

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 20

April 2016



The Spring Show



It was a great event - See reports on the Spring Show, over the page

In our February Issue we announced a competition for the best "Spring" photograph. The winner, as judged by Jim Browne, our photographer, was DAVID HOARE with the wonderful close-up of snowdrops, below. If you turn the page you'll see that David also won the photography prize in the Spring Show!



What's Been Happening in USL ?

Spring Show - feedback

How appropriate that the Saturday of the Spring Show was one of those glorious Spring days - sunny, colourful and cheerful. And "cheerful" is a good word to use about the Show itself. When I visited, the hall was busy, but not over-crowded, so I had plenty of time to see the exhibits, chat to friends and take a few pictures.

I was struck this year by the quality of the Art exhibits and would happily have hung a number of the pictures in my home. There were some very imaginative entries in the open children's classes. I could see the "Phone App to do your homework" being a very popular and potentially commercial success !!

I always like the closed classes and this year was no exception, for example the great drawings of the Queen by children at our Village School, in anticipation of her 90th birthday.

One of the organisers mentioned how much the Committee had appreciated the advance coverage of the Show in USL Life and were sure this had contributed to an improvement in entries and attendance compared to previous years.

Andy Russell

The Spring Show 2016

A GREAT COMMUNITY EFFORT

A very special THANK YOU to everyone who entered exhibits and visited the show this year. Thanks for donations of cakes, raffle prizes and charity items. Thanks to craft stall holders, to the ladies serving refreshments and to Keith Pearson who awarded the trophies.

This year's winners were :-

Photography and Best in show David Hoare

Home Produce Julie Winstanley

Flowers Lee Blackshaw

Handicrafts Anne Hemsley

Children's classes William Dodd

It was a lovely atmosphere and good to see so many people enjoying the event.

From the Village Hall Social Committee

Upton St Leonards WI Report

"Natural born knitter" Bronwyn Hughes came to speak to us at our March Meeting. She told us of the history of knitting, of different styles and methods and showed us a variety of yarns and wools, some of which she had spun herself. She showed us the difference between wools from different breeds of sheep and also shared with us a number of tips to help us improve our own knitting. She said that not a day goes by without her doing some knitting.

President Diane reminded us of events that are taking place in the next few months, especially our Fashion Show and Beading Workshop. See the advert on page 6.

Our next meeting is on 4th April at 7.30 p.m. when our speaker will be Caroline Sheldrick telling us about "Flowers in Healing". Do come and join us. You can be sure of a warm welcome.



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What's Been Happening in USL ? - Cont'd



SNOW WHITE THE DRAMA BEHIND THE DRAMA



Carol Vye - Wicked Queen
and Director

On behalf of The Upstagers I would like to thank everyone who supported our latest panto, Snow White, and also for all the kind comments we received afterwards. It turned out to be very successful in the end and we had three out of four sell out performances.

It was my first time writing a full length pantomime and I was very nervous as to how it would be received but I was thrilled by the result. We did face quite a bit of adversity throughout and at times

wondered why we do it but that's drama for you.

Not long after starting rehearsals, the people who were going to help me with singing and choreography had to drop out due to very valid personal reasons. This meant that I had to take on the job of musical director as well as acting director. As I was also doing the part of the wicked queen this meant lots of jumping on and off the stage at times but I was ably assisted by Pam Tickner and Debbie Bartlett. My daughter Maddie Lewis who was playing the part of Snow White and who lives in Bristol was catching a train straight after work in order to make rehearsals and then back home again afterwards and I thank my husband

for ferrying her back and forth to the station in time to catch her train. We initially struggled to find a prince but then found young Kieran who did a fine job and turned out to know his princess from years ago which was lovely for them both.

Just as I thought my troubles were over one of the cast dropped out which caused another headache. We were lucky enough to find a new member from Upton Hill who took over the part of Flash and did a fantastic job, also doubling up as Buttons – and he could sing!

Bits got rewritten and added as we went along and I became inspired by my actors, but due to work commitments and other things we looked as if we would never be able to get a full cast rehearsal until the final dress rehearsals. Then another member of the cast realised he would be away and wouldn't make either of the dress rehearsals! This was a blow but we managed to fit another dress rehearsal in a week earlier so things were really starting to come together.

I should have known better! The week before we were due to perform it I had a phone call from one of our leading actors to say that he was unable to do the panto. My stomach hit the floor and I really didn't know what to do for a couple of minutes, then I rang Keith Pearson ("The Mirror") and told him the news. We both made a few frantic phone calls and managed to get Lisa Holman

... continued over the page

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What's Been Happening in USL ? - Cont'd

Upstagers Panto continued ...

who was willing to give the part of General Dogsbody a go.

We only had a couple of rehearsals to try and get her up to speed with songs, moves etc but she did a sterling job and even helped to sort out a costume as we were unable to get the original General's back.

With the help of our magnificent dame, Andy Metcalfe, we managed to pull it off and the show went on!!

This was despite The Mirror falling off the stage four days before the first night and breaking his wrist.

I was extremely proud of all we achieved and a big THANK YOU to everyone involved.

Director Carol Vye

Feedback on the Panto

Dear Editor,

It was with great expectations and yet some trepidation that I walked into the Village Hall on Friday night, to take a seat at the latest Upstagers show.

The large group I was with knew several of the actors and had been given some idea of the terrible ill fortune that had dogged the Upstagers in the lead up to their first performance.

I fully intended to enjoy the evening whatever happened and I was not disappointed. From the opening young Dance Troupe through to the dancing Policeman / Bear, the surprises kept coming.

Great credit goes to all the cast who had to stand up and sing with no backing track in their ear pieces (as so many professionals take advantage of).

It provided so many laughs, not all intended, but they all added to the fun on the night.

Overall it was a great success. Well done to everyone involved.

Mike Daly

... and a very Big Thank You from all of us to you for providing us with such a wonderful 'fun' performance!



The full cast



The Mirror

The Dame



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What's Been Happening in USL ? - Cont'd

All Change at our Village Post Office !

Hello everyone, my name is Seeta and my husband (Rahul Odedra) and I have just taken over the running of Upton St Leonards village Post Office.

We are very pleased to have moved to such a lovely environment having come from the large city of Birmingham !!

You will see that we have a daughter who is called Shanaya and she is 15 months old.

By the time you read this the Post Office refurbishment necessitating a temporary closure will have taken place (14 - 24 March) although we did manage to keep the shop open during that time.

The new look has involved taking down the screen so the post office and retail counters merge.

We have been working in the new look post office since 1300 on 24 March.

Along with the physical changes are some revised opening times which have been designed to provide more flexibility for customers.

Our new times are as follows :

Post Office : Monday - Saturday 0700 - 1730, Sunday 0700 - 1100

Shop : Monday - Saturday 0700 - 1900, Sunday 0700 - 1200

We hope that the improved access to the Post Office and Shop will help those of you who may be out for a large part of the day and need to shop late afternoon / early evening. Also, if you find you run out of something you need for dinner we are on the doorstep to try and help !!

We will be looking to improve on the previous product range, particularly for those items that are purchased on a regular basis and this will include beers and wine.

If there is something you would like us to stock in our shop please let us know and we will do our best to supply it.

Finally, we would welcome any feedback you may have on the changes which have been made, especially the increased opening times.

We look forward to meeting you over coming weeks and months - Seeta and Rahul



Twyver WI - March meeting

In a change to the published programme the speaker was Addie Stevenson, Chief Executive of Emmaus. Her talk was entitled 'Emmaus in Gloucestershire – more than just a charity shop'. She explained that Emmaus does not just sell furniture etc. but also provides a home and meaningful work for people who have experienced homelessness, providing them with the support and stability they need to move on with their lives. She was accompanied by two of the "companions" (the name Emmaus uses for those it is helping). who described to us the life events which had caused them to become homeless and subsequently be part of the Emmaus community. Their stories were very emotional and a great eye-opener as to how homelessness can happen to anyone in any walk of life, often through no fault of their own. Members were greatly impressed by the courage of the speakers and the good work done by Emmaus.

The next Twyver WI meeting is on Monday 11th April at 7.30pm.

What's Coming Up in USL ?



ST GEORGE'S DAY AT THE BMI

Saturday 23rd April 2016
8.00-11.30p.m.

What better way to celebrate St George's Day than to spend the evening dancing and listening to the music of

"The Duettes"

A mix of Motown, soul and rock'n roll etc.

A traditional "English Chicken Madras with the usual accompaniments" will be available. Prior booking for your meal will be required. The cost of this will be £6.50 and your meal must be ordered and paid for before 16th April. Your meal ticket will be available in the Long Bar. Please remember to bring it with you on the night.

BIRCHALL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT IN THE
LOUNGE
SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2016

Dancing to the Music of
"IAN OLIVER"
8.30 until late



UPTON ST LEONARDS WI
are holding

A FASHION SHOW

Courtesy of Bon Marche Fashions

Friday 8th April 2016 7.00 – 9.00 P.M.

Upton St Leonards Village Hall

Clothes available to purchase after the show

Please telephone Pam on 532936 to purchase tickets, cost £5

BMI SUMMER SKITTLES COMPETITION

It will soon be time to begin the annual "Summer Skittles Competition" at the BMI. This "friendly" competition attracted several new teams last year, and we hope to welcome their entries once again.

Anyone wishing to enter a team may do so. The booking sheet is on the notice board in the BMI foyer. Each team consists of 6 players plus up to 4 reserves. Teams all have to be BMI members.

A meeting will be held in the BMI @ 8.00p.m on Friday 20th May for team captains. The fixture list will be available during the following week. Games will be held during June and July.

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What's Coming Up in USL ? - Cont'd

71 DAYS AND COUNTING TO

UPTON ST LEONARDS VILLAGE DAY 2016

11 JUNE 1pm - 4-30pm

STALLS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, MAYPOLE DANCING, MORRIS MEN, CHILDREN'S RACES, WANDERING MAGICIAN, PUNCH & JUDY SHOWS, DISCO DOME

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8PM ONWARDS
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VOLUNTEER!

We would appreciate any able bodied people to help us put up and dismantle various displays (1-2 hours). Also anyone who may be willing to help run stalls for us during the afternoon e.g. selling plants / books etc (3-4 hours). If you can help please contact Carol Evans on 849350 or Keith Pearson on 617349.

A little further into the future we have ...

THE UPTON ST LEONARDS SHOW, 10 SEPTEMBER

This month there is a plug for the Handicraft Section of the Show. Well, not actually make a plug, but ask you to make something from the list below and enter one of the Classes. Do men knit? Or sew? Why not give it a go. Perhaps crochet is your thing? Or maybe a card for the Queen's 90th you could bring? Write a short story? Decorate a box? Make a handbag or knit some socks? Go on, have a bash. you might make a hash (of it) but might win a stash (of prizes).

SECTION "E" – HANDICRAFTS – OPEN (correct at time of printing - see website for Schedule)

Classes 142, 143, 144, 150 are to be new and unworn or unused.

140. A Soft toy – any medium

141. A 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. A fabric corsage

145. An article of cross stitch

146. An item made in wood or metal, not from a kit, max dimensions 15"(375mm) square

147. A Table runner, max 36"(90cm) length

148. A crocheted cushion cover

149. A bookmark, any medium with the exception of knitting

150. A knitted tea cosy

151. An item in patchwork

152. A handbag, made out of fabric, max size 12" x 12" (305mm x 305mm)

153. A 90th birthday card for The Queen

154. A decorated jewellery box

155. "My hobby in a shoebox"

156. A painting or drawing, any medium, "Royal" theme, max size 18" x 12"(460mm x 305mm)

157. Write a short story* of not more than 500 words, to include the following: Glastonbury, hair, toilets, majestic, oil, valve, blossom, curry, cunning, rhubarb

See our Website : uptonstleonardsshow.com

* £5 prize money for the best short story

Remember: Your Village Show needs YOU!

Information

USL Village History Group

The History Group is over fifteen years old and grew from the Millennium History Exhibition in 2000. This exhibition was organised by the late Ken Herbert and David Chave.

Our meetings are held six times a year in the Village Hall usually on the third Thursday of alternate months at 7.30pm. We not only have speakers on subjects related to Upton but any subject related to history in Gloucestershire and further away.

Membership is currently £5.00 per year. Our programme for 2016/2017 includes:

- 19 May: Prinknash Abbey (by Father Eldred Baker)
- 21 July: History Group AGM + Men from USL involved in the Battle of the Somme
- 15 September: Chedworth Roman Villa (by Nick Humphries, Custodian)

We welcome new members of all ages.

Contact Mike Stratford, Chairman

March Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Clerk confirmed that training for the Speedwatch project would take place shortly.

The Police had recently held a constructive meeting with Upton School regarding inappropriate parking.

The Green Waste Collection Service had received a good uptake and the Bulky item collection service is working well with no increase in fly tipping.

The District Council intends raising Council Tax by 1.99%.

The A417 Missing Link road has been given the green light at government level.

A meeting of senior political leaders is due to be held shortly on M5 Noise Reduction Measures although the Parish Council is still to see the Highways Agency Report on this issue.

Two quotes for work were agreed at the meeting, the first for drainage improvement at the Recreation Ground and the second to erect protection posts and signage on Twyver Bank.

The erosion of the verges on Nut Hill has become dangerous in places and is being reported to Amey Highways.

Next meeting is on Monday 4 April at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

From our Village Agent - Gill Cannon

Just a taste of what I have been doing in the last month:-

- A house has been reviewed and made safe, with the help of the local police, giving a lady with impaired mobility the confidence to remain in her own home.
- Grab rails and bathroom equipment have been installed to assist an ex-military gentleman return and continue to be independent in addition to linking him with ex-service organisations and leading to the renewing of old acquaintances.
- I have been able to link farming charities with a farmer, to recruit staff and find volunteers to permit the ongoing running of a family farm. And much, much more.....

I need your help to link me with those who have a need for the variety of help available.

The Village Agent scheme is county wide, helping over 50's with information and support. Please call me to arrange a home visit or email me and I will be in touch.

07776 245767 or e-mail gcannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk.



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CHURCH NEWS

CHURCHWARDEN KEITH ROBBINS writes:

Dear friends

“Will ye no’ come back again?”

When I first arrived in this beautiful Village – I know I have only just arrived (in 1997) compared with some of you – I attended the evening service regularly at church, and there were maybe 30 in the congregation, with easily double that at the 10 o’clock service and maybe 20 at the early communion every Sunday. Now there are just 6 services a month, and I have seen as few as a dozen at the main 10 o’clock service.

Of course many older members have passed away, and others have left the Village, but I say to those who have moved in and to those who don’t now attend regularly, “Will ye no’ come back again?”. Jesus told a parable of the big feast, in which the host sent out many invitations, as all was ready, but one by one those invited started to make excuses.

We have just celebrated the greatest feast of all at Easter, and every Sunday echoes that pinnacle of our faith: “Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.” That, surely, transcends all the excuses!

As has been said so often, the church is the people of God, not the building. But a set of individuals can’t really be a “people” without actually congregating from time to time, so please come back to your church. And of course the building we have happens to be a beautiful place to meet!

Keith



Welcome to Rev Robbin Clarke!

Rev Robbin is not our new priest, but has been asked by the Bishop to be a “transitional consultant”, to help us work out the way forward. We are grateful for this positive measure of support from the Diocese whilst there is a

vacancy for the Priest in Charge role. Rev Robbin will be leading two services a month and working with the Parochial Church Council. She will be with us until the summer when she will be retiring to her home in the USA after a number of years working in the Gloucester Diocese.

April Church Diary

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

SUN 3rd	SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
	8.00am Holy Communion
	10.00am Family Service
	12.00pm Baptism
SUN 10th	EASTER 2
	10.00am Communion4All
Thu 14th	2.00pm Mothers’ Union Meeting
SUN 17th	EASTER 3
	10.00am Communion4All
	11.30am Election of Churchwardens
	11.35am Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	6.00pm Evening Service
Sat 23rd	Wedding and Baptism
SUN 24th	EASTER 4
	10.00am Communion4All
	12.00pm Baptism

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:

Vacancy

Rev Robbin Clarke - “Transitional Consultant”
(see the separate article about Rev Robbin)

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

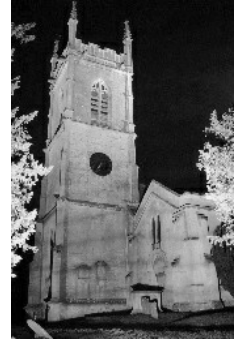
Church Flower Rota:

Evelyn Rumsey

Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Stanley-Gunn

Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship Details



On Wednesday 27th April the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Norma Brinkley who would have celebrated her 90th birthday this day. Kindly sponsored by her son, Alan Brinkley.

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 on 618127 or email matthewgibbs@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk for more details.. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to give to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to gift aid any donation this will help us too. Please note that the deadline to ensure a dedication gets in this newsletter is the 10th of the preceding month.

The Bible Study group that used to meet at Liz Brownhill's every week has now stopped. One of the attendees writes, "After much thought we decided to disband, after many years meeting together. We have had some great input from visiting ministers and amongst ourselves, not least from Liz herself. Many thanks to her for her dedication and enthusiasm, and for her hospitality."

EASTER and the RESURRECTION - a personal view by David Knight

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and peaceful Easter.

When we travel across the country and further afield we cannot fail to see a church building. When we search the horizon we see steeples and towers. Every town and village has one or more places of worship.

Christianity has indeed spread from the days of the early Church more than 2000 years ago and is still spreading. China is currently seeing a huge growth in the Gospel message.

The Bible teaches us that when the whole world has been given the opportunity to accept the risen Christ the end will come of the present system of things. God will take over and heaven and earth will be joined.

When we look at our magnificent church building at Upton St Leonards, or when we return home and travel down the hill from Painswick or return on the motorway and see that splendid tower, especially when it is illuminated, what does it mean to us?

It is not just a building to admire when we go by, it is a place to be used to worship and learn the gospel, to escape from the stresses and strains of this life for an hour and just think and take stock, if it makes Jesus enter our thoughts for a minute or two all well and good.

The Church building means one thing to me and that is a reminder of the risen Christ and that is the central message of Christianity. When we think about the risen Christ do we think about the Easter festival? There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers. The sanctity of special times was an idea absent from the minds of the first Christians. We don't need special times of the year to celebrate Christian festivals. The risen Christ is not something to remember once a year but to live with every day of our lives if we are true believers. When we remember the risen Christ and follow his example we our trying to perfect our lives and reject evil. As a Church community we should be growing in faith together led by the Gospel message first and foremost. We can only spread this message if we look outwards into the community and do good works and make disciples of people. This is what will make our Church at Upton grow and the building flourish.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The pair of Annual Church meetings (our AGM in other words) take place on Sunday 17th April.

11:30 a.m. At the first, very brief, meeting, the Churchwardens are elected. At the moment we only have one - there should be two to share the load. Surprisingly, these are elected by the whole community, not just church members. So anyone who is a resident of the Village, and anyone on the Church Electoral Roll, may attend and vote for the candidates.

11:35 a.m. The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or APCM, for short. This is the meeting with reports on the past year, pastoral, administrative, finance and all church activities. There are elections to the Parochial Church Council. Though only church members, i.e. those on the Church Electoral Roll, are entitled to attend and vote, the Church invites anyone interested to attend (we are allowed to do that and we are not trying to hide anything!)



Helpers will be needed for the house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week in the Village. It only takes a couple of hours per person. Could you do 30 or 40 houses near you?

Call Rachel Hall to volunteer.

Christian Aid Tea Party - Tea, Cakes, Bring & Buy
Thursday 24th May in the Village Hall Annex, 2.30 - 4 pm

QUINQUENNIAL UPDATE

There is progress to report. The leaking vestry roof will be replaced soon. A roofer has been selected to carry out temporary repairs elsewhere pending future re-roofing. We are making some progress with an application for a Lottery Grant for the main roof work. Unwanted trees in the churchyard are being removed.

A flood in the basement has put the main oil-fired heater out of action. It is probable that we will have to replace the system altogether.

Mike Blanch, who is coordinating this activity, writes: "I visited Holy Trinity Church in Minchinhampton to listen to a presentation on how they are planning a refit of their church to meet today's needs.

They have a small planning group, which is looking at ideas from parishioners, such as replacing pews with individual seats which can be moved around to suit the occasion, utilising other spaces in the church, such as the sanctuary area. At Minchinhampton they are also discussing under floor heating, and I obtained some useful information.

I'd like to set up a similar small team here, to review what we actually need, with the object of involving others, increase attendance and participation at services, and use the space for more social events."

If you are interested in helping – in any way – please contact one of the church officers.

We acknowledge with thanks a bequest from the estate of Margaret Mahon to the Church building fund. Margaret was a regular churchgoer here until she moved away from the area.



Joining in as we journey on beyond 2016: Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester

Since 2012, churches within the Diocese of Gloucester have been working towards a shared vision - Journeying Together. Our four key commitments are to worship together; to share our Christian

faith and values; to provide a visible presence in every community and parish; and to serve the wider world. I am now inviting you to be part of the process of discerning how we move forward on our journey over the next five years, building on all that has been achieved.

Rooted in Prayer (5 to 15 May)

I am inviting everyone to come to a Day of Prayer in the Cathedral on Ascension Day, Thursday 5 May, any time between 11am to 8.30pm. There will be an opportunity to pray in different ways as we come together before God to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. It is then hoped that in your local context you will initiate ways to bring people together to pray during the ten days to Pentecost.

Conversation around 3 core questions (15 May to 20 July)

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to us in this Diocese?
- What is your dream or vision for the Church in our Diocese in five years' time?
- What could we do to realise this vision?

The aspiration is that even now you will begin to plan times and places to hold conversations with others, not only within worshipping congregations and church-led projects, but also with people of all ages and backgrounds in the wider community, many of whom may not identify themselves as Christians. We need to be listening carefully to what God might be saying to us through those we encounter in the places where we live, work, study and socialise. We also need to think about those who are often missing from our encounters. Other people may hold

different perspectives from our own and we need to listen in an undefended way. Please do share the various ways in which you plan to hold conversations.

There will be clear instructions about how to feed back what you have heard and there will then be a process of distillation before launching some key priorities together in Advent. If you are reading this and you live or work within the Diocese then you are part of this process of prayer and conversation to discern what the Spirit of God might be saying to us. Thank you for joining in as we journey on together. Find out more at www.gloucester.anglican.org/about/vision-statement

Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday

This year Queen Elizabeth will be celebrating her 90th birthday. As the head of the Church of England, and a person with a strong faith, many parishes will want to mark Queen Elizabeth's birthday with a local celebration. Some parishes are organising kite flying and traditional games days, but there are a variety of resources and ideas available to support churches engaging with their communities around these events. See www.onyourdoorstep.org.uk/category/the-queens-90th-birthday A number of resources are also available from HOPE - www.hopetogether.org.uk

21 April is the Queen's birthday and there will be four days of celebration at Windsor from 12 to 15 May. On 10 June a service of thanksgiving will take place in St Paul's Cathedral and on the Queen's official birthday, 11 June there will be a Trooping of the Colour. The celebration will finish with a giant street party in the Mall on 12 June. Parish events might tie in with any of these occasions.

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This month's feature article is on ...

Taena Pottery

When I asked Sean and Vici Casserley from Taena Pottery if they would consider being featured in USL Life magazine they invited me for supper to talk it over. The Pottery and Studio, and the Casserleys' home, are in the grounds of Whitley Court Farm on Nut Hill Road. Outside the pottery, spring flowers have already appeared and rescued chickens are clucking in their pens. Looking towards the hills I can see High Brotheridge and lower down, to the south, Prinknash Abbey. There is a faint smell of milk as this is dairy farmland, and although it's only a little over 4 miles from the centre of Gloucester, it feels miles away.

Sean and Vici met in the early seventies on a three-year studio pottery course at Camborne and Redruth College in Cornwall. Their tutors included Janet and Bernard Leach from St Ives Pottery and Michael Cardew from the Wenford Bridge Pottery, all leading lights in the heyday of the Studio Pottery Movement. The course was designed to equip students with all the skills necessary to set up and run their own business, with a can-do, practical, make-do-and-mend ethos. Vici recalls how poor the students were in those days, and remembers living for a week on a packet of Complan and broccoli stolen from local fields. When I asked Sean how he remembered college he was keen to mention the first time he saw Vici, "I walked into the college studio and saw a very pretty girl, beautiful even, with long dark hair, throwing a pot at the wheel. She was wearing loons (wide-bottomed trousers), desert boots and a fisherman's jumper." Vici remembers Sean as "noisy, big-bearded and wearing ragged jeans. He may have had a lot to say, but he was always interesting!" During supper which included vegetables from their very large fruit and vegetable garden and home bottled fruit and drinks, they talked happily of their young dreams of making a life together, inspired by the classic film "Isaac Button, Country Potter".*

When the college course finished they returned to Whitley Court, Sean's birthplace, and were invited to take over Taena

* This old movie can still be viewed on Youtube.



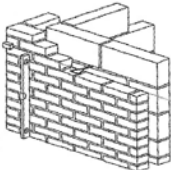
Pottery by Loo Graves, who had started it with Margaret Leach after the Second World War. In the early days the workshop had been part of a broad-based pacifist community and that feeling, of a more humane approach to living and working, still persists.

"Low tech and high skill" is how Sean describes their wares. These techniques have been handed down from generation to generation and the Casserleys' authentic slipware relies on careful selection of clays for trailing and feathering, and a light touch of the hand. The tools for decorations are improvised from whatever is to hand, from washing-up liquid bottles with hand-cut nozzles made from crow or pigeon quills to an old car aerial with a fishing line. The overall effect is of pots which recall the qualities of traditional work while remaining timeless; pots which are quiet and do their job well.

The Casserleys also produce a full range of plain and functional wheel thrown pots for the table, mainly in their signature blue as well as traditional yellow. These are sometimes embellished by Vici with sgraffito lettering using a dry metal nib. House names, commemorative plates, wall sconces, incense burners, children's named mugs, plates and

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piggy banks can all be made to order. Last year they were commissioned to make replicas of 15th century large decorative wall sconces for Sir Thomas Moore's house in Cheyne Walk, for the Queen's visit. I asked them what they were most proud of in their work. Sean was quick to reply, "Well, I think the kids turned out really well".

Vici and Shaun have run weekend workshops on Cotswold kiln building and Cotswold slipware, and for the Arts Council's "Festival of Potters". Apart from their studio at Taena, their pots are sold in *Potters*, a co-operative in Bristol, *Brewery Arts Cirencester*, the new Gloucester motorway services, *Made in Stroud*, *Arcade Artisans* at the Brewery, Cheltenham, and Vici has a stall at Stroud Farmers' Market. The pots have been shown in a variety of magazines including *The World of Interiors* and *Ceramic Review*.

Sean says he does all the donkey work as well as throwing the pots and mixing all the glazes and Vici does the decorating, lettering and selling. They say they make nice pots for nice people and after a working lifetime of making pottery their buyers continue to come back for more. This is a 40 year old double act, and as I leave after supper, with a box of their eggs, I feel their life isn't just a story about making pottery, there's another story here, about two lives well lived.

Interview by Christina Caldwell



"Signature" blue pots from Taena Pottery

World War One Centenaries ... Continued

When USL Life started up in 2014 we wrote much about the centenary of the first World War, and as part of the Act of Remembrance we undertook to have an article on each Village resident killed in action on the centenary of their death. From then until early 2015 there were regular reports. Then nothing for about a year. I wonder if our readers have almost forgotten? Think how it must have felt a hundred years ago. There were a whole spate of Village casualties in 1914 and early 1915, then none for a year or so. Did people start to think they'd seen the last of the deaths, only for their hopes to be cruelly dashed on hearing of this one? Sadly, April brings another centenary:

Arthur James Mourbey

Arthur James Mourbey was born on 11th December 1896 at Bowden Hall Cottage. He was employed after leaving school at the Co-op in Gloucester. He joined the 1st Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, initially serving in Egypt. The Regiment was sent to Gallipoli before being evacuated back to Egypt. He was wounded in an attack by Turkish forces and was taken prisoner. He died on 23rd April 1916 - Easter Sunday - aged only 19. He is buried in Kantara War Cemetery in Egypt.

We Will Remember Them

Thanks to Mike Stratford for the information

Primary School Story Competition

In the last two newsletters we published the two joint first prize-winners' stories. Here is the runner-up's story ...

The Run Away Cable car

by Ellie Conlon

It was all going so well until Well let me tell you from the start.

I came home from school and mum was in one of her cheerful moods, so I asked her "what's happening".

"Nothing" she replied and we all know mum can't keep a secret, so I counted to ten and then she says "all right, I'll tell you".

"Go on", I questioned her like she is a prisoner and I'm the police.

"OK, easy tiger, we are going to San Francisco"

"When?"

"Tomorrow".

As I'm boarding the plane I'm incredibly nervous for some reason. During the flight I read my book "Sam's Journey". On the flight the friendly air stewardess Lucy brings me a meal of chicken stew with dumplings, but I am unable to eat anything as I have a mixture of nerves and excitement in my stomach. My stomach feels like it's tied up in knots. Eventually we arrived in the city by the bay, San Francisco.

A few hours later, we're by the side of the hotel pool sunbathing calmly. I put my exotic mango drink on the mini table and dived into the aqua blue pool. I get chatting to a local lad Hank who says while I am here I must take the cable car to Fisherman's Wharf to check out the California sea lions.

Mum thought this was a great idea as we love watching natural history documentaries on the television. I went to bed very excited that night at the prospect of seeing sea lions in the wild!

The next day was incredibly hot and sunny, the complete opposite to typical British weather.

We set off on foot to find the cable car to Fisherman's Wharf and despite mum's navigating skills we eventually found it (how mum got her orienteering badge in Girl Guides I'll never know!).

We climbed on board the cable car and mum bought the tickets from the conductor, who was quite hairy. I enjoyed the views of the city from the section at the front that you could stand on and see the view unfolding in front of your eyes. Mum went to sit down inside.

As I'm out the front on my own I reflect about what an amazing holiday this is going to be. I glide past the shops like I'm a seagull on the sea breeze.

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USL Primary School Story Competition- cont'd

We then come over the brow of a steep hill. I start to feel excited as I can see the sea down the bottom of the slope. Then I hear a loud crack and suddenly the cable car begins to accelerate down the slope towards the sea. An elderly woman on board screams and the conductor exclaims "the cable or brake must have snapped, everybody brace themselves". I am in so much shock that I can't even move.

The cable car smashes to a halt into the small wall at the bottom of the street, but my momentum means I end up flying in the air and land with a loud splash into the harbour. I am so stunned that I am barely able to swim and all my swimming lessons are fading away like a distant memory. I am filled with trepidation as I don't want to die.

Suddenly a dark shadow swims up behind me and I see a local sea lion close up in my face. It seems to instinctively realise I am struggling and starts to push me towards the wharf. At first I panic and then realise it's trying to help me. With the help of my friendly sea lion I eventually reach the wharf.

A local entertainer dressed as a clown pulls me out of the sea and another person wraps a towel around me. Suddenly mum runs up to me screeching "Darling, darling are you OK?"

"Yes mum, thanks to that friendly sea lion" I exclaim and turn around to point at the sea lion, only to find that it has disappeared beneath the waves.

I will certainly never know what happened to that sea lion but I will always be grateful to it for saving my life.

I certainly had a memorable experience with the sea lions though!



Upton St Leonards Guides Celebrate 50 years!

Fifty years on and Upton St Leonards Guides are still going strong. Our uniform may have changed and our activities become more up to date but there is still the same Guiding spirit. We would love for our current Guides to learn all about the history of the unit. If any past



Guides have any memories, photos or favourite activities etc. they would like to share with the girls we would love to hear from you. This term we will start to plan our celebrations for the summer to mark our big 50th birthday. So far we have booked a sleep over at Go Bananas, I'm not sure who is more excited, the girls or the leaders.

We have an amazing bunch of girls who enjoy fun and varied activities. This term the girls have been working on their team player badge. We've had a go at lots of crafts, team activities and burnt off all our energy at Jumptastic. We had a fantastic night cleaning at the church which ended in a special service lighting candles to celebrate Thinking Day. We meet weekly in term time in the annexe at Upton Village Hall.

VOLUNTEER!

We are currently looking for volunteer leaders to help at Guides so if anybody would be interested in helping we would love to hear from them. If you would like to know more about Girl Guides please contact Rachael on rwillerton@live.co.uk or 07748763040.

For Sale - Village History Group Annual Review - £2 each

Each year the History Group produce a review that covers all the different items which have been discussed through the last 12 months. The latest copy covers the following :-

- USL during the Great War(by Mike Stratford) / The WW1 Exhibition held in 2014
- The River Coln by Edward Wyatt / The history of Wind Instruments by John Thorne
- Tudor Gloucester by Phillip Moss / The Jet Age Museum by David Hunt
- Reminiscences of Upton by David Cannon

If you would like to obtain a copy please contact Mike Stratford

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

2	Sat	Village Litter Pick (organised by USCAN)	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
4	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45p.m.
4	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)	Village Hall Annex	6.00-7.30p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
5	Tue	Needles & Pins	Pavilion	9.30-12.00p.m.
5	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
6	Wed	Pilates	Pavilion	9.30-10.30a.m.
6	Wed	Stitchers	Village Hall Annex	10.30-12.30p.m.
6	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I.	10.00a.m.
6	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00p.m.
6	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I.	8.00p.m.
6	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
6	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30p.m.
7	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15a.m.
7	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
7	Thu	Zumba	Village Hall	7.30-8.30p.m.
8	Fri	Upton WI Fashion Show	Village Hall	7.00-9.00p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for May issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30a.m.
11	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45p.m.
11	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)	Village Hall Annex	6.00-7.30p.m.
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
12	Tue	Needles & Pins	Pavilion	9.30-12.00p.m.
12	Tue	Tuesday Probus	B.M.I.	10.00a.m.
12	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
13	Wed	Pilates	Pavilion	9.30-10.30a.m.
13	Wed	Stitchers	Village Hall Annex	10.30-12.30p.m.
13	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00p.m.
13	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
13	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I.	8.00p.m.
13	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30p.m.
14	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15a.m.
14	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
14	Thu	Zumba	Village Hall	7.30-8.30p.m.
18	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30a.m.
18	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
18	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)	Village Hall Annex	6.00-7.30p.m.
19	Tue	Needles & Pins	Pavilion	9.30-12.00p.m.
19	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
20	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I.	10.00a.m.
20	Wed	Pilates	Pavilion	9.30-10.30p.m.
20	Wed	Stitchers	Village Hall Annex	10.30-12.30p.m.
20	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00p.m.
20	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I.	8.00p.m.
20	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
21	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15p.m.
21	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
21	Thu	Zumba	Village Hall	7.30-8.30p.m.
23	Sat	Entertainment Night	B.M.I.	8.00-11.30p.m.
25	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30a.m.
25	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45p.m.
25	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)	Village Hall Annex	5.00-7.30p.m.
25	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00p.m.
26	Tue	Needles & Pins	Pavilion	9.30-12.00p.m.
26	Tue	Tuesday Probus	B.M.I.	10.00a.m.
26	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
27	Wed	Ladies Probus	B.M.I.	10.15a.m.
27	Wed	Pilates	Pavilion	9.30-10.30a.m.
27	Wed	Stitchers	Village Hall Annex	10.30-12.30p.m.
27	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00p.m.
27	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
27	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I.	8.00p.m.
27	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
28	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15a.m.
28	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30a.m.
28	Thu	Get Together Club	Village Hall	2.30-4.30p.m.
28	Thu	Zumba	Village Hall	7.30-8.30p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line


MAY

2	Mon	Bank Holiday		
2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
7	Sat	Entertainment Night	B.M.I.....	8.00-11.30p.m.
9	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Tue	Copy Date for June issue of USL Life		
13	Fri	B.M.I. AGM.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
19	Thu	History Group - The History of Prinknash Abbey.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
23	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
23	Mon	Lady Downe Charity (date may change)		
25	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
26	Thu	Get Together Club Summer Lunch.....	Hortons (Painswick Golf Club).....	12.30 for 1.00p.m.
30	Mon	Spring Bank Holiday		

JUNE

6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
10	Fri	Copy Date for July issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Village Day.....	Village Green/Village Hall.....	1.30p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
18	Sat	Summer Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
22	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
30	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

Please contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary



Village Litter Pick (USCAN)

We are asking for volunteers to help do a tidy up of our village.

If you are interested, please be at the Pavilion building at 10:00am on Saturday 2 April where you will meet like minded people, and contribute to keeping Upton looking its best.

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The Birchall Memorial Institute(BMI)

For many the BMI is the heart of the village and its 800+ members know everything there is to know about the place, but to others, perhaps those who have moved into the village in the last 10 years, the BMI remains a bit of a mystery. I moved into Upton St Leonards in September 2006 but it was not until the Summer of 2009 that I plucked up the courage to enter the BMI, and I have been a member ever since.

In November 2015, I was asked to join the BMI Committee and have been given the responsibility to represent the younger generation within the community. In my opinion the BMI is an excellent facility that is right on my doorstep, but I suspect that there are many who live in the village who do not know what the BMI is, so I am going to try and dispel some of the myths, by answering a few simple questions.

What is the BMI ?

BMI stands for the Birchall Memorial Institute and has nothing to do with the Body Mass Index (which was my first assumption!) Put simply the BMI is a social club which was formed in 1898 for the people of Upton St Leonards. The BMI has a Lounge bar and a Sports bar, which shows a wide range of live sports, a Skittles Alley which doubles as a function room at the weekends, and a Pool and Snooker room. It also has a patio area which is lovely in the summer.

Where is the BMI?

The BMI is located on Bondend Rd, next to the Village Hall.

Who can be a member of the BMI?

Anybody over 18 years old can become a member of the BMI, all you need to do is fill in a membership form which is available at the bar, get it signed by a current member and pay your subscription. Once the form is approved by the committee you will be issued with a Membership card.

How much does Membership Cost?

Membership is £15 per annum for new members and £10 per annum after that. There is a concessionary rate (50% off) for anyone in receipt of a State pension and there is an option to purchase a discounted 4 year membership.

Are women welcome at the BMI?

Yes, Women are allowed in all areas of the BMI. Part of the club's history is that it used to be men only but this is very much in the past.

Are children allowed in the BMI?

Yes, Children are allowed in the Lounge before 9pm as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

When is the BMI open ?

The times for each bar varies slightly but at least one of the bars is open at these times.

Monday – Thursday	12.00 – 14.30 and 19.00 – 23.00
Friday, Saturday	12.00 – 23.30
Sunday	12.00 – 22.30

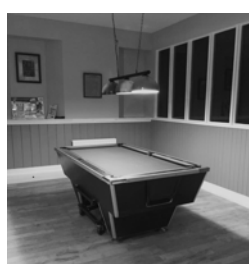
Can I book the BMI for Private Functions?

Yes, as mentioned before, the Skittles Alley doubles up as a function room and can be booked for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Christenings and Wakes. Room Hire is £50 for non-members, and £25 for members. Several different catering options are available.

Is there entertainment at the BMI?

Yes, there is a wide range of entertainment that is organised throughout the year including Quizzes, Live Music and a Summer Pig Roast. Details of coming events can be seen in this newsletter and at the BMI website www.bmiclub.co.uk

Chris Bullingham
Photos by Mel Williams



From The Abbeydale Gardening Club:

Hanley Swan Open Gardens (near Malvern)

30th April -2 May 2016

We (*i.e.* Hanley Swan Open Gardens people) are a diverse group in many respects with a resulting eclectic mix of "pride and joys". But when it comes to gardening we have much in common - backache, occasional disappointments, even rarer triumphs, a love of pottering and all things growing and above all infectious enthusiasm.

We are baring all, over the first May Bank Holiday Weekend. We'll share our secrets and 'borrow' yours. You'll be made so welcome - so please come and join us for gardens, a scarecrow shindig, light lunches or cream teas.

Tickets are £5 per adult which covers all three days.

Carol Hutchings - the wife of an Open Gardener
Tel: 01684 310920 carol.hutchings1@btinternet.com

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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USL Life is published by USL Life CIC, a Limited Company, and is printed at Leyhill Prison



April Fool

Last month's "priceless antique" is indeed that, and it is beautifully carved and is as old as 15th Century, as was stated. But of course it isn't a washstand - it is the top of the church tower.



Personal Ad - our first "for sale" item!

FOR SALE: Three boxed sets of Readers Digest records available for £15 each or £35 for all three. The titles are Some Enchanted Evening, Orchestral Magic, A Night at The Opera. If you are interested please ring Phillip

If you want to advertise anything for sale or to give away, let us know and we will do our best to include it.

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