

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 14

October 2015



The 2015 Annual Flower Show - it was a great day



Flower Show - Thanks, and prize winners ...

From the Flower Show Committee

A BIG thank you To all who came and supported our Village Show this year.

Our gratitude goes to the Parish Council and Lady Downe Trust for their financial support plus those who so generously donated prizes, especially Tania Walters, Bowden Hall and Hatton Court Hotels.

Our sincere thanks to all those volunteers who helped by giving their time to make the show a success.

We were also grateful to the excellent Cotswold Big Band who entertained us royally on the day, and the ladies who donated all the excellent cakes.

It was good to see that the number of exhibitors was well up on the previous year particularly in the Vegetable and Flower sections.

Well done to all the prize winners. Anne Hemsley won the overall points tally but we had a new star in Paul Smith who won several awards. This should be encouragement for others to have a go next year.

Well done also to all the children's groups who entered such a colourful and imaginative display of their work. It is the children who will keep this village tradition going, competing in classes that don't need anything electronic and keeping the human spirit alive.

We will have our AGM in November so if you wish to help in any way either on the committee throughout the year or on the day itself, then please contact Peter Macey.

MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS AT THE SHOW WERE ...

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Anne Hemsley | Most points in the show overall - Eacott Cup |
| Paul Smith | Most points in Vegetables & Fruit - John Millard Cup |
| Douglas Monkman | Most points in Classes 16 to 22 Vegetable & Fruit - Christine Rumsey Memorial Cup |
| Carol Evans | Most Points in Preserves & Pickles - Upton St Leonards Flower Show Cup |
| Paula Quinn | Most points in roses classes - Robert Wallace Cup |
| Paul Smith | Most points in the Vegetable Classes - Stan Hooton Memorial Rose Bowl |
| Paula Quinn | Most points in the Flowers - Royston Gardiner Memorial Salver |
| Val Moore | Most points in the Flower Arrangements. - Dinkie Gardiner Memorial Rose Bowl |
| Jackie Thorogood | Most points in the Home Produce - Ethel Edey Memorial Cup |
| Bette Winstone | Most points in Handicraft - Rumsey Memorial Trophy |
| Kath Gardiner | Best Soft Toy - Joan Finch Memorial Salver |
| Anne Hemsley | Most Points in Vegetable & Fruit on both Allotments - Bob Ayland Memorial Shield |
| Douglas Monkman | Abbeyle Gardening Club Shield for most points in show by a club member |
| Sue Evans | Most Points in the Photographic Section - Joseph T C Edey Salver |
| Cliff Alderman | Most Points obtained by a novice in Veg & Flower - Fred Ball Memorial Trophy |
| Paula Quinn | Abbeyle Gardening Club award for Bowl of Flowers |
| Anne Hemsley | Award for Top Tray, sponsored by Tania Walters Estate Agents |
| Douglas Monkman | Award for Top Vase, sponsored by Tania Walters Estate Agents |
| Paul Smith | R.H.S. Banksian Medal & Certificate |
| CHILDREN'S AWARDS | |
| Charlie Kitto | Most points in Age Group 5 to 7 - Evelyn Rumsey Children's Cup |
| Charlotte Bullingham | Most points in Age Group 8 to 11 - Juvenile Cup |
| Isabella Ferraby | Most points in Age Group 12 to 16 - Ethel Wallace Cup |
| Ellie Davis | R.H.S Junior Competitor's "Award of Merit" |

UPTON ST LEONARDS was the BBC Radio Gloucestershire's "Village of the Week" in the third week of September. You can listen again to what was broadcast about us, and see some of the photographs taken by the reporters, on the BBC Radio Gloucestershire website

Roger Brown

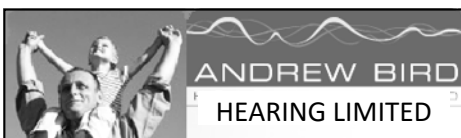
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What's Been Happening in the Village

A Lot of Hot Air in Upton

At around 7.30am on Saturday, 5th September local residents may well have heard the roar of hot air being released into the envelopes of hot air balloons. Over a dozen balloons were seen to be rising slowly, from a field just off Rance Pitch. The sight was spectacular, as they hovered for some time, appearing, from a distance, to be on the point of collision.

The strange part was that the balloons didn't rise as rapidly as would normally be expected and indeed, some seemed to drop down again before rising again and eventually floating gracefully off into the distance. The colours and markings were clearly visible, providing a spectacle in our skies.

6.50, Sunday morning: your correspondent, not being an early morning person, was lying in his bed and once again heard that sound of hot air blasts being released. From his bedroom window could be seen the top part of a balloon, close to rising up. Senior management was roused from her slumbers and a decision made to dress quickly and view the sights at close quarters.

The gate to the field was open and several vehicles, with trailers attached, had long since disgorged their contents and 16-17 balloons were rising slowly up. Again, they seemed to rise above the ground and above the tree line but make no further progress. The air was very still. Enquiries from people with clipboards revealed the answer: this was no leisure flight but a competition. On the ground in the field was a large white plastic X. The balloonists / pilots had to lift off, remain as close as possible to the field for a minimum of ten minutes and drop a red marker, as near to the cross as possible. One that we saw was no more than about 10 yards from the cross. Others could be seen releasing their markers in adjacent fields, with their ground crew running out to retrieve the markers, tracking the distance from the cross with GPS devices. Once the markers were dropped the balloons continued their flights, with the next destination (with a similar objective) being Aston Down airfield.

Concern was expressed that the noise of the burners may have disturbed the sleep of some residents. However, from the small but curious groups of people on the pavements in the village, I believe that generally people had enjoyed the spectacle and not minded having the slight disturbance.

Thanks to a number of people who sent us photographs and text. Duncan Lord wrote the article above. The picture on the left is from Mia Cook.



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What's Been Happening in the Village - cont

WI CELEBRATIONS



Upton Women's Institute



The picture shows Evelyn Rumsey cutting Upton WI's cake made to celebrate the NFWI's 100th birthday.

Twyver Women's Institute

It was a double celebration at September's Twyver WI meeting, because as well as being the National WI Federation's 100th year, Twyver WI is 50 years old this month. It is wonderful to report that Nesta Beard, a founder member of Twyver WI, was able to attend. And by chance it was Nesta's birthday as well (not saying how old she is!).



Members provided a wonderful meal. a choice of chicken or salmon accompanied by an amazing selection of salads, rice, pasta and new potatoes, all delicious. This was followed by a mouth watering display of desserts.

There was a celebratory cake made and decorated by Penny Owen which was was jointly cut by Nesta and chairman Margaret. The evening ended with a more than usually enthusiastic singing of "Jerusalem", a big round of applause to all the members who helped make the evening such a success, and helpings of cake to take home.

The next meeting is October 12th and the speaker will be from the Cathedral Breakfast Club, speaking about the homeless of Gloucester.

Upton People

Golden Wedding

Dave and Paula Quinn celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August (Paula is of course one of our newsletter team). They were joined by 60 family and friends for a celebration and blessing at Upton St Leonards Church. Reverend Christine Birkett welcomed everyone to what was a happy occasion, encouraging all to cheer and applaud if they wished. Following on from the service a hog roast was served in the BMI, and although it rained for most of the day, everyone still had a great time.

The photo shows Paula, Dave and their three children Dylan, Michael and Eleanor. They also have eight grandchildren.



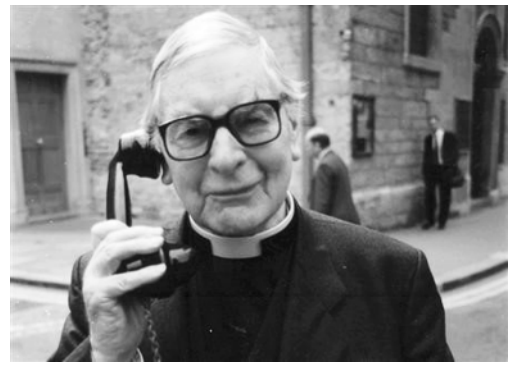
Hannah Hunt : Paracycling

After winning two bronze medals in Italy, Hannah (on the right in the picture) was invited to take part in the World Championships in Switzerland in July. She was very excited, having not expected to be selected but sadly had to withdraw at the last minute because of illness. Her funding may run out in November, so the possibility of a Rio Olympics place is in the balance as the guideline is that only potential gold medal winners will make up the team.

Whatever the outcome Hannah says the degree of fitness she has achieved and the new friends she has made whilst training and racing have been a great benefit to her over the past 18 months. Thanks to everyone who has supported her.

Volunteering - Samaritans

In 1938 Chad Varah, a 24 year old Anglican priest conducted his first funeral service. It was for a 14 yr old girl who took her own life after having her first period. With no-one to tell her otherwise, she presumed she had a sexually transmitted disease and killed herself for the shame it would bring. Chad was deeply affected by this experience and after he was given his own parish in Mansion House in London, he launched a 999 telephone service for people feeling suicidal. He was, he said "a man willing to listen". On 5th Nov 1953 Samaritans was born, "a listening service that was non judgemental, confidential and non religious." It was the world's first crisis listening service for those contemplating suicide. As well as telephone listening Chad and his volunteers welcomed callers at the Centre in Mansion House.



Chad Varah

I started volunteering for the Samaritans over 6 years ago, prompted by hearing the Radio 4 Charity Appeal whilst having a Sunday morning lie-in. During the appeal the role of the volunteer was mentioned several times. The importance of their commitment coupled with good training was central to the aim of the Samaritan organisation, which is to reduce the number of suicides. I remember feeling quite clearly that this was for me. I hasten to add that I was not looking for "something to do". The next day I phoned my local Samaritan Branch who invited me to an Information Evening the following week. I went along, was later interviewed and accepted for training. Everything seemed to fall into place.

Volunteers undergo a 6 month training course, usually one day a week for the first 6 weeks. The training feels quite intense at the beginning because not only are you learning new skills in empathy, listening and responding, but you discover things about yourself and others that will benefit you in other areas of your life. Confidentiality and non-judgement are at the heart of the Samaritan Training. The "work" is to be quietly with the caller and encourage them to explore their thoughts and feelings. Above all we are Listeners, we are not Counsellors and we never give advice or tell callers what to do, preferring instead to explore possibilities, but always leaving decisions to the caller. Towards the end of the training we are given a mentor for ongoing support. With the initial training over, I worked alongside my mentor until I was ready to take calls and so began the process of becoming a Samaritan.

The Samaritan approach is to allow the caller to see moods and changes in mood as normal and not a deficiency in character,

and to help them change the question from "how can I make things different" to "how can I take care of myself". In other words we encourage the caller to be gentle with themselves as they go through the turmoil that heightened emotions can bring. As Listeners we have found that to share your inner life, to expose it to another can free us from the damaging grip that dark thoughts and feelings can have on our daily lives. To recognise that all people have varying emotions, sometimes frighteningly so, can be very liberating to the individual racked with self doubt and hopelessness. Samaritans are not shy of exploring how or why callers are thinking of killing themselves. "Are you feeling suicidal?" is a frequently asked question. We also recognise that for some people the pain of living can become intolerable and as Samaritans we always respect their choice.

Samaritans attract like-minded people who come from all walks of life and I find their passion for "the work" both uplifting and inspiring. As a Listener I find it a strange honour to be told the secret emotions of another person's life, to be trusted with the fragility of humanity is deeply moving. The attitude and practice of non judgement, empathetic listening and confidentiality has for me become my way of life, and slowly, slowly I am becoming a Samaritan.

Today there are over 200 Centres in the UK and Ireland. Samaritans still see face to face callers, do telephone listening, letter, E-mail and text. If you think you might be interested in volunteering have a look at the website, samaritans.org or telephone the local Gloucester Branch 01452 302100.

Samaritan Jo



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Saturday November 7th 2015

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Further details from Ginny Ring

UPTON ST. LEONARDS ANNUAL BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY

Thursday 5th November

At the Village Hall, Bondend Road

Gates open at 5.30pm Bonfire lit at 6.30pm

Food and drinks available

Various games and Tombola

All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Village Hall

B.M.I.

Members and Guests

AUTUMN QUIZ NIGHT

ON SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2015

8.00p.m.

£5.00 per team (maximum 4 per team)

Proceeds on the night and raffle for

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

the BMI nominated charity for 2015-2016

Please add your team to booking sheet on

the B.M.I. notice board by 6th November



SPRING SHOW & RENT-A-CRAFT STALL

SATURDAY 12th MARCH 2016

Now is the time to get CLICKING with those camera devices ready to enter next year's SPRING SHOW. The subjects are :

Class 30 'WAR MEMORIALS'

Class 31 'BERRIES'

Class 32 'KICK THE BALL!'

Class 33 'WATERLIFE (PLANTS/WILDLIFE)'

Class 34 'BLING!'

Class 35 'MOONRISE' (Black & White only)

Class 53 'CHRISTMAS TIME!' (Children only

up to age 16)

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CHURCH NEWS



Dear Friends

During October we in Upton St Leonards celebrate Harvest Festival. This is a church festival celebrated by most traditions in our country, though in its modern form it only really dates from the nineteenth century. Up and down the land ministers turn their minds to the subject of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth.

Harvest Thanksgiving is an opportunity to thank God for the crops and the fruit of the ground, upon which, despite all our clever technological advances, we are still dependent.

There is the story about an old lady who was very poor. She had nothing, no shelter, no food, no proper clothes. She prayed to God and God gave her 10 apples. This was wonderful. 'Now I can get the things I need,' she said. She was so hungry of course that she ate the first three apples and so was full. The next three apples she traded to rent some modest shelter so that she could be safe from the rain and the sun. She exchanged the next three apples for some new clothes, so she was no longer cold at night and would look smart during the day. But there was then one apple left over. 'Why did you give me one apple more than I needed?' she asked God. 'So you can have something with which to say thank-you to me,' replied God. God gives us enough to say thank-you.

This year we hope to celebrate our harvest festival at the Perry Orchard Allotments on Sunday 11th October at 10am. Please come along with your produce and give thanks to God for his marvellous provision. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Every blessing
Christine*

The new bishop to visit Upton St Leonards this month?

At the time of writing, plans have not yet been finalised, but it is very likely that Bishop Rachel will be visiting us as part of a "walk-about" in the area, at some time in the last week of October. Once we have the details, we will publicise it on the church notice board opposite the Village green.

SPOTLIGHT ON ...



<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

The Children's Society, formerly known as the Church of England Children's Society, has been supported for very many years by the Church and people of Upton St Leonards. Rachel Ball has been our co-ordinator since 1999, and she distributes collection boxes to a number of people in the Village, and empties them every year. The collection this year raised over £380. Rachel writes:

"I want to thank all of you who have contributed so generously to the work of the Children's Society.

I have been told that in the last two years there has been a decrease of 5% in the number of box holders across the country and they have asked every co-ordinator to try to recruit at least two new box holders. I would really like to think we can do this in the Village, so if you are interested in having a box, or hearing more about the work of the Society, please contact me (619767). I will be delighted to hear from you."

October Church Diary

(Correct at time of printing but subject to change - please check details in pew sheets)

| | |
|----------|---|
| SUN 4TH | EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY |
| | 8.00am Holy Communion BCP |
| | 10.00am All Age Worship (non-Communion) |
| | 12.00pm Baptism Service |
| Mon 5th | 9.00am Harvest Service for USL School Juniors |
| Tue 6th | 9.15am 'Open the Book' training for Gloucester Diocese teams, in church |
| Thu 8th | 9.00am Harvest Service for USL School Infants |
| | 2.00pm Mothers' Union |
| Fri 9th | 5.30pm Wedding rehearsal |
| Sat 10th | 1.00pm Wedding |
| SUN 11th | NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY |
| | 10.00am HARVEST FESTIVAL at Perry Orchard Allotments See the next page |
| SUN 18th | LUKE THE EVANGELIST |
| | 10.00am Communion4All |
| | 6.00pm Evening Service |
| Tue 20th | 2.00pm Harvest service for Chipmunks Nursery |
| SUN 25th | BIBLE SUNDAY |
| | 10.00am Holy Communion (Common Worship) |



Upton

St Leonards



Harvest Festival



Perry Orchard Allotments

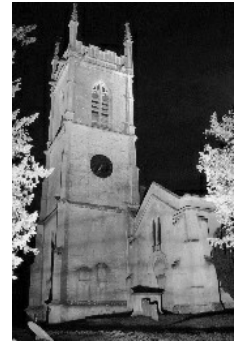
Sunday 11th October 2015 at 10am

- Light Lunch and Auction of Produce for Charity

Please bring a suitable chair if you have one!



Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship Details October



On Saturday 3rd October the Tower lights are lit in memory of Rich Stewart, with love on his birthday and always, Mum, Dad and Libby.

On Sunday 4th October the Tower Lights are also lit in celebration of the 14th birthday of Megan Gibbs and also the birthday of her father Matthew. Kindly sponsored by Zoe Gibbs and family.

On Sunday 11th October the Tower will be lit in memory of Christine Rumsey on what would have been her birthday. Sponsored by her loving family.

On October 12th the Tower will be lit in memory of Denis Devereux, a resident of the village until his death in 2008. This donation comes with fondest love, from all his family, Nan, Jane and Barry, Richard and Yvonne, Robert and Hanika, George, Sarah, Alice, and Zoe. We will always miss him, and 'the golden moments' we all shared together, will never be forgotten.

On Saturday, 17th October, the Tower lights are being sponsored by Ruth Edgington and family, in loving memory of Michael William Edgington, who passed away on this day, 9 years ago.

If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or for a loved one's life or any other reason then please contact Matthew Gibbs. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to gift aid any donation this will help us too. To get your notice in the correct month's newsletter please contact Matthew before the 10th of the month before.



A message for Bible Sunday, 25 October from the Archdeacon of Gloucester, Jackie Searle

'I rejoice at your word, like one who finds great treasure' Ps 119:162

One rainy day, a few years back, I spent a happy half an hour in the Sir John Ritblat Treasures gallery of the British Library. 'Treasures' is the right word. Along with scribbled lyrics by John Lennon and hand-written script from Charlotte Bronte and Shakespeare, was a 4th century fragment of the gospel of St John. I stood in awe and looked for a long time at the neat Greek script on ancient, torn parchment. I thought of the original writer, the careful copying, the safe keeping and guarding of such treasure over centuries.

It is so easy for us to take the Bible for granted, opening it up as we can these days on our tablets or screens. Bible Sunday is a reminder to rejoice at God's word, like one who finds great treasure.

We remember with gratitude the authors, the copiers, the guardians, the translators, the printers, the publishers, many of whom risked or gave their lives that we might access this treasure in our own homes, in our own language, every day. Let us value this treasure and, like them, make sure we pass it on.

Faith in the world: Councillor Paul McLain, Cabinet member for children and young people and commissioning at Gloucestershire County Council.



Have you or someone in your church ever considered becoming a foster carer? Gloucestershire County Council is in need of foster carers for children of all ages but especially older children, teenagers and children with additional needs.

All children are different, and to meet their needs, the county council is looking for a wide variety of people from many different backgrounds. For some fosterers, faith is a motivating factor. What all foster carers have in common is a desire to care for young people to help them achieve their full potential. Foster carers need to be patient, tolerant and resilient and having a good sense of humour is very useful.

Foster carers with the county council receive substantial support including a dedicated fostering social worker, monthly home visits, ongoing training and monthly support groups. In addition foster carers receive a weekly maintenance and skills allowance that can amount to more than £300 a week if you foster a teenager. Fostering families with a church background may also benefit from having a supportive church community around them who are willing to listen, help and understand.

If you are over 21, have a spare room (or rooms for siblings) and feel that you are being called to foster, contact the county council's fostering team on 01242 532654, find a drop-in event or fill in an enquiry form at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering

CHURCH NEWS

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge:

Reverend Christine Birkett 627828
The Rectory, 12 Bondend Road, GL4 8AG.
rev.christine@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk
Usual parish working days are Tuesdays and Fridays

Churchwardens:

- 1 Keith Robbins
- 2 Vacancy

PCC Secretary:

Roy Roberts

Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Roger Fry

Mothers' Union:

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flower Rota:

Evelyn Rumsey

Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Stanley-Gunn

Brrrrrrrrrr...

You probably don't want a message that winter is not too far away, nor do we. But we want to be sure there is always a **WARM** welcome in Church. Church members will do their best to ensure their welcome is warm and genuine, but the building itself can get very cold and, frankly, on our current income, we cannot switch the heating on for long enough before services to ensure it is really warm when you arrive. So Churchwarden Keith Robbins has had a great idea. He has set up the "Warden's Heating Appeal" for extra funds specifically to have the heating on more.

Simply put a donation in an envelope, marked "Warden's Heating Appeal" and put that in the plate or hand it to Christine or another church official.*

* And, of course, Gift Aid the donation, if you can, to make it worth 25% more, by simply adding a statement that we can collect tax paid on it and including your name and address.

The Parish Church Council would like to form a group to plan special services and events throughout the year, such as Harvest Festival. These events might be fundraisers, or just social events, or particular church services like Remembrance. If you would like to be involved please get in touch with Dave, Roy or Christine as soon as possible.

Coming up in November ...

Movie Night

St Leonard's Day, Friday November 6th, at 7pm:
We will be showing the film "The Railway Man" starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman, in honour of St Leonard, patron saint of prisoners.

Please bring nibbles and drinks to share.

In Loving Memory

Sunday November 15th at 4pm
Afternoon tea and a short service in memory of our loved ones who have died.

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Celebrating Some USL History

The Jet Age in Upton

What is the most important thing that ever happened in sleepy Upton St Leonards? Was it the Lady Downe legacy...her school and Trust Fund? Could it be the Birchall family, funding both the Village Hall and the BMI? Did Henry VIII sleep here? Was it perhaps the monastic establishment at Prinknash Abbey or Taena and its community?

Or was it the first jet flight at our local airfield? Could Upton's greatest claim to fame be that the Gloster Aircraft Company designed, built and test flew Britain's first jet here in Upton St Leonards, powered by the world's first Jet engine, designed by Sir Frank Whittle?

Fields straddling the parish boundaries of Hucclecote, Brockworth and Upton St Leonards were selected by the 'Air Board' as a suitable site for an 'Aircraft Acceptance Park' early in 1915.

The Gloster Aircraft Company (GAC) formally established its headquarters here, partially within our Parish in 1928, having already used the airfield since 1921. Approximately 1/3 of the main runway (originally a grass strip) was sited within Upton, running between the foot of Nut Hill towards the Hucclecote Road and Ermin Street.

But how did the company, busily making biplanes and then Hurricane fighters under licence, come to be chosen to design and build the experimental jet plane code named the E28/39 Pioneer (and unofficially the 'squirt')? The story goes that Frank Whittle, struggling to persuade officialdom of the viability of his 'turbojet', patented his project in 1931 and successfully bench tested his engine in 1937. The Air Ministry at last took an interest and the race was on to find a company to build an airframe to house the revolutionary engine. In February 1940 GAC was issued with a contract to design and build a prototype, primarily, it is believed because the firm was identified as having not only the capability but also the capacity to undertake the task. Other firms were too busy! Another factor was that Frank Whittle got on extremely well with George Carter, GAC's Chief Designer. GAC gave the project top priority and work started on two prototypes in the factory's experimental department. Air raid fears caused the project to be switched in great secrecy to Regent Motors in Cheltenham (the site of the Regent Arcade) where final assembly took place. Brought back to Brockworth on 7th April 1941, the tiny jet plane was ready to do a ground run. The scene was set. Tuesday 8th April saw the aircraft put through its paces with greater confidence but not before the Home Guard ensured security by taking up positions on the roads surrounding the airfield. Although the engine was only calibrated for ground testing, Gerry Sayer, the pilot, made three short hops. The final run was the longest, from Ermin Street towards Nut Hill and saw the aircraft rise 6ft off the ground and fly for about 200 yards.

Afterwards, a delighted Frank Whittle took the controls and completed a taxiing test. Whilst some have dismissed the Gloucester flights as hops and the official records show a flight at Cranwell on the 15th May as the first take-off, just note that in the record books the Wright Brothers' first powered flight was also a short hop of 284 yards. The GAC pilot's report of the day in 1941 clearly states, 'The aeroplane left the ground on each of these three runs'. Britain's first jet plane was first airborne here in our parish.

Until recently a walk to the top of Nut Hill revealed not only the old gun emplacement protecting the airfield but a clear view of the airfield itself. However with the development of the site for housing, the disused runway is now barely visible. Nevertheless a walk around Coopers Edge reveals that the new housing acknowledges its history with roads named after GAC personnel, pilots and aircraft. Reminders of our aviation heritage are there. The new school has an aircraft themed playground and the far end of the old runway abuts the new Tesco where the window glass is etched with an outline of the first Gloster jet. Outside the superstore a piece of installation art in the form of a trumpet, plays, on demand, a sound track from the days when the factory was operational. Closer to home there are still a few Uptonians who can remember aircraft flying out from GAC - low over the church and just a short flight down to Moreton Valence airfield (now Javelin Park!) for flight tests.

David Cannon, whose farm bordered the airfield, tells of a Meteor jet, losing power on take off and crash landing through a hedge onto his field. Luckily no one was hurt. I can recall a neighbour, Elsie Robins, who worked in the GAC canteen, relating how she walked to and from work every day via field paths from the side of Bowden Hall around the edge of the airfield.

Continued next page



Painting, by USL artist Keith Gage, of a Meteor
The painting hangs in the Village Hall

The Jet Age in Upton, cont ...

All gone now and just memories remain but was Britain's first jet really a world first? It was not until after hostilities ceased that the extent of German successes with early jet flight became clear. Whilst Frank Whittle's patent and early bench testing still appears to be a world first, German engineers were not far behind with similar experiments. Just before the war and in great secrecy Dr Heinkel built and flight tested an aircraft (looking very similar to the Whittle) on Sunday 27 August 1939 at Rostock, on the Baltic, some 20 months before our first Gloucester 'hop'. So whilst Frank Whittle was the first to successfully design, build and operate a working jet engine, the Gloster E28 or 'Whittle' as it later became known was not the first aircraft to fly under jet power. That accolade must go to the Heinkel He 178.

Nevertheless the little Gloster aircraft was undoubtedly the first British and Allied jet and went on to be the forerunner of a massive international industry in commercial and military aviation. Something to think about next time you board that holiday flight.

Want to know more? Visit the recently opened Jet Age Museum at Staverton, specifically established and run by local volunteers to commemorate and tell the story of the pioneering work of the Gloster Aircraft Company. The Museum is open Saturday and Sunday, 10am till 4pm. (also Wednesday in school holidays). I almost forgot to say...entrance is free!

David Hunt

NUTTY BADGERS ON HOLIDAY

Our Village's Explorer Scout Unit, the Nutty Badgers, headed down to North Devon for their summer camp. Leader Stuart Tedaldi writes: "Having travelled down on the Sunday morning, the rest of the day we pitched tents for the 37 of us who would camp in a 'green field' i.e. we only had a cold water tap and a 'big hole' in the ground.

The first day we surfed at Croyde Bay, with a very high tide right up the beach. Due to the wind and huge waves the following morning it was decided to re-plan and head inland to a local wildlife park.

With the sun shining the next morning we headed over to the high ropes course including zip wires and climbing walls; in the afternoon we took over the Ultimate Assault Water Park.

Over the following days the group split between coastal walks, indoor surfing and sea kayaking, with one evening meal cooked on the beach and a late evening spent watching shooting stars.

Our last activity was coasteering (a mix of jumping off the rocks into the sea, scrabbling across rocks and swimming between) all along the coast line of Croyde Bay / Baggy Point. With the last afternoon breaking camp we had our final meal at the beach cafe watching the sunset on this great coastline."



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We have put as much in here as space permits.
 Events happening weekly are only shown for
 the first month or so

VILLAGE DIARY

OCTOBER

| | | | | |
|----|-----|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Thu | Senior Circuits | Pavilion | 9.30-10.15a.m. |
| 1 | Thu | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 1 | Thu | Zumba..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-8.30p.m. |
| 2 | Fri | Yoga..... | Pavilion..... | 1.15-2.45p.m. |
| 5 | Mon | Yoga..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 10.00-11.30a.m. |
| 5 | Mon | Fitness Training (2 sessions)..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 6.00-7.30p.m. |
| 5 | Mon | Upton WI..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-10.00p.m. |
| 5 | Mon | Parish Council Meeting..... | Pavilion..... | 7.30p.m. |
| 6 | Tue | Badminton..... | Village Hall..... | 8.30-10.30p.m. |
| 7 | Wed | Pilates..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 7 | Wed | Stitchers..... | Pavilion..... | 10.30-12.30p.m. |
| 7 | Wed | Wednesday Probus..... | B.M.I..... | 10.00a.m. |
| 7 | Wed | Pavilion Painters..... | Pavilion..... | 2.00-4.00p.m. |
| 7 | Wed | Bingo..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 7 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.30p.m. |
| 7 | Wed | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 8.00-9.30p.m. |
| 8 | Thu | Senior Circuits..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.15a.m. |
| 8 | Thu | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 8 | Thu | Zumba..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-8.30p.m. |
| 9 | Fri | Yoga..... | Pavilion..... | 1.15-2.45p.m. |
| 10 | Sat | Copy date for November issue of USL Life | | |
| 12 | Mon | Yoga..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 10.00-11.30a.m. |
| 12 | Mon | Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 6.00-7.30p.m. |
| 12 | Mon | Twyver WI..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-1000p.m. |
| 13 | Tue | Needles & Pins..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-12.00p.m. |
| 13 | Tue | Tuesday Probus..... | B.M.I..... | 10.00a.m. |
| 13 | Tue | Badminton..... | Village Hall..... | 8.30-10.30p.m. |
| 14 | Wed | Pilates..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 14 | Wed | Second Wednesdays..... | Village Green..... | 9.30a.m. |
| 14 | Wed | Stitchers..... | Pavilion..... | 10.30-12.30p.m. |
| 14 | Wed | Pavilion Painters..... | Pavilion..... | 2.00-4.00p.m. |
| 14 | Wed | Bingo..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 14 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.30p.m. |
| 14 | Wed | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 8.00-9.30p.m. |
| 15 | Thu | Senior Circuits..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.15a.m. |
| 15 | Thu | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 16 | Fri | Yoga..... | Pavilion..... | 1.15-2.45p.m. |
| 19 | Mon | Yoga..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 10.00-11.30a.m. |
| 19 | Mon | Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 6.00-7.30p.m. |
| 19 | Mon | Abbeyle Garden Club..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.30p.m. |
| 20 | Tue | Needles & Pins..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-12.00p.m. |
| 20 | Tue | Badminton..... | Village Hall..... | 8.30-10.30p.m. |
| 21 | Wed | Pilates..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 21 | Wed | Stitchers..... | Pavilion..... | 10.30-12.30p.m. |
| 21 | Wed | Wednesday Probus..... | B.M.I..... | 10.00a.m. |
| 22 | Wed | Pavilion Painters..... | Pavilion..... | 2.00-4.00p.m. |
| 22 | Wed | Bingo..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 22 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.30p.m. |
| 22 | Wed | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 8.00-9.30p.m. |
| 23 | Thu | Senior Circuits..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.15a.m. |
| 23 | Thu | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 23 | Thu | Zumba..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-8.30p.m. |
| 24 | Fri | Yoga..... | Pavilion..... | 1.15-2.45p.m. |
| 26 | Mon | Yoga..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 10.00-11.30a.m. |
| 26 | Mon | Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 6.00-7.30p.m. |
| 26 | Mon | Camera Club..... | Village Hall..... | 7.00-9.00p.m. |
| 27 | Tue | Needles & Pins..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-12.00p.m. |
| 27 | Tue | Tuesday Probus..... | B.M.I..... | 10.00a.m. |
| 27 | Tue | Badminton..... | Village Hall..... | 8.30-10.30p.m. |
| 28 | Wed | Pilates..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 28 | Wed | Ladies Probus lunch at Flynn's, Cheltenham | | |
| 28 | Wed | Stitchers..... | Pavilion..... | 10.30-12.30p.m. |
| 28 | Wed | Pavilion Painters..... | Pavilion..... | 2.00-4.00p.m. |
| 28 | Wed | Bingo..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 28 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.30p.m. |
| 29 | Thu | Senior Circuits..... | Pavilion..... | 9.30-10.15a.m. |
| 29 | Thu | Tai Chi..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 9.30-10.30a.m. |
| 29 | Thu | Get Together Club - Pie and Peas..... | Village Hall..... | 1.00p.m. |
| 29 | Thu | Zumba..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-8.30p.m. |
| 30 | Fri | Yoga..... | Pavilion..... | 1.15-2.45p.m. |

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

NOVEMBER

| | | | | |
|----|-----|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 2 | Mon | Upton WI..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-10.00p.m. |
| 2 | Mon | Parish Council Meeting..... | Pavilion..... | 7.30p.m. |
| 5 | Thu | Bonfire Night..... | Village Hall..... | Time tba |
| 7 | Sat | Bring & Buy in aid of Maggie's Cheltenham..... | B.M.I..... | 3.00-5.00p.m. |
| 7 | Sat | Autumn Quiz..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 9 | Mon | Twyver WI..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-10.00p.m. |
| 10 | Tue | Copy Date for December issue of USL Life | | |
| 11 | Wed | Second Wednesdays..... | Village Green..... | 9.30a.m. |
| 14 | Sat | Entertainment Night..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 16 | Mon | Abbeydale Garden Club..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.30p.m. |
| 19 | Thu | History Group - "Those were the days" - 1950's..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.00p.m. |
| 23 | Mon | Camera Club..... | Village Hall..... | 7.00-9.00p.m. |
| 23 | Mon | Lady Downe Charity | | |
| 25 | Wed | Ladies Probus | B.M.I..... | 10.15a.m. |
| 26 | Thu | Get Together Club | Village Hall..... | 2.00p.m. |

DECEMBER

| | | | | |
|----|-----|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 7 | Mon | Upton WI..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-10.00p.m. |
| 7 | Mon | Parish Council Meeting..... | Pavilion..... | 7.30p.m. |
| 9 | Wed | Ladies Probus - 10 th Anniversary Meeting..... | B.M.I..... | 10.15a.m. |
| 12 | Sat | B.M.I. Pensioners Christmas Lunch..... | B.M.I..... | 12.00p.m. |
| 14 | Mon | Get Together Christmas Lunch..... | Bowden Hall | |
| 14 | Mon | Twyver WI..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-10.00p.m. |
| 16 | Wed | Second Wednesdays..... | Village Green..... | 9.30a.m. |
| 19 | Sat | Christmas Draw and Carols..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 21 | Mon | Abbeydale Garden Club..... | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.30p.m. |
| 24 | Thu | Christmas Eve Entertainment..... | B.M.I..... | 8.00p.m. |
| 28 | Mon | Camera Club..... | Village Hall..... | 7.00-9.00p.m. |
| 31 | Thu | New Year's Eve Party Night..... | B.M.I..... | 7.30p.m. |

To get your event included in the diary, contact Paula Quinn

Electoral Boundary Changes

Earlier this year the Electoral Commission enforced a boundary review on Stroud District Council, following the growth in numbers of residents over the past 10 years, which meant there are now population imbalances between wards within the Council District. Boundaries will be changed and all District Councillors will be up for re-election, in May 2016.

Upton St Leonards is affected by the change; from next May we will be grouped with Painswick, and no longer with Brookthorpe, Whaddon and Harescombe. The changes do not affect the Parish structures.

The new Painswick and Upton St Leonards Ward will elect 3 District Councillors. You will be able to vote for up to 3 candidates and you will need to remember that you are electing Councillors for the whole ward and not just one part of it, so for example if you cast a vote for a candidate thinking that person is the right one to represent the Village, that candidate may not be elected if he/she does not get enough votes from the other parts of the ward. There will be further guidance on this in due course, but if anyone has any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me.

Keith Pearson, District Councillor



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CRICKET REPORT

Success on the Field: In one of our most successful seasons in recent years, both our Saturday sides were winners by some margin in their Divisions. The Firsts won the County Division 5, winning 14 games and losing 3. The Second Team won the Cheltenham and Gloucester Division 2, winning 15 games and losing 2. Sam Warner was the outstanding batsman in the 1st X1, scoring 677 runs at an average of 52, with a highest score of 125. For the 2nd X1 the Club Chairman, Simon Harkin scored 652 runs at an average of 65 with a highest score of 173 (which we believe was the second highest innings ever in the Club's history). James Price took 21 wickets for the 1st X1 at an average of 16 and the best bowler for the 2nd X1 was fourteen year old Brooke Turner who took 17 wickets at an average of just under 10. Not far behind him was another fourteen year old and village resident Liam Richards, who also contributed some very useful batting performances in the middle order.

Money-Raising Success: We have raised, through grants and our own efforts, all the money we need to build the new fixed all-weather nets on the recreation ground. These should have been built by the end of October. Our Six-a-Side day, Bar and BBQ was also a great success, despite the fact that it rained for much of the day ! The club made a profit of £600.

Village Clubs and Groups



Needles and Pins

Upton St Leonards Pavilion
Tuesday 9.30am – midday during school term time

Lesley Graysmark from Bondend Road runs this class which helps to develop and improve sewing and dressmaking skills using a sewing machine. Visiting the class, the over-riding impression is of a supportive and very focused group confidently working on individual projects. Several class members described the pleasure of re-discovering sewing and dressmaking after years of not having time to practise. Others are complete beginners who are learning new skills.

Lesley welcomes enquiries about the class and encourages you to join the group for a taster session before deciding whether to join.

PERRY ORCHARD ALLOTMENT BBQ

The weather was kind to us this year and the food, drink and laughter were in abundance. As well as allotment holders we were joined by friends and neighbours.

With the normal BBQ sausages we had a paella kindly made by David Quinn, followed by such an array of desserts that we needed to lie down afterwards.

So please support this, now annual, event.

Carol Evans



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Personal

The family of the late Brian Hicks wish to express sincere thanks to all friends and neighbours for their sympathy, support and the many cards received, after their recent bereavement.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2015 - can you help ?

The usual house to house sale of poppies will be made during the fortnight before Remembrance Sunday. Please give generously to help our servicemen and women and their families.

Thanks to everyone who continues to help with the collection. We need extra collectors to increase our coverage. We are also hoping once again to have poppies on sale in Morrisons and we need as much help there as we can get.

If you have an hour or two to spare between the dates 25 Oct to 8 Nov and would like to help us with this excellent cause, please contact us: To help with house to house collections call Jenny Cunningham To help at Morrisons, call Meg James.

Supporting Breast Cancer

The Strawberry Tea in aid of the Breast Cancer Care Charity, held at Christchurch Abbeydale, raised over £300. This is a wonderful amount and Val Doll sends her sincere thanks to all who supported the event in so many ways.

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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

This month's editor: Peter Wilson
Editors: Andrea Dawson
Andy Russell
Peter Wilson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman

Treasurer: Ian Crowe

Feature writers: Kaye Redman
Christina Caldwell
Teresa Clarke
Linda Munnoch

Clubs / Societies / Organisations: Catherine McLean

Diary: Paula Quinn
paulaquinn16@gmail.com

Advertising: Contact: Andy Russell
610002 or andyr2789@gmail.com

Admin Support: Janine Black

Distribution: Jenny Cunningham

Photography: Jim Browne

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Christine Ellson
Kate Davies

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