

# Upton St Leonards Life

## incorporating Church News

Issue 8

April 2015



## The Church Building - Crisis

David Knight, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Church's Council writes: The future sustainability of St Leonards Church building is in crisis.

This beautiful historic building where thousands of people have worshipped over the centuries needs to be restored and renovated to make it fit for purpose.

The results of our recent Quinquennial Inspection have been published by the architect. The cost of repairs amounts to almost £300,000 just to keep it watertight and free from damp.

*Read more of David Knight's statement on page 12.*



Clean and protect iron bracing bars to pinnacles (picture above)

That yew tree is far too close to the building. It has actually sprouted out of a grave and probably should have been removed years ago.



A major and urgent task: Re-roof the porch and the north slope of the north aisle (pictured above). Other re-roofing must be done within 5 years.

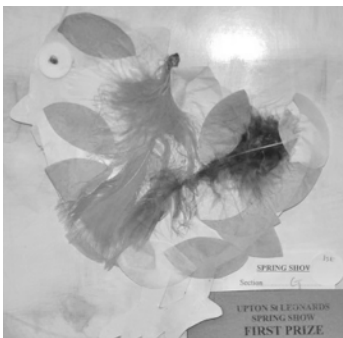
Here are just 3 of the many things that need to be done at the church, according to the architect's recent report

## What's been happening in Upton



## The Spring Show

The day of the show was freezing cold with an easterly wind, making the warm Village Hall, filled with vibrant colours of the exhibits, doubly welcoming. The picture on the right, in grey scale of course, simply does no justice to the rich velvet red of the amaryllis on display. The cakes looked absolutely scrumptious. The Lady Downe room was pretty well packed with craft stalls, again most colourful. Once again the closed classes for children were fascinating and on the left you can see the winning entry from George Vye of the Little Mouslings toddler group, who all made Easter chicks. A great effort by the competitors, judges, organisers. A show well worth visiting!



**Our correspondent "The Villager" writes:** "Popped into the Spring Show at the Village Hall. What a lovely afternoon, full of the atmosphere of challenge and rivalry, but not of envy or anger. A Normal Village event showing us the wonderful talents we have behind closed doors. All those folk who love doing their crafts quietly, and who give so generously to many charities needing help. The talents of our children are highlighted at the show and so loved by all who come. Are these the David Hockneys of the future? I thoroughly enjoyed being at the show; the wonderful ladies serving refreshments, the welcome at the door, no pressure but please buy raffle tickets! Congratulations to all the trophy winners, well deserved. Thanks to all who came. Please continue to support our wonderful Spring Show."

On Friday 6th March friends gathered at the BMI to support the national "Time for a Cuppa" fund raising week for Dementia UK. Thank you to all who attended and special thanks to everyone who donated the many gorgeous cakes and raffle prizes. We raised a total of £140.75 during the morning, which is a great achievement, and a cheque has been sent to Dementia UK.

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## What's been happening in Upton ... cont

### 1st Upton St Leonards Scout Troop Winter Weekend 2015

It's become a tradition in recent years for 1st Upton St Leonards Scout Troop to spend the first weekend of the February half-term break in a bunkhouse in the Brecon Beacons. Subject to the weather not being too dreadful, we use the two days to get some quality time in the hills under our belts, and to put in to practice the map and compass skills learnt during our Friday night Scout meetings at the village hall.

As in previous years, we based ourselves at the warm and comfortable bunkhouse at Court Farm, Llanthony Priory, and this year we tackled Lord Hereford's Knob / Twmpa and the Black Mountains. Hill mist on the Saturday provided lots of opportunities for compass work, and the Scouts were able to see "leap frogging" in action under real, poor visibility conditions.

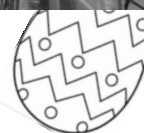


### Cotswold Marathon Update

With a cold wind from the North hundreds of Scouts from around the county descended on Gloucester on Saturday 7th February for the 43rd Cotswold Marathon. This was a winter night hike around Gloucester and the surrounding Cotswold Hills. Upton Village Hall was the first radio checkpoint of the hike, crucial to making sure everyone came down from Robinswood Hill safely.

Nutty Badgers leaders and senior Explorers manned the checkpoint to ensure a smooth transition and onward travel. The gloomy picture on the right shows the hardy souls shivering outside the Village Hall.

The main 36 mile Gold hike was won by a team from Gloucester Lonsdale in 9hrs 30 mins, the second team came in at 11hrs 17mins. The 18mile Silver hike with a time of 5hrs 13mins was won by a Scout team from Chalford, our own Nutty Badgers came home in a respectable 3rd place.



**LITTER PICKING** - Eight Villagers, led by Mike Blanch, met on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March to pick up litter around the Village. We hope you have noticed the lack of litter now and will do what you can to keep it that way! Actually the team was quite surprised and pleased to note that there was not too much to pick up; even so it amounted to about half a skip of rubbish, including the almost inevitable (why??) couple of car tyres.  
Many thanks to Mike and his team



Did you get a picture of the solar eclipse on March 20<sup>th</sup>? Let us have your picture to publish in the May newsletter.

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# USCAN Report

**USCAN AGM** - The AGM was held at the end of February. **The footpaths team** continues to be very active, led by Andy Russell. The theft of our brush cutters and hedge trimmer is a huge set-back. We are now waiting to see what happens with an insurance claim. The footpaths team has done a huge amount of work in the Churchyard - take a walk through it and see the difference! The **Jubilee Nature Reserve** at the Recreation Ground continues to thrive with much work and care from Mike Blanch, Ruth Ineson and others. We are starting up a new group (or perhaps we should say reviving a former activity) called the

**Second Wednesdays** that will meet once a month (guess the date! and see the announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter) to work on beds and borders (e.g. at the Village Green, outside the shops etc.) in the heart of the Village.

Thanks to Cliff Alderman - Secretary, and Owen Stinchcombe - Treasurer, who continue to manage the admin and money. Most of the money for the USCAN effort nowadays comes from the Parish Council - so thanks are due there as well, and to Pete Wilson who chairs the Council's Environment sub-committee.

Minutes of the AGM and recent reports can be seen on the web at [www.uscan.org.uk](http://www.uscan.org.uk)



## Twyver Women's Institute



The WI is celebrating its centenary and we heard that the WI Centenary Baton, which has been travelling round the country, was to be in our area on March 17th. Margaret, our President, and members from each of the other WIs in the area will travel by horse and cart to the St Barnabas Church Hall to meet Mayor Debbie Llewellyn for the occasion.

At the March meeting our speaker was John Crowther from the Hedgehog Hospital, where sick and injured hogs are brought for treatment. He was inspired to get involved by Annie Parfitt who organised the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. He and many other

volunteers keep the hospital going. They treated and looked after 120 hedgehogs last year. The decline in the numbers of hedgehogs is becoming very serious due to loss of habitat, changes in weather patterns and the large numbers of badgers around these days. The hospital relies on donations to help buy medicines and food and a comfortable bed. In closing his talk he implored us to look out for these little mammals; any offers to help would be gratefully received.

Our next meeting will be on April 13th in the USL Village Hall at 7.30pm and all will be made very welcome. We will be introduced to Karen Van Hoff who will tell us all about The Knitted Necklace, a Hat and a Tiara.



**CRIME REPORT** We haven't had an official report for a while in USL Life, but the police web site shows at least 4 reported crimes in the Village recently. Two of these were thefts of power tools (see the USCAN report above) from isolated locked sheds. PLEASE make sure your shed is secure, particularly if it is somewhere not overlooked. The springtime is high season for these thefts.



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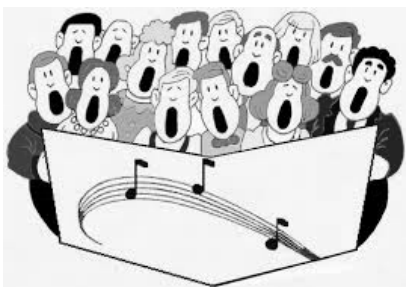
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## Coming up in April ...



**The St Leonards Singers**, leader Sylvia Ardron, will be leading the worship in the Cathedral at Evensong on Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5.30 pm, a new and daunting experience for some of the group! And then, as part of the celebrations marking the re-opening of St Augustine's Church Hall in Matson, they will be singing a service of evensong there, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, at 7 pm.

### Continuing our series of articles on local businesses, this month we feature **Bourne Baking**

Esther Bourne is the Owner and Director of Bourne Baking Ltd. She says: "My family and I moved into USL over 5 years ago and we love living in the village.

I set up my bakery business as a Limited Company in November 2013 and run it from my home. But how did I get to that point? After 28 years in Medical Sales, I was made redundant, but along the way I had also spent a few years running cafés for Sainsburys and Morrisons, which gave me experience of the catering industry. My enthusiasm for baking probably came from members of my family over several generations, my late mother, both grandmothers, and aunts who were all excellent bakers.



Over the last 3-4 years I have been busy developing recipes, testing and perfecting them, learning techniques to decorate and flavour different cakes so that I

can offer unique designs.

My main focus has been cupcakes and if you look at my website (see link below) you will see that I bake other items too including small Wedding Cakes. I have also recently branched out into providing buffets for groups from 2 to 50 people (cold food only). This includes Breakfast Buffets and Afternoon Teas. Menus for what we offer will be appearing shortly on my website.

I hold a Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety Certificate and following an inspection last year by Stroud District Council, I was awarded a Level 5 Food Hygiene rating (the highest score available). I also have advanced training in Food Allergens and am able to bake and cater for allergy sufferers, Vegan and Vegetarian diets.

I will be having a stand at our Village Fete on 20 June so please come along, say hello and see what I love to do !!

I hope I can be of service to some of you in the future."

Phone: 07913 417289

Email: [esther@bourne-baking.co.uk](mailto:esther@bourne-baking.co.uk)

Website: [www.bourne-baking.co.uk](http://www.bourne-baking.co.uk)

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Coming up later ...

# CAVE

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Saturday 9th May at 7.30pm



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## PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE!

Today in and around Gloucester some parents are struggling to put food on the table. One in five people live below the 'poverty line' in the UK and this can mean that parents go without to feed their children. Redundancy, low incomes, benefit delays, ill health, unexpected bills or a sudden crisis can mean that the cupboards are bare. For some the choice can be eating or heating. This is a challenge which can be faced on a daily basis. Not eating regular healthy meals can have a detrimental effect on short and long term health.

In Gloucester our local Foodbank provides emergency food to local people in crisis, and has been providing this support for ten years! Food is donated through the generosity of the local population, and then volunteers sort and pack it into emergency food boxes. Over 120 agencies including Age UK, Children's Centres, Schools and Citizens Advice Bureau based in Gloucester City provide vouchers to families and individuals who are in difficult circumstances, which can be exchanged for three days worth of food. A voucher system is used to ensure that clients are genuine and that the underlying problems are being addressed. Clients can have a maximum of 3 vouchers in a 6 month period, and the Foodbank enquires if a subsequent voucher is presented. This is to ensure that both the agency and client are working to resolve the underlying problem, in order that the client can become financially independent.

Foodbanks provide more than just food! They are a point of contact for people who otherwise may well be isolated and feeling desperate or unwell. Foodbanks can help to ease or prevent family breakdown, housing loss, crime and mental health deterioration - by listening and by signposting people to further support if appropriate.

Anneliese Sterry, Gloucester Foodbank Manager, is working at the 'coal face' on a daily basis and witnesses the problematic situations that befall people, and the value of the work that the local Foodbank is doing. She says of Gloucester, 'During 2014

we supported 5,186 people including 1,727 children under 16 living in and around Gloucester city. In 2014 we gave clients 37.5 tonnes of food and toiletries. At present, we are giving an average of 3.5 tonnes of food and toiletries each month.'

For local donations of foodstuffs, the collection point in Upton St Leonards is at the Church each Friday between 6pm and 6.30pm and also at Church services. Diana Way, the co-ordinator at our Church then ferries the goods to the Gloucester Foodbank centre. For some this may not be convenient and there is also a collection point at Christchurch Abbeymead and at Tesco in Brockworth. So what kind of foods are most in demand? Long life goods, dried goods, and tinned foods. Some people do not have the means to warm or cook food. This can be due to energy costs, so 'cold food packages' can also be provided in these instances. The list of items in an emergency food parcel was drawn up by a nutritionist to ensure that each client receives a nutritionally balanced diet. Below is an up-to-date list of particular items required at present.

Funds are also welcomed to cover running costs. The Foodbank is situated in Great Western Road, Gloucester.

Web site: [www.gloucester.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.gloucester.foodbank.org.uk)

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### LIST OF FOOD ITEMS NEEDED at the moment

LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE (NOT CHILLED)  
TINNED COLD MEAT  
SMALL JARS OF COFFEE  
PACKETS OF PASTA'N'SAUCE  
BOTTLES OF SQUASH  
TINNED SPAGHETTI  
SMALL/MEDIUM TINS OF POTATOES  
CUP-A-SOUP  
PACKET MASH  
TINNED CUSTARD  
TIN OPENERS  
TOILET ROLLS  
BARS OF SOAP  
SHAMPOO  
SHOWER GEL  
TOOTHPASTE  
TOOTHBRUSHES (SINGLE)

List of items that might go into a standard parcel for a family of 4-5 people

Cereal x 1 large box/packet	Dried spaghetti & pasta x 500 grams of each
Tinned vegetables x 3 standard tins	Rice x 1 kg
Tinned potatoes or instant mash x 1 medium tin/1 medium tub	Beans x 4 standard tins
Tinned cold meat & pie (Fray Bentos) or vegetarian option x 1 standard tin & 1 standard pie	Long life milk x 3 x 1 litre cartons
Tinned ready meal x 3 standard tins	Biscuits x 1 large packet
Tinned fish x 3 standard tins	Sugar x 500 grams
Tinned fruit x 2 standard tins	Snack e.g. crackers/crisps
Tinned rice pudding x 1 standard tin	Jar of sauce x 2 jars
Sponge pudding x 1 tin/2 double packs	Jar of jam/spread (e.g. Peanut butter) x 1 jar
Tinned custard x 2 standard tins	<b>Toiletries</b>
Tea/coffee x 120 bags/1 jar	Shampoo
Squash/long life fruit juice x 1 bottle/2 x cartons	Shower gel
Tinned soup x 6 standard tins	Toothpaste
Tinned tomatoes x 3 standard tins	Deodorant
	Toilet roll

# World War 1 Centenary Commemorations - April 1915

## We Will Remember Them

Continuing our series of articles remembering the men of Upton in the month of the centenary of their death, we remember ARTHUR PERCIVAL DEARMAN BIRCHALL.



Arthur as a young boy

Arthur Birchall was the eldest son of the prominent Birchall family who lived at Bowden Hall. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Fusiliers attached to the 4th Battalion Canadian Infantry and died on 24 April 1915. He has no known grave and is named on the Royal Fusiliers Panels 6 and 8 at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

He was in Canada as an instructor at the start of the war. He was made a temporary Lt Col in 4th Bn Canadian Infantry (1st Ontario Regt) and arrived in France with his Battalion and moved into Belgium to Ypres. On 22 April the Germans started the 2nd Battle of Ypres and opened the valves of 4000 canisters of chlorine gas which drifted over the Allied lines. This was the first time that poison gas had been used. Manning the front line were French Colonial troops who died in their hundreds whilst others fled to the rear. This left a gap of 4 miles in the front line and the Canadians were ordered to plug this gap. The Canadians, using make-shift gas masks, held the German advance and it was during this battle near St Julian that Arthur was killed. He was mentioned in Dispatches for his bravery. His body was never found.

A search of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) web site reveals that he is actually named twice on

the Menin Gate Memorial, the second entry is as a Canadian casualty - Lt Col AP Birchall of 4th Bn Canadian Infantry (1st Ontario Regt) who died on 23 April 1915, recorded on Panels 18-24-26 and 30.

The Birchall family's influence in the Village remains visible today through the Birchall Memorial Institute' which was erected in 1898 by the Birchalls as a working men's club, in memory of Arthur's father John Dearman Birchall.

Tragically, the Birchalls were to lose yet another son: Edward, a Captain in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry was killed on 10 August 1916 and is buried in Calais. In 1918, their cousin John died following an appendix operation whilst at Eton school; he is buried in Upton.

There is a wooden plaque in the Village Hall erected on the opening of the hall by the Birchall family in memory of Arthur, Edward and young John. There is also a bronze plaque in the Church to the memory of Arthur from his surviving comrades of the Ontario Regiment.

We hope you can take the time to look at the plaques and also John's grave to read more about them. The CWGC website is very informative too.

Please let us know what more you may find out about the 37 men listed on our War Memorial; we aim to publish details in a small booklet and on the Parish website in due course.

*These articles are written by Roy Roberts (USL Parish Councillor) and Mike Stratford (Chairman USL History Group)*



Arthur in 1895 with the USL Cricket Team (this picture still hangs in the BMI)

AGM for this Newsletter's organisation

**UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY**  
FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm at the Pavilion

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## Vicar's April letter

*Dear Friends,*

Easter is a wonderful time to reflect on the principles of our faith. As we approach Easter, we may consider the notion of fresh starts in the form of new life and new birth.

We are inundated with images of eggs and chicks as we give and receive Easter eggs and possibly colourful cards illustrated with springtime.

But Easter isn't about eggs or chicks. It's about Jesus!

The genuine purpose for contemplating new life at Easter is because Jesus, who was crucified on that first Good Friday, rose to new life on the first Easter Sunday.

This is not just a wonderful story, but a historical fact.

Jesus' body was never found and his resurrection never disproved.

This was despite the best efforts of the mighty Roman Empire and the committed and powerful Jewish leaders to destroy the early church and discredit their belief. The early disciples were transformed from a band of frightened and disillusioned folk into a courageous company who stood up against the authorities and eventually gave their lives for what they believed - for what they knew to be true - that Jesus came back to life on Easter Sunday. New life for Jesus led to new life in his disciples.

The impact of what happened that first Easter is still relevant today.

When Jesus died and rose, he did it for us. He offers us new life, eternal life, with him; life that starts now, but continues beyond this life. Now that is worth celebrating!

Please join us in church with Bishop Martyn this Holy Week, to think about the real meaning of Easter; Jesus' resurrection. Spend some time considering the possibilities of a new life for yourself, starting now and continuing into eternity

I hope you have a wonderful Easter.

Every Blessing,

*Christine*

## Easter - The Empty Cross



## April Church Diary

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

Thu 2nd	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.00pm - Agape Meal with Holy Communion and foot-washing with Bishop Martyn
Fri 3rd	GOOD FRIDAY 3.00pm - Meditation of The Cross with Bishop Martyn
Sun 5th	EASTER DAY 8.00am - Easter Vigil followed by breakfast with Bishop Martyn 10.00am - Holy Communion with Bishop Martyn
Mon 6th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
Tue 7th	7.00pm - PCC in Church
Sun 12th	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 10.00am - Communion4All 12.00pm - Baptism Service
Mon 13th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
Thu 16th	2.00pm - Mothers Union
Sun 19th	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 10.00am - Holy Communion 3.00pm - Messy Church in USL Primary School 6.00pm - Evening Service
Mon 20th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
Sun 26th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10.00am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) 11.30am - Annual meeting of Parishioners to elect churchwardens 11.35am - Annual Parochial Church Meeting including election of PCC
Mon 27th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory



### What is it?

Messy Church is an event for all the family. It gives busy families the chance to get together, be a part of their local church and find out about God - and all in a fun way.

Everyone is invited - young and old alike; adults, children, teenagers, carers, grandparents, come as friends, families or partners, or come on your own, all-comers welcome.

Children will need to bring an adult with them

It's cooking, it's drama, it's art and crafts, it's eating together..... It's messy!

### What happens there?

All activities are available for children and adults to do together. We start with a drink at 3pm and then we get messy. The activities are themed on Bible stories and when we've finished we all get together to see what everyone's been doing before enjoying a meal together and saying goodbye at 5pm.

*We are looking for volunteers to help facilitate this event – if you would like to join the team please see Rev. Christine*

**Where and when is it? Upton St Leonards Church of England Primary School  
on Sunday 19th April at 3pm.**

For more information please contact [rev.christine@uptonstleonardschurch.org.uk](mailto:rev.christine@uptonstleonardschurch.org.uk)

Messy Churches are now all over the world: [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

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### Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship in April

On Thursday 2nd April the Tower Lights will be lit in loving memory of James Williams.

On Sunday 12th April the Tower Lights are sponsored by Sally Ponting in loving memory of her late husband, Michael Anthony Francis Ponting - 31 July 1940 - 12 April 1992.

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.

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.

If you would like to sponsor the Church Tower Flood Lights then please contact Matthew Gibbs

Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 10th of the preceding month.



### Christian Aid Week - 10-16<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Would you be able to help deliver/collect envelopes for this very worthwhile cause?

Hopefully we can cover the whole of the village this year. Please contact Rachel Hall for details.

### Christian Aid Tea Party

15th May 2.30 - 4.30pm

Upton St Leonards Village Hall

Bring & Buy, Raffle, Cake Stall

## CHURCH NEWS



### Easter: Our place in God's story, by the Revd Canon Andrew Braddock, Director of Mission and Ministry

Let me tell you a story. It's an invitation every generation responds to. Stories are all around us, from the first stories we tell our children to the latest best-seller, from the story line of an advert to TV drama, theatre and film. The best stories draw us in, speaking to our hearts and minds. They can make us laugh or cry and, at best, enlarge our vision of the world and our understanding of ourselves.



So it's not surprising that the Christian faith was first shared through telling the stories of Jesus: especially the defining story of Jesus' arrest, death and resurrection. As the first Christians engaged with this story so they came to realise that they were being caught up in God's great story of love and redemption for the world.

"The messenger" is published by the Diocese of Gloucester:

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/news/publications/the-messenger/>

### A new resource, 'Cross my heart'

[www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-life/cross-my-heart](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-life/cross-my-heart) shares contemporary faith stories. They speak of hope and transformation when we allow the story of Jesus to bring meaning to our lives. As the church invites us to experience Holy Week and Easter once again so, through worship, drama, music and other activities, we are also invited to connect our stories with the defining story of Jesus' death and resurrection and have our understanding of ourselves and the world renewed.



What happened when God came into your life?

Do you have a story to tell about your journey to faith?

## THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

As you will have noticed in the Church Diary, the two Annual Church Meetings are being held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, after the morning service.

The first meeting is the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, a brief one, at 11.30 am, to elect two Churchwardens. Anyone on the Church Electoral Roll, or on the Civic roll of Electors for the ward of Upton St Leonards may attend and vote.

The main business meeting then follows at 11.35 am. It is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and attendance is restricted to those on the Church's Electoral Roll. At this meeting the Priest and Parochial Church Council report on the past year, there is a financial report, and there are elections for officers and positions in the Church.

It really goes without saying that these meetings are more important than ever this year. Church members should do their utmost to attend.

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## CHURCH NEWS

**THE CHURCH BUILDING - CRISIS** - continued from the front page

The most urgent need for repair is the north side of the roof, where the tiles need to be replaced.

Historically Upton St Leonards was blessed with a large and generous congregation and the church thrived; in 2015 we are in a completely different place.

The parish consists of about 3000 people and with the demands of everyday life and associated interests, people's needs for spiritual sustainability seem to be waning.

I personally think that in today's world our need for peace, love and unity is stronger than ever.

Over the last decade or two the Christian community has not helped itself or the community. It has closed in on itself and become insular and has not recognised the spiritual requirement of society.

A good example of this is our local church. The congregation is getting older, our regular generous members have moved away or passed on and new blood is not filling our pews.

It is also interesting to note that a large part of the current congregation who attend and work for our church live outside the parish.

We are however very fortunate in that our new part-time vicar is outward-looking and recognises the problems.

The Upton St Leonards Christian community is not about the church building but about the people, it's about mission and getting out into the community and spreading the good news of Jesus.

### CHURCH BUILDING CRISIS

## *You can help!*

There will need to be a strong and determined team to organise fund raising and apply for grants. Even if you are not a church member you can be a participant in this effort. We've done it before (remember USLOT) and we can do it again. The church was passed on to us in decent working order. What are we going to pass on to Village residents to come?

Offer your services to Rev Christine.

Things are already starting to happen in that respect.

If we want the church building to continue as a place where our families and friends can be married, baptised, buried or just to turn up to sing carols at Christmas, then we need to support this building financially as well as spiritually.

The current congregation is now aware that the future of the building is in doubt; the church is extremely cold and damp as we are unable to keep the heating on for long periods to warm the space.

The congregation will not though disappear. The founders of the early Christian church met in people's houses; this could be our future.

God bless,

Dave Knight, Vice  
Chairman, Upton St  
Leonard's PCC.



### 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:**

Ceri Darley-Jones

**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

# Kids' Page

## Fantastic Film Review

### 'Shaun the Sheep the Movie'

When Shaun decides to take the day off and have some fun, he gets a little more action than he bargained for. A mix up with the Farmer, a caravan and a very steep hill lead them all to the Big City and it's up to Shaun and the flock to return everyone safely to the green grass of home.

I interviewed Katie about the new movie.

O: What did you think of the film?

K: I thought it was a brilliant film for all ages and was very funny.

O: Who is your favourite character and why?

K: Timmy, because he is really cute and ADORABLE!

O: What do you rate the film?

K: 5/5 stars!



O: Thank you for letting me interview you, Katie.

K: My pleasure.

Interviewed by Olivia (Year 6)

**Ha Ha**

What season is it when you are on a trampoline?  
Spring-time!

What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?  
Lily

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?  
Bugs Bunny

### Riddles

I have seas without water, forests without trees or wood, deserts without sand and houses without bricks. What am I?

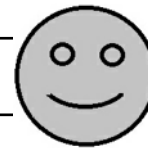
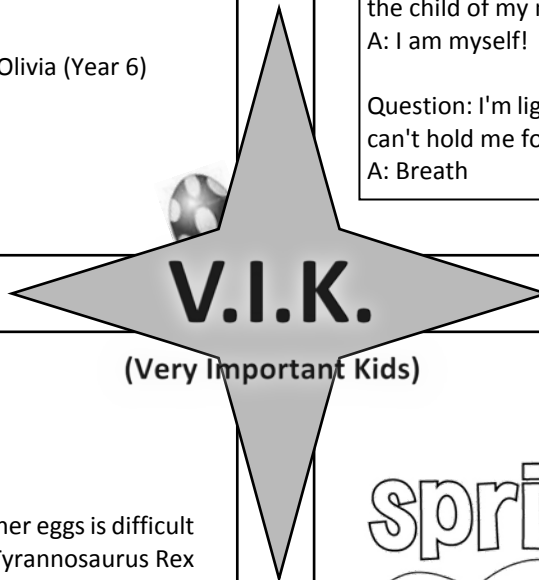
A: A map

I am not my sister, I am not my brother, but I am still the child of my mother and father. Who am I?

A: I am myself!

Question: I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest man can't hold me for more than 5 minutes. What am I?

A: Breath



## Brilliant Book Review

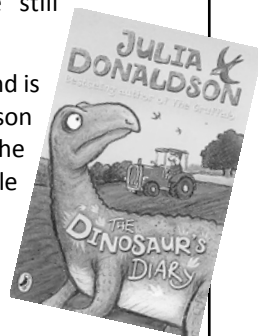
### 'The Dinosaur's Diary'

Surviving and finding a safe place to lay her eggs is difficult for Hypsilophodon with dinosaurs like Tyrannosaurus Rex around. When she falls into a mysterious pool and finds herself on a modern farm there are still problems.

'The Dinosaur's Diary' is a fantastic read and is very funny. It is written by Julia Donaldson (who wrote 'The Gruffalo' and 'Room on the Broom') and I would recommend it to people of all ages.

Katie (Year 6)

5/5 stars



## Colouring



Easter egg hunt! Count how many you can find in the newsletter. Not just on this page! And some are quite well hidden. How many did you spot?



## Your Parish Council

At the Council's March meeting, the Clerk was asked to do what he could to hasten repairs to the potholes at the bottom of Nut Hill Road.

The Council will be writing to a few village residents about hedges and bushes that are growing over pavements and thereby significantly reducing the usable width. If your bush / hedge / tree restricts the pavement, please cut it back!

The Council is worried about the lack of progress on reducing motorway noise with re-surfacing. The Council agreed to write to the Highways Agency Chief Executive expressing its concerns. Councillor Hunt has been filmed for a Channel 5 documentary on motorway noise.

In the February edition of USL Life there was an article about a Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) scheme "Friends For You", a volunteer befriending service in support of older, isolated and housebound people in the community. Councillor Wilson and others are looking at implementing this in the Village. There is an article about this on page 16.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April (not the usual Monday) at 7.30 in the Pavilion. As usual, Villagers are welcome to attend.



### **POTHoles!** - what you can do

The worst potholes on Nut Hill Road have at last been repaired.

Don't assume the Highways people know about them. They won't until someone tells them. And the more times they are told, the more notice they will take.

Reporting Online:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/potholes>

Gloucestershire County Council would prefer online reports, but if you can't report online, phone 08000 514 514.

## Waste Collection & Recycling

*Parish Council Chairman Keith Pearson writes:*

Over the last few years there has been a drive to encourage recycling to a much greater degree. Overall, residents in Upton do a good job and recycle all they can - so a big thank you to all those who do. Do note that there is no need to put the bin out every fortnight if it is nearly empty. Some do not create a very large amount of recyclable waste; I probably put the recycling bin out once every six weeks for our household.

For nearly 15 years the waste collections for Stroud District have been handled by contractors Veolia, who currently collect black sacks every week and recycling every fortnight.

From next year a company called UBICO will be running the waste collection services. This company will be partly owned by Stroud District Council. With this set-up the Council has negotiated a new contract and system for an enhanced service at a reasonable increase in cost.

The column on the right shows the changes you can expect when the new service starts. These changes we believe will help divert even more waste from landfill, which will be of benefit to the environment.

So if you are not part of the recycling club yet, please start now!

### **HOW THE SERVICE WILL CHANGE**

The existing recycling service will remain as it is, and the Council hopes to add plastic film recycling in the near future

There will be a new food waste weekly collection service, using a small caddy bin supplied by the council - you will be able to line the caddy bins with plastic carrier bags.

Garden waste will be collected fortnightly for recycling, using wheelie bins. There will be a charge for this optional additional service. The green bag system will go out of use.

With an extensive range of recycling materials being collected fortnightly, food waste collected weekly and a separate garden waste service, non-recyclable waste will be collected fortnightly.

Black bags will be discontinued and a small size wheelie bin will be used.

Collection of bulky items will become chargeable as this free service can no longer be sustained, but costs will be reasonable, probably around £15 for three items at a time, but we will encourage people to use furniture recycling organisations where they can.

### **RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

December to March

Shannon House, The Ash Path - Ref S.14/2692/FUL

Demolish existing garage, divide plot and construct two detached bungalows on land to rear of existing dwelling.

71 Bondend Road - Ref S.14/2675/CPL

Single storey extension to enlarge kitchen and bathroom.

23 Bondend Road - Ref S.14/2788/HHOLD

Front and Rear Extensions

Recreation Ground - Ref S.15/0029/FUL

Replace mobile phone mast

Willingdon, High Street - Ref S.15/0247/HHOLD

Loft conversion of existing bungalow, porch, car port and render finish to dwelling

Thyme House, The Ash Path - Ref S.15/0025/TPO

Work on two trees subject of preservation orders

75 Bondend Road - Ref S.15/0224/HHOLD

Single storey extension to provide enlarged kitchen and bathroom

*All current planning applications can be seen at Ebley Mill or on the Stroud Council website*

# The Flower Show

We are continuing to feature items about the Flower Show to keep it in your minds. **The show takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> September.** This month we are publishing another extract from the schedule, Section E, Handicrafts - Open.

Classes 142, 143, 144, 150 are to be new and unworn/unused  
All entries must be the competitor's own work.

Class

140 Soft toy

141 Dressed doll

142 An article I have hand-knitted, 4 ply or under

143 An article I have hand-knitted, double knitting, Aran or Chunky

144 An article I have hand-knitted, any fancy yarn not fitting the above classes.

145 An article of cross stitch (please state size and also whether the work is to your own design)

146 A wooden model, max dimensions, 15"/375mm square

147 An article of needlework or embroidery other than clothing or toys

148 An artfully folded linen napkin

149 A beanie hat representing your favourite international rugby team

150 A knitted tea cosy

151 An item in patchwork

152 A handbag, any medium, max size 12" x 12" (305mm x 305mm)

153 A congratulations card

154 A piece of handmade jewellery, any medium

155 A hand made brooch, any medium

156 A painting or drawing, any medium, "Winter" theme, max size 18" x 12"/460mm x 305mm

157 Write a short story\* of not more than 500 words, to include the following: rugby, floorboard, goalpost, mirror, try line, ice cream, mobile, anorak, lipstick

\* £5 prize money for the best short story

## Roadworks

Continuing the work on water mains in the Village, **Churchfield Road will be closed from 27 April to 22 May** between the junction with Six Acres and the Bondend Road / Staites Orchard crossroads.

- Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.
- Residents of the houses in the closed stretch will still have access.
- Vehicle access to the shops will remain, from the Ash Path end.
- The morning and afternoon school buses will go through the closed section.
- Bus service No 2 will turn left at the Ash Path, and not visit the Post Office, Staites Orchard or Woodland Green. The 2A will be allowed to pass through the roadworks, but the bus stop lower down will not be used.

The work is being done by contractors Amey on behalf of Severn Trent Water. Contacts at Amey are: Customer Service Manager, Amanda Hales on 07545 114615 or their 24-hour Customer Service Centre on 0800 521 660.

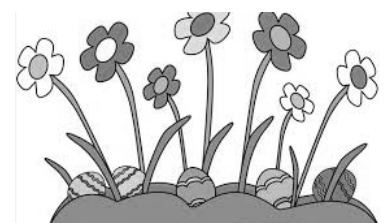


## St Leonards Singers

St Leonards Singers was formed in 2003 by a small group who had sung in the Upton Church choir before it was disbanded. The group rapidly grew to its current size of fifteen singers, and now draws members from all over the area, one from as far away as Westbury. The choir rehearses weekly in the village, and sings a wide range of choral music from classical to pop. Over the years they have given many concerts for charity fundraising and have also sung at weddings and for evensongs at churches in the area. On Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> they will for the first time be singing Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral, a challenge they are looking forward to with excitement and some trepidation. The choir, which is a very friendly and informal group, has vacancies from time to time and is currently looking to recruit at least another bass voice. An ability to read music is desirable but not essential: the main requirement is to be able to hold a note against other parts. If you would like to know more, please contact Sylvia Ardron.

## The Second Wednesdays

**What?** This is a new USCAN group (actually a re-incarnation of a previous group) that will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 9.30am, at the Village Green, to look after communal areas such as the Green, a few verges in the Village, the flower beds by the shops, etc. Carol Evans is the lead person. Call her if you'd like to join in, or simply turn up on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. Bring gloves and some gardening tools.





## Friends for You

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council has recently launched a project called Friends For You, which is

a volunteer based befriending scheme. You may have seen the article about it in last month's USL Life.

USL Life editors Andrea Dawson, Peter Wilson and Andy Russell, together with Millie Barnes, want to promote and support this initiative, using USL Life to highlight what the scheme is and to encourage Villagers to take part. The scheme, in essence, is trying to raise awareness, encourage volunteers, and match up volunteers with people who are on their own, not engaged with



things going on in the Village, maybe housebound, and therefore not seeing or talking to others very often.

It's a sad fact that with an increasing ageing population, families scattered or

no family at all, a lot of older people do not receive regular social contact. A reliable, local volunteer visitor calling regularly each week for an hour or two offering friendship and a listening ear has a positive impact on a person's state of mind and sense of wellbeing. Their visits provide an opportunity for a chat, a chance to enjoy a cup of tea together or maybe go for a walk. Some contact may also be achieved through phone calls but the thrust of the scheme is to enable face to face contact where possible. The friendships that develop enrich the lives of both people.

The overall aim is to reduce loneliness and isolation, which is the scourge of our modern society. Loneliness is a bigger problem than simply an emotional experience and can shorten someone's life expectancy.

If you feel that you could spare a couple of hours per week to support someone in need, please drop in to the Pavilion some time between 2 and 4.30 pm on Tuesday 12 May. Millie, Andrea, Peter and Andy will be there, supported by Sue Black who is the "Friends for You" coordinator for Gloucestershire.



Please come along and have a chat to understand how the scheme will work and what support is being

provided to volunteers in the scheme. Tea and coffee will be available during the afternoon.

There is some paperwork and a security check to complete before the arrangements are put in place. Full training and support for volunteers will be provided by the team running Friends for You.

If you are reading this and feel you would benefit from a friendly face visiting you on a weekly basis for a cuppa and chat, please pop in and say hello. We will then do our best to match you up with a willing volunteer.

If for any reason this particular afternoon arrangement isn't convenient for you, but you feel this service might be of interest to you or a family member or friend, please do get in touch and we will visit you in the comfort and privacy of your own home to explain more about how it works.

If you would like an informal chat about this scheme with a local person, please contact Millie Barnes on 01452 619896 or milliebarnes20@gmail.com who will be able to discuss what is involved and how to volunteer for or benefit from the scheme.

More information is also available from Sue Black, Gloucestershire Co-ordinator for Friends For You on 07810 630167 / 01452 528491 or email sue.friendsforyou@grcc.org.uk



The Friends for You Project is being managed by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, using funds provided by the NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.



### PERSONAL COLUMN

The family of Ken Herbert wish to express their sincere thanks to all friends and neighbours for their sympathy, support and the many cards received during their recent bereavement, and for the generous donations to the Arrhythmia Alliance. Thanks also to the Rev. Christine Birkett, the West Gallery Quire and for all those who attended the memorial service, for their help in making the service a lasting memory of Ken.



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

# VILLAGE DIARY

## APRIL

1	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
1	Wed	Stitchers.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
1	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
1	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
1	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
1	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
2	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
2	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
2	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
7	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
7	Tue	Parish Council.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
7	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
8	Wed	The Second Wednesdays! (See page 15).....	Village Green.....	9.30a.m.
8	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
8	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
8	Wed	Stitchers.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
8	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
8	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
8	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
9	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
9	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
9	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
10	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45p.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for May USL Life		
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
13	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver Wl. Speaker: Karen Van Hoff - The Knitted Necklace.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
14	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
14	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
14	Tue	Zumba Gold.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-10.45a.m.
14	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
15	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
15	Wed	Stitchers.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
15	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
15	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
15	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
16	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
16	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
16	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
16	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
17	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45p.m.
19	Sun	First cricket game of the season! USL v Coopers Edge.....	Recreation Ground.....	2p.m.
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
20	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
20	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
20	Mon	AGM for USL Life.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
21	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
21	Tue	Zumba Gold.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-10.45a.m.
21	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
22	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
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23	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
23	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
23	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
23	Thu	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics - Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
24	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45p.m.
24	Fri	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics - Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
25	Sat	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics - Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.

27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
27	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
27	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
28	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
28	Tue	Zumba Gold.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-10.45a.m.
28	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
28	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
29	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
29	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
29	Wed	Stitchers.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
29	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
29	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
29	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
30	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
30	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
30	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
30	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
30	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.

Regular weekly events not shown below this line

M A Y

4	Mon	Upton WI - Speaker John Crowther - The Hedgehog Hospital.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
7	Thu	General Election.....	Village Hall	
9	Sat	Big Band Night and Dance.....	Village Hall.....	7.30 p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for June issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
21	Thu	History Group - Jet Age Museum - David Hunt.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
25	Mon	Spring Bank Holiday		
25	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
26	Tues	Lady Downe Charity - Trustees meeting- (Date may change)		
27	Wed	Ladies Probus - Trip to Bath		
28	Thu	Get Together Club - Outing to Evesham Country Park		

J U N E

1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
1	Mon	Parish Council.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for June USL Life		
15	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Sat	Village Day 2015 - Family Fun Day.....	Village Hall and Green.....	2.00-5.00p.m.
20	Sat	Village Day 2015 - Dance.....	Village Hall.....	8.00p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
24	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
25	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
2	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
2	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.

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



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## Sports Report

The picture was taken on a lovely sunny Saturday in March during a great match for the football club. This was the Gloucestershire County Junior Cup semi-final,



Upton St Leonards playing Old Richians. The result was a 0-0 draw, with Upton winning their way into the final on penalties 5-4. By the time you read this they will either be Magnificent Cup Winners, or plucky losing finalists, but we don't know which at the time of going to press. In the Stroud District League, Upton's first and second teams have had a mixed season, and both will finish about half-way down their respective divisions.



**Cricket Club** This picture shows boys, parents and coaches at the end of an indoor training session in March. The photo was taken as part of an appeal to grant-giving organisations, such as the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association, and the Biffa Awards scheme (using money from Landfill Tax). The club has started a project to raise the £42,000 it will need to replace the fixed practice nets at the Recreation Ground. The ones there now were DIY built at very low cost by club members, and though they have served the club well for a number of years, they have become unusable. The England and Wales Cricket Board advice is to build to a much higher specification, mostly using specialist contractors, for

nets that will last much longer and can be used even when the surrounding ground is too soft - through the winter as well. The Parish Council has been very keen to support this project, and has already offered a grant towards the cost.

The club is most grateful to the Lady Downe Trust, which has made a grant covering 50% of the training fees for 4 new coaches.

The club is also most grateful to Cedar Motors of Upton Hill, who sent a mechanic, free of charge, to fix our roller when it broke down recently.

Practice will start outdoors in April, and the first scheduled game is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, when the club takes on neighbours Coopers Edge (who share use of the ground) in a pre-season warm-up. League games for adults and juniors start in May.

**New players:** the club is always on the lookout for new members, adult and junior. Contact Andy Russell

### Open Day

The cricket club is planning an open day around midday on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May - see next month's newsletter. There will be a boys game to watch in the morning followed by a BBQ lunch.

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The Upstagers Present

# “PREPARE TO MEET THY TOMB”



**A Black Comedy**



Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
7.30 pm at the Village Hall  
Doors open 7 pm

Tickets £7.50  
Concessions £6.50  
Available from Jackie Lord

*A Tomb – a member of the Tomb family, that is – has gone missing, but when four women turn up at Monument House, it's anyone's guess which one might be the lost cousin. In Norman Robbins' third Tomb adventure, Prepare to Meet thy Tomb, you have to wait until the last minute to find out the answer, as red herrings drop like flies (or rather like cleverly poisoned humans).*

Regulars who came along to see the Upstagers performances of the previous two “Tomb” plays will know that they are very funny and very well written. A good evening's entertainment is guaranteed. So please give Jackie Lord a call to book your seats whether you are regulars or first timers.

## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://uslife.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: Andy Russell

Editors: Peter Wilson  
Andy Russell  
Andrea Dawson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman

Treasurer: Ian Crowe

Feature writers: Kathryn Alderman  
Kaye Redman

Clubs / Societies / Organisations: Catherine McLean

Diary: Paula Quinn  
[paulaquinn16@gmail.com](mailto:paulaquinn16@gmail.com)

Advertising: Vacancy

Admin Support: Janine Black

Distribution: Jenny Cunningham

Photography: Jim Browne

Proof Readers: Carol Hardacre  
Christine Ellson  
Kate Davies

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