Tue | Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins |                         |                 |
| 3  | Tue | Tuesday Probus.....                                                  | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 3  | Tue | Needles & Pins.....                                                  | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.15a.m.        |
| 3  | Tue | Badminton.....                                                       | Village Hall.....       | 8.30-10.30p.m.  |
| 3  | Tue | Tennis.....                                                          | Tennis Courts.....      | 6.00p.m.        |
| 4  | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....                                     | Village Hall.....       | 7.30p.m.        |
| 4  | Wed | Bingo.....                                                           | BMI.....                | 8.00p.m.        |
| 5  | Thu | Tea and Chat.....                                                    | Old School Room.....    | 2.00-4.00p.m.   |
| 8  | Sun | Tennis Club Members Morning.....                                     | Tennis Courts.....      | 10.00a.m.       |
| 9  | Mon | Coffee Club.....                                                     | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 9  | Mon | Twyver WI.....                                                       | Village Hall.....       | 7.30p.m.        |
| 9  | May | Parish Council Meeting.....                                          | Pavilion.....           | 7.30p.m.        |
| 10 | Tue | Copy date for June issue of USL Life                                 |                         |                 |
| 10 | Tue | Needles & Pins.....                                                  | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.15a.m.        |
| 10 | Tue | Recycling and food waste week                                        |                         |                 |
| 10 | Tue | Tennis.....                                                          | Tennis Courts.....      | 6.00p.m.        |
| 10 | Tue | Badminton.....                                                       | Village Hall.....       | 8.30-10.30p.m.  |
| 11 | Wed | Wednesday Probus.....                                                | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 11 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....                                     | Village Hall.....       | 7.30p.m.        |
| 11 | Wed | Bingo.....                                                           | BMI.....                | 8.00p.m.        |
| 12 | Thu | Tea and Chat.....                                                    | Old School Room.....    | 2.00-4.00p.m.   |
| 15 | Sun | Jazz Lunch.....                                                      | BMI.....                | 1.00-3.00p.m.   |
| 15 | Sun | Tennis Club Members Morning.....                                     | Tennis Courts.....      | 10.00a.m.       |
| 16 | Mon | Coffee Club.....                                                     | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 16 | Mon | Annual Parish Meeting.....                                           | Pavilion.....           | 7.00p.m.        |
| 16 | Mon | Abbeydale Garden Club.....                                           | Village Hall.....       | 7.30-9.30p.m.   |
| 17 | Tue | Rubbish and food waste Week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins |                         |                 |
| 17 | Tue | Needles & Pins.....                                                  | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.15a.m.        |
| 17 | Tue | Tuesday Probus.....                                                  | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 17 | Tue | Tennis.....                                                          | Tennis Courts.....      | 6.00p.m.        |
| 17 | Tue | Badminton.....                                                       | Village Hall.....       | 8.30-10.30p.m.  |
| 18 | Wed | Ladies Probus.....                                                   | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 18 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....                                     | Village Hall.....       | 7.30p.m.        |
| 18 | Wed | Bingo.....                                                           | BMI.....                | 8.00p.m.        |
| 19 | Thu | Tea and Chat.....                                                    | Old School Room.....    | 2.00-4.00p.m.   |
| 19 | Thu | History Group – Howard Carter – Mr Ian Crowe.....                    | Village Hall.....       | 7.45p.m.        |
| 22 | Sun | Tennis Club Members Morning.....                                     | Tennis Courts.....      | 10.00a.m.       |
| 23 | Mon | Coffee Club.....                                                     | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 24 | Tue | Recycling and food waste week                                        |                         |                 |
| 24 | Tue | Needles & Pins.....                                                  | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.15a.m.        |
| 24 | Tue | Tennis.....                                                          | Tennis Courts.....      | 6.00p.m.        |
| 24 | Tue | Badminton.....                                                       | Village Hall.....       | 8.30-10.30p.m.  |
| 25 | Wed | Wednesday Probus.....                                                | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 25 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....                                     | Village Hall.....       | 7.30p.m.        |
| 25 | Wed | Bingo.....                                                           | BMI.....                | 8.00p.m.        |
| 25 | Wed | Upton WI Committee.....                                              | Pavilion.....           | 3.00p.m.        |
| 26 | Thu | Craft n Chatter.....                                                 | Old School Room.....    | 10.00-12.30p.m. |
| 26 | Thu | Tea and Chat.....                                                    | Old School Room.....    | 2.00-4.00p.m.   |
| 26 | Thu | Ramblers.....                                                        | Pavilion.....           | 7.30p.m.        |
| 27 | Fri | BMI AGM.....                                                         | BMI                     |                 |
| 29 | Sun | Tennis Club Members Morning.....                                     | Tennis Courts.....      | 10.00a.m.       |
| 30 | Mon | Coffee Club.....                                                     | BMI.....                | 10.00a.m.       |
| 31 | Tue | Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins |                         |                 |
| 31 | Tue | Needles & Pins.....                                                  | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.15a.m.        |
| 31 | Tue | Tuesday Probus.....                                                  | Village Hall.....       | 10.00a.m.       |
| 31 | Tue | Tennis.....                                                          | Tennis Courts.....      | 6.00p.m.        |
| 31 | Tue | Badminton.....                                                       | Village Hall.....       | 8.30-10.30p.m.  |

JUNE

|    |     |                                      |                      |                 |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 5  | Sun | Jubilee Lunch.....                   | Village Hall.....    | 2.00-5.00p.m.   |
| 6  | Mon | Parish Council Meeting.....          | Pavilion.....        | 7.30p.m.        |
| 6  | Mon | Upton WI .....                       | Pavilion.....        | 2.00p.m.        |
| 10 | Fri | Copy date for July issue of USL Life |                      |                 |
| 11 | Sat | Entertainment Night.....             | BMI.....             | 8.00p.m.        |
| 13 | Mon | Twyver WI.....                       | Village Hall.....    | 7.30p.m.        |
| 20 | Mon | Abbeydale Garden Club.....           | Village Hall.....    | 7.30-9.30p.m.   |
| 25 | Sat | Summer Quiz.....                     | BMI.....             | 8.00p.m.        |
| 29 | Wed | Ladies Probus.....                   | BMI.....             | 10.00a.m.       |
| 29 | Wed | Upton WI Committee.....              | Pavilion.....        | 3.00p.m.        |
| 30 | Thu | Craft and Chatter.....               | Old School Room..... | 10.00-12.30p.m. |

JULY

|    |     |                                                   |                      |                 |
|----|-----|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 4  | Mon | Parish Council Meeting.....                       | Pavilion.....        | 7.30p.m.        |
| 4  | Mon | Upton WI.....                                     | Pavilion.....        | 2.00p.m.        |
| 9  | Sat | Entertainment Night.....                          | BMI.....             | 8.00p.m.        |
| 10 | Sun | Copy date for August issue of USL Life            |                      |                 |
| 11 | Mon | Twyver WI.....                                    | Village Hall.....    | 7.30p.m.        |
| 18 | Mon | Abbeydale Garden Club.....                        | Village Hall.....    | 7.30-9.30p.m.   |
| 21 | Thu | History Group, AGM plus a talk from a member..... | Village Hall.....    | 7.45-9.15p.m.   |
| 27 | Wed | Ladies Probus.....                                | BMI.....             | 10.00a.m.       |
| 27 | Wed | Upton WI Committee.....                           | Pavilion.....        | 3.00p.m.        |
| 28 | Thu | Craft and Chatter.....                            | Old School Room..... | 10.00-12.30p.m. |
| 28 | Thu | Ramblers.....                                     | Pavilion.....        | 7.30p.m.        |
| 31 | Sun | Sunday lunchtime Jazz.....                        | BMI.....             | 1.00-3.00p.m.   |

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 | Phillippa Barker | 07861 727198 |
| Pilates             | Thursdays 1pm     | Village Hall Annex | Phillippa Barker | 07861 727198 |
| Pilates             | Fridays 9.30am    | Village Hall Annex | Phillippa Barker | 07861 727198 |
| Chair-based Pilates | Wednesdays 1.30pm | Pavilion           | Helen Osborne    | 07872 941324 |
| Seniors Fitness NEW | Mondays 10.30am   | Pavilion           | Helen Osborne    | 07872 941324 |
| Art Class           | Tuesdays 2pm      | Village Hall Annex | Christine Hughes | 01452 614227 |

Philippa Barker is starting up another Pilates class, as the list above shows. This time it is in the Pavilion on a Wednesday morning. Please contact Philippa to join up.

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# Tributes and Thanks

## A tribute to Gordon Turner a poem by Ted Gardner

Alas we've lost another one  
A dear sweet gentle friend  
And now he's up in heaven,  
I guess he's on the mend.  
The past few weeks he's not been well,  
But I never heard him complain,  
Because that's the type of chap he was,  
We'll not see his sort again.  
Our Gordon's out of pain at last,  
He fought his battle well,  
I guess we'll all meet up again,  
But only time will tell.

## John Hemming

The Hemming family  
would like to thank all  
those who have been so  
very kind since John's  
death in February.

For their cards and  
condolences and for  
joining us at the funeral  
service and afterwards at  
the BMI Club to celebrate  
his wonderful life.

## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

|                                       |                                                                  |
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## Lynette Dowdeswell - 1965-2022

Lynette came to the village, aged 4, with her parents Judy and Reg and brother Mark, in 1969. The family lived in Woodland Green.

She went to the Village School and Brockworth Comprehensive. On leaving school she did a bakery course and always enjoyed making and decorating cakes.

Lynette worked at the tax office for 25 years until she was made redundant. She loved animals and enjoyed travelling, theatre, concerts and cruises.

A celebration of her life was held recently at Bowden Hall at the end of March. Judy and the family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the cards and flowers.



## Next month's editor

Andy Russell



To get a message to us use the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page

## Glenda Buck

Gerald and family would like to thank everyone for their support and kind messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Glenda.

## Donation to the Newsletter

The USL Life team would like to thank the resident of Six Acres who expressed how much she enjoyed reading the village newsletter each month and generously donated £50 to us - it is much appreciated.

The March issue of USL Life had an article on the Painswick Surgery Patient Group. It is good to see the Painswick practice mentioned in USL Life.

We have been with them for many years, always finding them most helpful and willing to assist in any way they can. A nurse or doctor has visited us at home on several occasions. Thank you Painswick Surgery.

**Trevor and Rachel Hall**

**DISCLAIMER:** USL Life welcomes adverts for goods and services but reminds readers to make their own checks before entering into any contract or other arrangements with advertisers, as USL Life cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the advertisements.

# Upton Spring Show



## Thank You

A very big thank you to all who entered, attended, helped with or donated items to this year's Spring Show held on Saturday 2nd April 2022.

We had an amazingly successful day and because of all your generosity we are sending a cheque for £620.00 to the DEC for the Ukrainian appeal.

This is far more than we normally make and I think we can be very proud of ourselves as a village, in raising so much in one afternoon.

**The Spring Show committee**



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