

Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 32

April 2017



Colour! We will be printing in colour on the front and back every month for a trial period. Hope you like it!

THE SPRING SHOW 2017



The picture shows one of the winning exhibits. See more on page 7



Exotic dancing and costume in the Village Hall! Read all about it on page 3.

Read another poem from Ted Gardner (page 8)



It's just another picture of the church, right? Well, yes, but there is something very different. Can you work out what isn't there? See page 12.

This edition of Upton St Leonards Life and all previous editions can be seen on line at usllife.org.uk

What's been happening?

RENT-A-CROWD -- High jinks at the Village Hall

This year's Rent-a-Crowd themed Fancy Dress evening - Carry on Upton - was ably organised by Craig and Helen Tomes and what an array of originality was shown in the various costumes and props that were assembled by the participants!

Two groups plumped for Carry on up the Twyver (Kyber), as their theme, another for Village People, one What a Carry on the RMS UptoNo Good, Carry on Upton Church and Carry on Clubbing, representing all the different clubs that abound in the village.

As is the norm, everyone was invited to cast their votes for the Best Group, Best Lady and Best Man. The Carry on Upton Church group was unanimously voted the winner in the Best Group category. Not only did the entrants depict every aspect of church life but they had even constructed a very impressive model of the Church. Best Lady went to Andrea Dawson, depicting the Tennis Club (think iconic poster circa 1976) and Best Man to John Hall representing the Scouts (with a certain 'twist')!

As it happened, this year's chosen charity was Upton Church and so the £140 proceeds from the evening were donated to Upton Church.

Once again a huge thanks to Craig and Helen and all their team who provided us with a really memorable evening. The hall was full and it was great to see the Village 'youngsters' (depending on your perspective) really embracing the fancy dress.



Best Man John and Best Lady Andrea



They are literally Carrying on Upton Church!



Carry on Cruising with skipper Mike Stratford

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What's been happening?

GET TOGETHER CLUB - BELLY DANCING!

Ann Blagdon recently gave the Get Together Club a talk on 'Egyptian Spirit', which was about the history of Belly Dancing, complete with demonstrations and various costumes.

Ann was very interesting and had a very warm personality which kept everyone engaged for a good hour as she stayed on for tea, chatting to members.



Someone actually said she was the best speaker we have had! I wonder who that was?

For some reason the front table was occupied by the gentleman members who made sure they had the best seats in the house!



TWYVER WALKERS

On 2nd March the Twyver Walkers enjoyed a lovely ramble starting at The Clothiers Arms, Stroud along the canal towards Ebley Mill. The somewhat chilly early morning temperatures quickly gave way to a beautiful sunny and surprisingly warm day, despite the ravages of 'Doris' the week before.

Having worked our way through nearly all the different coffees available at the Ebley Mill Cafe, we were then greeted by a very pleasant gentleman who stopped and chatted amicably with us for five minutes or so. Unable to think how I 'knew' him I asked one of the other walkers who he was - the reply was Sabet Choudhury - our very own Points West presenter!

After lunch back at The Clothiers Arms we duly departed. Many thanks to Pam Tickner for organising an extremely pleasant morning.

Andrea Dawson





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What's been happening?

UPTON WI

At the March meeting our speaker was Mike James. He was talking about Ghostly Tales in Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds. He explained that all his stories originated a long while ago and had been handed down over the years. Quite a number of the tales were set in Prestbury near Cheltenham. All lights were turned off and he lit a candle for each tale to be told. As he finished each story he blew out a candle. It certainly added to the atmosphere as we ended in total darkness! Mike James is a professional guide providing tours themed around reported paranormal events. I have to say I was a little nervous driving home -- as it happens I had to go through Prestbury that night -- but I didn't see anything out of the ordinary!

Our next meeting is on 3rd April when our speaker is Callum Cambell from Maggie's Centre.

The Upton WI's monthly lunch, at the end of February, was at the Air Balloon, and in March we ate at the Barge Restaurant at the Quays. Diane Thomas



LITTER PICKING

A small group met in March to do a Village litter-pick, and I hope you can see the results! We picked on Churchfield Road, Staites Orchard, the shops area, Ash Grove, Woodland Green, Ash Path, Dirty Lane and the Bondend

loop, some of Bondend Road, the Rec. and the Churchyard. I should also add that we are very grateful that at least two Council teams have visited the Village recently, picking up litter on Birchall Lane and on the Nut Hill Road.



M5 NOISE REDUCTION

By the time you read this, the resurfacing work will have been completed! Have you noticed any drop in noise levels?

We thought we'd get a picture of the work in progress, but it was all done at night, and apart from a line of cones (and the new surface, obviously) in the daytime there was nothing to see. Keith Pearson was invited out one very chilly night to witness the work, and he tells of an extremely efficient operation with a convoy of trucks, road scraping and laying equipment, doing everything more-or-less in a single pass, a few hundred metres every night.

The Parish Council has appointed a small sub-committee to keep up the pressure on the Highways Authority to do more work, particularly on noise absorbing fencing. David Hunt is the Parish Council lead on this.

PHONE AND COMPUTER CLINIC

A brisk start for the clinic has proved (if proof was needed) that a service like this is much needed. Please don't hesitate to ask for our help! To remind you: at least one of us will be at the BMI on Mondays during the Coffee Club mornings 10-12, or call us and we will visit you.



Some of the things we've been asked to do so far:

- install a printer
- improve the screen layout for someone with eyesight problems
- help a user through the changes between the latest versions of MS Word and older versions
- find a mobile phone that has large text and keys
- investigate why a user can receive e-mails but not send them on an iPad
- update a Tom-Tom satnav

By the time you read this we will have held our first general session on the use of Skype, Facebook messenger and WhatsApp to chat to friends and relatives.

Our next open session will be a much more general one on securing your phone or computer and keeping it secure. See the notice about it in the What's Coming Up section on the next page.

Richard West
Andy Russell

TWYVER WI

The speaker at the March meeting was Maggie Vinson, Vice Chair of the Gloucestershire Federation of WIs (GFWI), who talked about GFWI at the Three Counties show and the 2019 GFWI centenary preparations.

The next meeting is on 10th April when our speaker will be Phillip Collins with a Punch and Judy Show.

What's coming up?

Two events at the BMI . . .

Spring quiz

For BMI members and
signed in guests



With QUIZMASTER ERIC

Saturday 8th April @ 8.00pm

£5.00 per team of 4

All profit on the night to be donated to
the BMI charity for 2016-17.

Please add your name to the booking
sheet in the foyer of the BMI by
Thursday 6th April to ensure that we
have enough copies of our quiz sheets
available on the night.

Family Disco

Sunday 30th April @ 7.00pm
(Monday is the May Day Holiday)

Ticketing arrangements

Will be announced.

**Please check on the notice board
in the BMI entrance.**

CHRISTCHURCH ABBEYDALE

Presents

MUSIC AT EASTER

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 7.00pm

Featuring

John Clargo - Guitar

Daniel Tuck - Piano

and

The St Leonards Singers

led by Sylvia Ardron

Organist - James Anderson-Besant,
organ scholar at Gloucester Cathedral

There will be refreshments

Free entry, but there will be a retiring collection
for the Gloucester City Mission and for Church
Funds

PHONE AND COMPUTER CLINIC

On Thursday 20th April at
9.30am, in the Village Hall
Training Room, Richard
and Andy will give a
presentation on



SECURITY

i.e. keeping hackers out of your phone or
computer, and how you can use your
device safely for banking and on-line
purchases.

Please call Andy Russell to book a place at this talk.
You can bring your laptop or phone or tablet along
if you wish, but this will be more of a presentation
than hands-on demonstration. We will aim to talk
for about an hour.

A couple more events coming up at the BMI

BIRCHALL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT

IN THE LOUNGE

TO CELEBRATE JAN'S 30 YEARS
WORKING AT THE BMI

SATURDAY 13th MAY

(Members only - ticketed event)

Dancing to The Music of

IAN OLIVER

8.30 - late



BIRCHALL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

Race Night

Saturday 20th May

All proceeds on the night will be donated to
the 2016-17 BMI Charity "Longfield" in
memory of Jenny Long

There will be 8 screened races. First race
8.00pm

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*We are situated on Upton Hill in Upton St Leonards.
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right hand side. Collection service available.*

44th Upton St Leonards Spring Show 2017

This year's trophy winners were:

Photography, Best in show	Jenny Major
Home Produce	Julie Winstanley
Flowers	Carol Evans
Handicrafts	Anne Hemsley
Children's entries	Annabel Tomes
USL Life Newsletter photo	James Browne

It was a lovely Spring day this year, and though the number of exhibits were down slightly, the number of people actually coming to see the show was up. Many congratulations to all the winners - the trophy winners can be seen on the left. USL Life's own Jim Browne not only won some photo classes, but also took a number of pictures for this weeks newsletter, on page 1 and on this page and the next.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANISERS

GREAT COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A very special THANK YOU to the Judges, everyone who entered exhibits and everyone who visited the show this year. Special thanks to the ladies serving refreshments and welcoming everybody at the door.

All the donations of the knitted jumpers & mice charity items, raffle prizes and cakes were much appreciated.

It was also good to have all the Uniform groups, Chipmunks Nursery, USL Playgroup and the Infant school children take part with their colourful exhibits which definitely brightened up the halls.

We were pleased to have Rachel Hall award the trophies to this year's winners.

It was a lovely atmosphere and good to see so many people enjoying this event and making use of the different Craft stalls that joined us too. We were very fortunate to have the support and use of the Parish Council Website and the USL Life Newsletter for featuring and advertising the show.

Next year we will be celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the Spring Show. We look forward to marking this occasion with an extra special show!

We are a small band of volunteers who try and keep this Show, Junior Quizzes and other events in the Village Hall going for your enjoyment each year. All the proceeds we make go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall which is used by a lot of organisations, clubs and the general public.

As a Community we are very fortunate to have such a vibrant and well-kept hall in which everybody can enjoy their hobbies and leisure time.

If you can spare some time to join us then do not hesitate to get in touch.

Jackie and Marilyn

With thanks, the Village Hall Social Committee



More pictures from the Spring Show

The “closed” classes are always great fun to see, and encourage our youngsters to take part, to add to the feeling of this being a community event. The bird collage, above left, for older children, resulted in some wonderful and imaginative art. Above right is a collage for much younger children, but just imagine the fun they must have had in making all those pictures!

As usual, floral arrangements are a great attraction. Pity there were not very many, but what was lacking in quantity was more than made up for in quality, as you can see from the picture on the front page.

Well done - all competitors.

When I was a kid, the things that we did
Were not things that kids do today;
We could climb trees and have scabs on our knees,
And get dirty, ‘cos that’s how we played.

*Another great poem
by Ted Gardner*

“Throbbing Thumbs and Dirty Knees”



But the kids of today don’t know how to play,
They are all tablets and iPods and such,
The “must have” latest trend, I don’t know when it will end,
If you ask me they have all got too much.

Now back in the day when we went out to play,
We were told to be back by eight,
In the Rec. we would stay, ‘cause it weren’t far away,
And we could be seen from the gate.

But kids don’t go out now; Oh I don’t know how
The time that they spend is called play,
‘Cause they just use their thumbs to converse with their chums,
And text half their lifetime away!





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CHURCH NEWS

Celebrate Easter

Easter is the most important festival in the Church's year. As St Paul wrote: "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

Once again, thankfully, our church will be packed for the Easter Services for the School and Chipmunks.

Will you come to celebrate Easter with us on the 16th at our Easter Communion service?



Easter eggs - aren't they secular, a bit commercial? Actually the practice of decorating and giving eggs at Easter time goes back to the very early church, symbolising both the joy of the occasion with bright colours and fine taste, and also the empty egg was used to symbolise the empty tomb. So gaudily wrapped delicious chocolate eggs are most appropriate. Enjoy yours!

Revd Clodagh arrives

As we highlighted in last month's issue, the licensing service for Revd Clodagh Ingram takes place at 3pm on Sunday 30th of this month.

The Bishop of Gloucester, Bishop Rachel, will be conducting the service. We'll be welcoming Revd Clodagh and her family, and there will be guests from her former church (Churchdown St Andrews) and from our neighbouring churches.

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:

Revd Clodagh Ingram (from the end of this month)

Churchwardens:

- 1 Keith Robbins
- 2 Vacancy

PCC Secretary:

Roy Roberts

Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

CHURCH CALENDAR - APRIL

Sunday 2nd

- 8.00am Holy Communion led by Revd David Eady
- 10.00am Family Service led by Sheila Thomas
- 6.00pm Lent service at St Philip & James Hucclecote

Tuesday 4th

- 9.00am Upton Primary School Easter Service (Infants)
- 2.00pm Chipmunks Easter Service
- 7.00pm PCC meeting

Wednesday 5th

- 9.00am Upton Primary School Easter Service (Juniors)

Sunday 9th Palm Sunday

- 10.00am Communion & distribution of Palms Led by Revd Richard Amys
- 11.30am Baptism

Tuesday 11th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Friday 14th Good Friday - church open from 2 - 4pm for meditation and prayer (not led)

Sunday 16th EASTER

- 10.00am Easter Communion led by Revd Ian Buswell

Tuesday 18th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Thursday 20th 2.00pm Mothers' Union meeting in the Church. Readings & Poems.

Sunday 23rd

- 10.00am Communion led by Revd David Eady
- 11.30am ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 25th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Sunday 30th

- No morning service
- 3.00pm Licensing service for Revd Clodagh Led by Bishop Rachel

Mothers' Union:

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flower Rota:

Evelyn Rumsey

Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Gunn-Stanley

To book baptisms and weddings please call Rachel Hall or Jenny Cunningham

CHURCH NEWS

Hello, I am the Revd Clodagh Ingram...

I am looking forward to taking up the half time post as Priest in Charge at St Leonards at the beginning of May. I am currently an Associate Minister at St Andrew and St Bartholomew churches in Churchdown where I have served on a half time basis since September 2013. Previous to this I served in a training role as curate at St Barnabas Tuffley. Before my ordination we were members of the congregation at St Philip and St James Hucclecote for twelve years so we have lots of local connections.

I live in Hucclecote with my husband Dan and our children Ffion and Conall. We moved to Hucclecote in 1996 and

it's been home ever since although I originally hail from Northern Ireland and Dan from Mid Wales. We know the area around Upton St Leonards well and are looking forward to getting to know those who worship at St Leonards alongside the community who live in Upton and Coopers Edge. I am also looking forward to finding ways to work together as a community of faith to share the Good News that 'nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Romans 8:39

I love a chat over a cup of tea so please feel free to invite me for a cuppa once I'm in post so that we can get acquainted.



We are about to start a new period in our Mission of faith, with the guidance of Revd Clodagh Ingram. Her appointment as Priest In Charge starts with her licensing on 30th April at 3.00pm, conducted by Bishop Rachel of Gloucester - all are invited.

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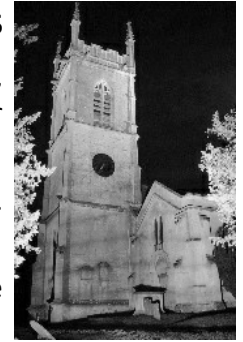
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CHURCH NEWS

TOWER FLOODLIGHTS



On Sunday 9th April, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the baptism of Heidi Coolman, taking place in St. Leonards Church today. Sponsored, with love on this special day, by her parents Georgina and Bryan.

On Monday 10th April, the Tower Lights will be lit in memory of Jim, with love on his birthday. Sponsored by Margaret and Libby.

On Thursday 27th April, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Norma Brinkley, whose birthday it would have been on this day. Kindly sponsored by her Son, Alan.

The Tower Lights are sponsored on Sunday 30th April in celebration of the Licensing Service in St. Leonards Church at 3.00 pm today, of Revd Clodagh Ingram.

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 Jenny Cunningham 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.

Can you help us . . . ?

Licensing and Induction of Clodagh Ingram - Would you like to help make this day successful?

It is important that we extend a very warm welcome to Clodagh on her day of Induction, as she leads us in the future role of St Leonard's Church and its life within the community. It is customary to offer refreshment following this event and this will take the form of **afternoon tea in the Village Hall** starting immediately after the Service. Would you like to help make this day a success? If so we

would welcome offers of cakes, or something for sandwich filling (tin of tuna, cheese, box of eggs), a packet of sugar, milk, helping with washing up, etc. We will also need help with other aspects such as car parking. If you would like to be part of this important day in the life of the village please phone either Rachel Hall or Dorothy Cox.

Both numbers have an answer phone so if no response, please leave a message clearly giving your name and telephone number and we will get back to you a.s.a.p.

We really appreciate the support that is being given in so many ways to help us maintain the Church within the Village. Thank You!

BAND ON THE GREEN - 14 MAY



Gloucester Brass Band will be playing on Upton Village Green on Sunday 14th May from 2.30pm, performing two 45min sessions. The band conducted by Mark Knight will be performing a selection of music including marches, ballads, music from the shows and other popular items.

Please support the Church's fund-raising efforts and enjoy the excellent music from "our" Band (well, they have played many times for us - Songs of Praise on the Green, Harvest Festival in the Allotments, Christmas Concert in Church).



Christian Aid Week 14-20 May

At the Band Concert on the Village Green on 14th May there will be a Bring & Buy in aid of Christian Aid. Look for more details in next month's USL Life.

We are not organising a door-to-door collection this year for Christian Aid.



Save our Organ!

The organ in church is in need of urgent repairs. To the fine musical ear, several notes no longer play or there is a delayed response which will only get worse. The repairs are estimated at nearly £ 9,000. We are currently trying to apply for a grant but there has to be a contribution from the church so a designated "Organ" fund is being set up. If this hits a note(!) we would welcome any donations. Cheques should be made payable to Upton St. Leonards PCC . Thank you.

CHURCH NEWS

EASTER FLOWERS

We have had the grey time of Lent and the gloom of Good Friday. Then suddenly Easter breaks through, with its joy, colour, fun and celebration - a living expression of the Christ breaking through from death to life. Part of the joy is expressed in flowers in church and



elsewhere, where there have been no flowers for six long weeks.

On the right is a truly inspiring poem, written by that wonderful mystic George Herbert in the early 17th century, putting words to the breaking through of the joy.

The picture on the left is of the floral display in our church this time last year.

I got me flowers to straw thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sunne arising in the East,
Though he give light, & th' East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many sunnes to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we misse:
There is but one, and that one ever.

George Herbert (1593-1633): I got me flowers, from *The Temple*, 1633

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS

As you can see from the Church Calendar on page 9, these take place on Sunday 23rd April, starting at 11.30am. There are actually *two* meetings, run one after the other.

The first meeting is the Annual Church Meeting to elect Churchwardens. Church members and anyone from the Parish may attend and vote. The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is where you will hear reports on the year past, including a financial report, and there can be discussion. The second meeting is nominally for Church members only, but we invite anyone interested to attend.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

The two yew trees that had grown right up against the East end of the Church have finally been felled. We had to get permission from the Diocese to do this. The trees had sprung up many years ago probably from seed, and should have been cut down while still tiny saplings.

It has made a huge difference to the look of that part of the Churchyard. The trees no longer foul the stonework, roof and gutters, and more light gets into the church.

Many thanks to Andrew Herring for his voluntary help and also to Jasper Drake.



Footnote: At a wedding nearly two years ago a guest spotted that the trees were marked with an "X", suggesting they were due to be felled. They were of particular interest to him for the purpose of making traditional longbows which are made exclusively from yew wood. The six foot straight knot free lengths, which were carefully cut, were duly collected by him and will eventually (after 2 years drying) be cut up to make the bows.

Kids' Page

Editor: We haven't had a kids' page for a while, you may have noticed!

What's in a name? This month's name of April comes from the Romans who called the month *Aprilis*. But no one really knows why they gave it that name. Roman months were mostly named after gods (March - Mars, June - Juno) or emperors (August - Augustus), or simply counting (December - the tenth month). But *Aprilis*?

And why do we have a fool's day on April 1st? It is a very very old tradition in many parts of the world, but again, no one really knows the origin.

PS - The information above is not an April Fool. (Now you don't know whether to believe it or not!)

The Smurfs are back!



Smurfs 3 - The Lost Village.

A mysterious map sets Smurfette and her best friends Brainy, Clumsy and

Hefty on an exciting and thrilling race through the Forbidden Forest filled with magical creatures to find a mysterious lost village before the evil wizard Gargamel does.

In cinemas for the holidays!

I've just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. I'll tell you what, never again.

Ha-ha!
 When do monkeys fall from the sky? During Ape-ril showers!
 Can February March?
 No, but April May!
 Why is everyone so tired on April 1?
 Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March!
 What season is it when you are on a trampoline?
 Spring-time!

An Easter Egg for colouring!



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Parish Council Report

As reported elsewhere, the new noise reduction surface on the M5 has been installed, and Chairman Keith Pearson and the other councillors are congratulated on their efforts with the Highways Agency.

The Council has formed a new sub-committee under David Hunt to carry on the work to reduce the M5 noise, principally by asking for new noise absorbing fences.

There are some organisations now lobbying for 50mph limits on motorways in urban areas, to reduce both noise and pollution levels. That could come one day?

You have now received the guide to Council Tax for 2017-18 and have probably noticed that the amount due is 3.6% higher than 2016-17.

The Parish Council voted to increase the rents on the allotments *next* year (this year's invoices have already

gone out). The allotment rents at the moment are well below average compared to nearby places, and the costs incurred by the Council for water, maintaining fences, looking after empty plots, etc. have gone up, so a rise in rents is to be expected. The new rates were set at £10 and £20 for the two sizes of allotments.

The Monday 8th May meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Council. This is the meeting where the Parish Council invites Villagers to hear reports from Councillors. There will be an opportunity for anyone present to express opinions on what the Council is doing.

The reports given at that meeting will also be printed in USL Life.

The Parish Council is putting on a display in the Pavilion on Thursday 11th May, from 3.00 until 7.00pm to exhibit the proposals for improvements at the Recreation Ground. Quite a number of Villagers sent in their ideas, and having looked at these and others, the Council will show you what it is are proposing: fitness equipment, play equipment and seating. Do set aside a time between 3 and 7pm to come and see.



Coffee Club - Bring and Buy

On Monday 15th May at the normal BMI Coffee Club, 10am to noon, there will be a Bring and Buy. This will be to raise a bit of extra money for USL Life.

Come and support us, help us to raise a bit more cash to ensure we can continue, e.g. with colour pages, sponsoring competitions in the Village. Any gifts to sell will be gratefully received (of cakes / books / bring & buy goods, raffle prizes etc.)

**Bring
& Buy
Sale!**

Answers for last month's quiz:

1. What product was the first to be advertised on British TV? *Gibbs SR toothpaste*
2. Who wrote and sang the theme song for "One Foot in the Grave"? *Eric Idle*
3. Who loaded the crossbows in "The Golden Shot"? *Bernie the Bolt*
4. What type of beer was said "To Work Wonders"? *Double Diamond*
5. Who played Alf Garnett's daughter in BBC's "Till Death Us Do Part"? *Una Stubbs*
6. Which show featured Dusty Bin? *3--2--1*
7. Which sweet could you allegedly "Eat between meals without spoiling your appetite"? *Milky Way*
8. What name did Trigger always call Rodney in "Only Fools and Horses"? *Dave*
9. Which game show launched Channel 4 in 1982? *Countdown*
10. What drink was advertised by Leonard Rossiter and Joan Collins? *Cinzano*
11. What was the name of the character played by Frances De La Tour in "Rising Damp"? *Miss Ruth Jones*
12. Who were the original Team Captains on TV's "A Question of Sport"? *Cliff Morgan and Henry Cooper*
13. Which sit-com featured a character called Lilo Lil? *Bread*
14. "Can I have a P please Bob" would have been heard on which TV quiz show? *Blockbusters*
15. Which Carry-On actor starred in "Bless This House"? *Sid James*

The Cricket Club

The season proper starts this month, though some in the club have been training indoors through the winter.

Once again the club will be running two Saturday teams, the 1st XI playing in Gloucestershire Division 6, the 2nd XI playing in Chelt / Glos / Forest Division 1. There will be a Wednesday team in Gloucester Division 3. We will have youth teams at U-15, U-13 and U-11 and may even have a couple of games at U-9.

We share the ground with the Coopers Edge Cricket Club, and our ground is also a base for one of the Gloucestershire County disabled teams.

The first matches are on Sunday 30th April, but before then there will be plenty

of training, coaching and practice taking place at the Rec.

In July we are hosting a charity game organised by the Lord's Taverners.

You may well have seen minibuses bearing the name, which have been donated to schools and colleges. The Star College at Ullenwood has one, as does St Rose's Special School in Stroud. Proceeds from this match will be going towards another minibus for a local school for special needs. We'll be saying more about this great event in the next issues of Upton St Leonards Life. For now mark the date: **Friday 21st July**. Come and watch former pro cricketers and celebrities in an afternoon of fun cricket.

We always need new players of all ages and abilities. Or you could come and help us in other ways: umpiring, scoring, helping us with our administration tasks, helping to stage events like the Lord's Taverners match. Contact Andy Russell.



Well, there's always the next innings!

. . .and the Football Club

As we've been reporting, the footballers have been having a great season and it is all getting pretty exciting. The First team have still lost only a single game and are clear at the top of Stroud Division 1, with promotion now well within grasp and that will happen unless they really mess up in their last few games. The Gloucestershire Northern Senior League beckons!

The second team haven't quite kept up their earlier form and have dropped to third in Stroud Division 4, but they have still only lost two games all season so far.

Anyone for Tennis?

You've probably thought about taking up Tennis to get you off the couch. It's an ideal sport for getting you more active. No team to organise, turn up more-or-less at any time to suit you. It doesn't matter what age you are or the level of tennis skill you have. What could be better!



Turn your good intention into action, Join the Tennis club!

The membership contact is Maureen Snell.



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Getting a New Pet

Some advice from Cliff Alderman

Spring is a time for new birth (gambolling lambs in fields, birds nest building) and you may be thinking about buying a new pet.

It is always wise to research the needs of your new pet and, although the internet is a good source, don't forget library books and retailers (pet shops, breeders, vets) who can offer alternative views and expert advice. My advice is to research the size of the pet when fully grown, the costs of maintaining it (feed, grooming, medications, illness), accommodation (e.g. rabbit hutches, dog beds) and to decide whether its behaviour and lifestyle are right for you. For example, rabbits should only spend a few hours per day in a hutch i.e. they should have plenty of space to roam, exercise, forage and play. They are sociable animals and prefer being in groups but will be quite happy if you are part of the group. It is becoming more common for people to have their rabbits mixing with them indoors for some of the day or with other pets in the garden.

Obviously a large dog in a small, 5th floor flat is going to cause problems especially if it cannot use the stairs so consider how well it will fit in. Will the pet shed lots of

hair? Will it get on with existing pets or even the children!? Does it need hours of exercise a day which will be difficult if owners are at work?

The next consideration is properly training your pet and here I really refer to dogs. They can be a nuisance to people and other dog owners if unruly. They can become destructive and bark incessantly if bored because they have been left alone and unstimulated. Cats and rabbits also do better if they interact with people, and toys for them too are important.

Finally, it is sensible to register your pet with a vet of your choice. Annual check ups are similar to an MOT on your car. You should get an examination and discussion on any abnormalities found, advice on current diseases and recommendations for prevention (vaccination, flea control and worming). I see this as similar to getting the central heating boiler or car serviced. The peace of mind and relationship one builds with an engineer/mechanic/vet is of great value in my opinion, especially when something goes wrong.

Next time I will feature some basic advice on routine stuff like vaccinations, flea and worm control, neutering and early training.

Village Allotments

What better time is there to take on an allotment?

Just the time to get going. You'll be able to get those plants in for a fine season of home grown vegetables and flowers, with the added bonus of plenty of healthy exercise!

There are now a few vacant plots at Perry Orchard (pictured, looking on the whole very well kept) and at

The Stanley. Contact Carol Evans for the former and Peter Macey for the latter



County Council Elections 2017

Polling takes place on Thursday 4th May. We are in the Painswick and Bisley Electoral District, and will be voting for 1 councillor to represent this district.

Councillor Jason Bullingham is not standing for re-election, so we will be electing someone new.

At the time of going to press for this edition, nominations have not closed so we cannot list the candidates.

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

3	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
3	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
3	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
3	Mon	Fitness Training(2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
3	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
4	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
4	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
4	Tue	Lady Downe Charity Trustees Meeting		
4	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
5	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
5	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
5	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
5	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
5	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
5	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
5	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
6	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
6	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
8	Sat	Spring Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for May issue of USL Life		
10	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
10	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
10	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
10	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
11	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week (and garden waste for those with brown bins)		
11	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
11	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
11	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
12	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
12	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
12	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
12	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
12	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
12	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
13	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
13	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
17	Mon	Abbeylea Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
18	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
18	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
18	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
19	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
19	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
19	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
19	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.0-4.00p.m.
19	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
19	Wed	Bingo.....	Village Hall.....	8.00p.m.
19	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
20	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
20	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
20	Thu	Phone & Computer Clinic talk on "Security".....	Village Hall Training Room.....	9.30-11.00a.m.
24	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
24	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
24	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
24	Mon	Fitness Training.....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
24	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
24	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week (and Garden Waste for those with brown bins)		
25	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
25	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
25	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
26	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
26	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
26	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30a.m.
26	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
26	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
26	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
26	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.

27	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
27	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
27	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
30	Sun	Family Disco.....	B.M.I.....	7.00p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

MAY

1	Mon	May Day Public Holiday		
1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
4	Thu	County Council Election.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00a.m.-10.00p.m.
8	Mon	Parish Council Annual Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Wed	Copy Date for June issue of USL Life		
11	Thu	View the Parish Council's Village improvement proposals.....	Pavilion.....	3.00-7.00p.m.
13	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
14	Sun	Band on the Green.....	Village Green.....	2.30-4.00p.m.
5	Mon	Bring and Buy at the BMI Coffee club, in aid of USL Life.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.-12.00
15	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
18	Thu	History Group - Mortuary Monuments inside a Church.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
20	Sat	Race Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
22	Mon	Lady Downe Charity Trustees Meeting		
24	Wed	Ladies Probus followed by lunch.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
25	Thu	Get Together Club Summer Lunch.....	Village Hall.....	12.30/1.00p.m.
29	Mon	Public Holiday		

JUNE

5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy Date for July issue of USL Life		
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
21	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
29	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

SUMMER SKITTLES AT THE BMI



Sign up for your team - closing date for joining is early April (see the notice board in the BMI foyer and sign up there)



The summer skittles is a friendly and light-hearted competition that takes place in June and July each year. We have to limit the competition to 16 teams, so sign up early - don't be disappointed.

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Where the Twyver Flows out of Upton

This month's feature article is by Christina Caldwell

A few yards into Bondend Lane after the school car park on the left, there is a small bridge, and to the side, steps that lead down to a stream. This stream is part of the River Twyver, beginning near the top of Portway, joining the River Severn at Gloucester then on to the Bristol Channel and eventually, the Atlantic. But it's not the river's journey that's interesting to me, it's this almost hidden, small part of the village, where the Twyver flows out of Upton.

If you're looking for 'pretty' it's not here. There's no daisy bank or drooping willows, the banks are wild and the colours a variety of greens, greys and browns. Go down the steps and see the water flow from under the bridge into a larger shallow pool. Near the opposite bank there is a tiny island with one alder



tree, and to the right of the alder, the stream runs over small stones then along the side of the field where the horses are at Commelines Farm.

Countless times, I have waited on these steps and watched the light on the still and the running water and listened to the mix of water sounds, breeze in the trees and birds singing. It took more than a few visits to 'get it', to tune into the enchantment of this little place. The first time it happened was a mild day in late summer, the larger pool was shallow and the water flowing over stones made no sound. Then I caught sight of the rippled reflection of clouds and trees mirrored on the water. This upside down network of trunks, boughs, branches and sky, all shape-changing on the surface of the water, was mesmerising. It would have been pointless to try to photograph the spell-binding, ever-changing images. Now when I go there, I wait for my attention to be captured, by a movement in the undergrowth or raindrops hitting the surface of the larger pool and watch as the ripples

expand into ever-widening circles, collide and disappear. Waiting for the changes feels very calming as the sense of time disappears; you can't hurry nature, that girl has her own time. When something different does happen, it's like a gift and because the place feels hidden, it's like a secret between us.

I have been here in winter and seen the sun break through clouds and light up the large 'Y' shaped trunk of the alder tree like a golden monument to Mother Nature. In winter, I watched a weightless dead leaf with a dusting

of snow float slowly to the edge of the larger pool, slide downward over the small stones and float gently on and out of sight. I have followed the reflection of two flying blackbirds move across the surface of the water and disappear.

In Spring, the hedges are covered with white blackberry roses and on

the banks, new grasses thrust upwards to the light. Trees sprout the year's new growth, and by the time summer comes, there will be a dome of green above reflected in the water. In summer, Himalayan balsam and mallow visit the banks; their delicate colours a welcome contrast to the greenness. But water can be scary too, and in winter and spring after days of rain, sometimes this mostly gentle stream can become a river in a wild hurry to the sea.

The artist M.C. Escher, fascinated by the power of movement on the attention, painted a series of images of reflections on water (see 'Moon on Water'). For me, a framed picture doesn't compare with the opportunity of feeling the presence of the trees, hearing birds and water, watching and waiting and listening for the changes. In Upton, we are lucky to have a variety of small places where we can stop and breathe in nature. Thank goodness, no-one has decided to 'pretty' them up, for the wildness is their beauty.

Calling all contacts . . .

Last October we published a list of Village activities, organisations, groups etc., and a contact person, phone and e-mail address for each. We'll publish the list again next month.

- If your organisation wasn't even mentioned last time, and you'd like it to be, or
- If the contact details have changed, or
- If you aren't sure what details / contact name we have . . .

please speak with Catherine McLean

Guides - Spring Cleaning



Claire Appleyard sent us this picture and wrote: "A big thank you to the Upton Guide group for their enthusiastic help cleaning the church on Wed 22 Feb. Their cleaning badges were well earned!"

Craig and Helen Tomes presented a cheque from "Rent-a-Crowd" for £140 to Churchwarden Keith Robbins (see the article on page 2)



UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://uslife.org.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:

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 Proof Readers: Carol Hardacre
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