

# Upton St Leonards Life

## incorporating Church News

Issue 44

April 2018



*Happy Easter from the USL Life Team to all our readers!*

### *USL Spring Show*

*Saturday 21 April*

*Don't forget to support your Village Spring Show - it will be good to see you there.*

*Some of the sections you can enter are shown on page 5 together with general information on the show, where to get further details and who to contact if you can help.*

### **Let's have some warmer weather please!!**

We have recently had the coldest winter for 5 years although luckily we didn't experience the harshness of 1963. During that winter the lowest recorded temperature was minus 22 degrees. Some of us are actually old enough to remember it!!

See the Stanley below and does anyone recognise the Glamorous Grandmother at the Recreation Ground with our lovely Church in the background?

Thanks to everyone who helped out those with restricted mobility and elderly neighbours during the bad weather.



# What's Been Happening in Upton?

## Rentacrowd

On Saturday, 3 March, despite the snow and inclement weather, the annual fancy dress phenomenon in the Village Hall went ahead unhindered. Only a handful of people were unable to make the night due to the weather, otherwise all the tables were taken and the theme of 'Popstars' clearly captured everyone's imagination.

Life size models of Adele and Rod adorned the stage whilst our very own panel of 'Cheryl Cole', 'Sharon Osborne', 'Louis Walsh' and 'Simon Cowell' decided who the worthy winners would be.



Best Man and Best Lady this year went to Veteran Rentacrowders Pam Stratford as Agnetha and John Day as Ozzy Osborne!! Hearty congratulations to them and everyone else who made such a magnificent effort to emulate their favourite stars.

Sincere thanks to Richard and Pauline Sugdon and their team who organised this year's event. As usual a great time was had by everyone.



## Upton Guides

Last term Guides worked on their 'Free Being Me' badge which covered personal confidence topics including Internet safety. We enjoyed trips out including a fantastic craft night at Treasure Seekers. The girls took part in Remembrance Day activities and the parade with the community. We finished off a fun packed term with a Christmas party in the Village Hall.



This term we are working on the World Guiding badge and preparing for Thinking Day. The girls got the opportunity to complete community service in Upton church, for their challenge badge. We all enjoyed taking part and helping out, especially holding our Thinking Day service, by lighting candles in the church and saying a few words. The girls have got a lot of activities to look forward to this term, such as pampering their mums for Mother's Day and a range of Easter crafts.

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# What's Been Happening in Upton?

## Upton WI

At the March meeting all agreed our 95<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was a huge success. Congratulation cards had been received from County Chair Jan Turner and neighbouring WIs, with their best wishes. *Apologies to Esther Bourne from The Cakery, Upton St Leonards, for omitting her name from last month's report. She made the celebration cake that was featured.*

Merleen and Paul Watson from Broadway were our speakers from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Being deaf from her 30s, Merleen gave us an insight into how deafness affects peoples' lives and how life changing her constant companion Grace has been. Independence, confidence and companionship are often lacking when deaf people feel isolated, vulnerable and lonely.

Hearing Dogs provide visibility to an invisible disability, transforming lives. Every hearing dog is specially matched to a deaf person so that the dog's skills and personality perfectly complement the lifestyle and needs of their new owner.

We meet again on Easter Monday 2 April in USL Village Hall to hear a presentation from Chris O'Grady on "A Walk to Rome". All ladies are very welcome.

Kathy Quant



## Twyver WI

Members listened to a very interesting talk given by Mike Tookey on "The Gloucester Street Pastors", who are part of a national and international interdenominational church response to urban situations. They have been serving Gloucester city's nightlife over the past six years and work alongside the local Police force and various community and church groups. Ten years ago there were just 280 pastors in Britain but now 10,000 have been trained. Pastors go out in groups of four and are easily identifiable by their uniform. They have an Administration officer who arranges their 4 week rotas when they go out on the streets. They each carry a rucksack which contains flip flops, a dustpan and brush, bandages, bottles of water and chocolate biscuits and evidence bags for drugs, knives and guns. The 55 CCTV monitors in Gloucester enable pastors to go where needed to offer help and support to those in trouble.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 9 April at 7.30pm when members and their guests will be able to see a Boots No 7 cosmetics demonstration.

## Gardening Club



Our speaker for the evening was Victoria Logue who talked to us about South African gardens. Whilst there in 2015, she visited 21 gardens and we were transported to a different world of exotic plants and jacaranda trees but also to some surprisingly English looking gardens, with the notable difference of the Table Mountain range as the backdrop.

The majority of gardens especially in Johannesburg were very upmarket and could have resembled those in Godalming or Solihull back in the UK. The one striking difference however, was that many of the plants that we have in England that come out at various stages of the year, were all out at the same time in South Africa.

Victoria's botanical knowledge is extensive and members happily engaged in an enthusiastic question session after the talk. Andrew Nicholl gave the vote of thanks.

Next month, we welcome Ian Parsons who will talk to us about Orchids. New members are always welcome. Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

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# What's Coming Up?

## USL Life AGM - 16 April

Another successful year has passed and the Annual General Meeting for USL Life will be held at the Pavilion.

Holding an AGM is a formal requirement of running the newsletter as a Community Interest Company.

We will cover the normal topics explaining how the newsletter has performed over the 12 month period ending December 2017.

Refreshments will be available from 7.15pm. The AGM will start at 7.45pm. Because this is a formal Company AGM, only members of USL Life may attend.

Details of how to become a member are available from the newsletter website or from one of the team listed on the back page.

## USCAN AGM - 16 April

USCAN will be holding its Annual General Meeting once the USL Life AGM has concluded.

It is anticipated that the USCAN AGM will start around 8.30pm, in the Pavilion.

This group of volunteers do good things for our village including maintaining footpaths, stiles, gates, picking up litter, looking after the Jubilee Nature reserve, etc.

It has also supported the Church by working in the churchyard, which has been much appreciated.

The group is funded by USL Parish Council.

Anyone who lives in USL is welcome to attend.

## New Yoga Class at the Pavilion

Sarah Freckleton now runs a yoga session every Monday at 6.30pm (or 5.30 on days when the Parish Council meets - check in the Village Diary in this newsletter).



Yoga

Sarah says: "All of you out there whether you consider yourself to be fit/unfit, fat/thin, too old/too young - and the list goes on, there is a place for you at Wild Grace yoga."

I am a true believer that yoga is for everyone. You do not need to be flexible to do yoga! To practise Yoga you need . . . your body (in whatever state of repair it happens to be in!), your mind (whatever it is thinking), your curiosity to have a go, and some leggings or comfortable clothes."

Contact Sarah on 07771 900468

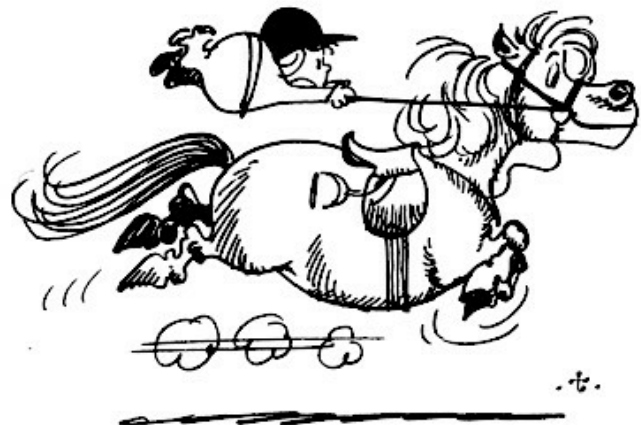
## BMI Race Night

Saturday 28 April 2018

RACE NIGHT @ THE BMI – 8.00p.m.

With "Mike's Wooden Horses"  
Come along and have a fun night

All profit on the night will go to the BMI Charities for 2017-2018:  
Air Ambulance and Maggies



# What's Coming Up? - Cont'd

**Upton St Leonards Spring Show Saturday 21 April 2018 2 - 4pm**

UPTON ST LEONARD'S 45<sup>TH</sup> SPRING SHOW AND RENT-A-CRAFT STALL

*These are just a few of the sections in the show. **Why not get a schedule and enter?***

**THERE ARE BAKING & FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES AS WELL.**

**SECTION E - ARTS & HANDICRAFTS CLASS** *these items should not have been exhibited in previous shows*

- Class 21 A Hand Knitted item up to 4 ply
- 22 A Hand Knitted item in double knitting
- 23 A Hand Knitted item in Fancy Wool/Yarn
- 24 A Crocheted item in any yarn
- 25 Show us your hidden talents - let us see what you have made - any media
- 26 A Picture (Handicraft) - Max size 18"/46cms square, excluding frame
- 27 A Picture (Art) - Max size 18"/46cms square, excluding frame
- 28 A Piece of Jewellery - made from any media
- 29 A Quilted item

## **SECTION XA – OPEN CHARITY CLASSES**

XA1 SALVATION ARMY: knit MITTENS FOR AN ADULT in double knitting- use your own pattern - in any colour. Entries to be donated.

XA2 TECKELS ANIMAL SANCTUARY: fill a SHOEBOX for a cat or dog. Entries to be donated.

XA3 **OPEN CLASS** Christchurch Abbeydale Craft Circle - for the THE SAILORS SOCIETY: Knit a NECK WARMER in double knitting – in any colour. Pattern from Val Doll (610940) or online at [www.sailors-society.org/uploads](http://www.sailors-society.org/uploads). Entries to be donated.

## **SECTION F – PHOTOGRAPHY** – Max size of photograph 12"x8" (30x20cms)

*Photographs should not have been exhibited in any previous show and must be exhibitor's own work. Photographs may be reproduced digitally or conventionally*

- Class 30 'THROUGH A WINDOW'
- 31 'VINTAGE TRANSPORT'
- 32 'FAMILY TIME'
- 33 'DOWN ON THE FARM'
- 34 'FRUIT(S) AND/OR VEGETABLE(S) STILL LIFE'
- 35 'A FROSTY MORNING' *BLACK & WHITE PRINTS ONLY for this class.*

### **UP TO AGE 16 YEARS**

- Class 53 A PHOTOGRAPH I HAVE TAKEN – 'MY BEST FRIEND'

## **45<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY CLASS WHY NOT HAVE A GO?**

Write a piece, including the words 'ANNIVERSARY' 'SPRING' 'YEARS' 'UNDERGROUND' 'RAINCOAT' 'SPIDERS': no more than 60 words.

## **SECTION G CHILDREN CLASSES**

### **AGE 7 YEARS & UNDER**

- Class 46 MAKE A COLLAGE OF A FLOWER - any media A4 size
- 47 MAKE A CAR – out of recycled materials
- 48 DRAW A PICTURE OF A DRAGON - A4 size

### **AGE 8 - 16 YEARS**

- Class 49 DESIGN & DRAW A COVER FOR YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK.
- 50 A COLLAGE OF A GEOMETRIC SHAPE. – use recycled materials - A4 size

### **ANY AGE GROUP**

- Class 51 SOMETHING I HAVE MADE - any media
- 52 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES – 6 COOKIES - to given recipe found on entry form

**Schedules & Entry forms, with recipes, are available from the USL Parish Council website: [uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk](http://uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk) or the Post Office or from Marilyn Bannister. RENT-A-CRAFT STALL contact is Jackie Lord.**

**THIS IS A COMMUNITY EVENT & WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR ENTRIES FOR THIS SPECIAL YEAR & SEEING YOU ON THE DAY!**

**Donations of cakes for afternoon refreshments or raffle prizes would be very welcome and could be brought to the Village Hall before 10.30am on the day. Alternatively you can ring Marilyn or Jackie on the numbers shown above to collect them the day before.**

# What's Coming Up? - Cont'd

## USCAN Village Litter Pick – Sat 7 April, 10am



It's that time of year again. We need helpers to walk around the Village to pick up litter – we try to do this once a year. Please consider joining in this very valuable effort for an hour or so – that's all it takes.

Meet at the Pavilion at 10am on Saturday 7 April. We supply bags, pickers, hi-viz jackets, gloves (or bring your own, if you have any of these).

## Village Day 2018

Superheroes required for our village day celebrations on Saturday 16 June

Can you spare some time to help on our charity village day?

30 minutes, 1 hour or all afternoon - whatever time you can give would be much appreciated

Please contact Carol Evans



## The Upton Show - 8 September 2018

The show will be held this year 2pm to 4.30pm

This year's schedule is currently being finalised and will be available soon.

If you are interested in taking part and want to get an idea of the classes you would like to enter, have a look at last year's schedule on <http://uptonstleonardsshow.com>

More information will be provided in the next few USL Life issues

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Rahul and Seeta



## Battle of Upton St Leonards - By Teresa Clarke

The message on the phone said, "Could we meet to talk about the Battle of Upton?"

I was intrigued. Men with crossbows; Lords astride horses with flaring nostrils; pennants blowing in the wind and weeping Maidens. Standing at the top of Portway I tried to visualise the two opposing armies in the fields below.



Arriving at the appointed time and entering the lounge of an old stone farmhouse, my host handed me a faded Northgate single pocket file, across the front of which was written "Upton Protests".

For many, like myself, Upton's Day of Action, 21 April 1988, may have little significance. But for the residents of Upton at the time, it heralded a great triumph.

Their campaigning, with the assistance of local politicians, radio celebrities, and the fierce determination of the community themselves, ensured that the village remained outside the Gloucester City Boundary. Reading through the documents, the correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commission, letters of support from Councillors, local newspaper coverage etc, I realise that living in this beautiful rural community is the result of the efforts of the residents in 1988.

I thought it best to reflect memories of the time with words from some of those involved and I start with a letter from John Watts:

Upton's Day of Action 21 April 1988.

Who Remembers?

Towing a J.C.B. Digger back over Upton Lane motorway bridge using the Tug Of War rope?

The huge bonfire built on Prinknash Knoll, materials supplied by David Cridland?

The march by villagers up Portway to throw the Boundary Commission's proposals on the bonfire?

The old and young transported up the hill on David Cridland's tractor trailer that nearly tipped over at the gate.

The 8 oz mortar firework, courtesy of Tim Court from Cross House, which set the sheep running and the peacocks screaming.

The soup kitchen manned by neighbours from Cranham. Martin Whitaker serving tomatoes.

The work of the very professional Action Committee. Two to mention, Edward Nurse and Monica Sims.

The letters of support from neighbouring parishes and District Councillors including Nora Regan.

And then the great celebration Barbeque/Barn dance at Portway Farm when the result of Upton's actions had been declared. The prime organiser was Richard McLean.



In following editions I will endeavour to present a sequence of reminiscences from villagers who took on the might of Government in the defence of Upton St Leonards' identity.

# New Local Business in Upton - @thesalon



Tracy

For anyone who attended their open day on 10 February, you will already know that a new business called @thesalon has recently been launched based at Hill Farm ( 100 yards up the hill from the Kings Head Pub).

Tracy and Gayna both have experience in the beauty industry and have built their skills over time so their offering is quite extensive.

They chose Upton St Leonards and specifically Hill Farm for the lovely views of the area. The views definitely contribute to a



Gayna

relaxing environment and there is ample parking available on site. The location is also convenient for them both as they live just outside the village in Abbeydale and Abbeymead.

The treatments on offer include: -

**semi-permanent make up (eyebrows/eyeliner/lips) / electrolysis (permanent hair removal)  
nail, lash and hair extensions / male and female waxing / skin care (blemish removal/reduction)  
manicure/pedicure / facials / spray tanning**

They are also considering massage as a future service but this is not available at the moment.

The Salon runs on an appointment basis only and generally within the hours of 9am-5pm although it is possible to book an appointment outside of these times. There are Special Deals on offer, and events like the May School proms are something Tracy and Gayna are able to cater for.

**They are offering an ongoing discount of 10% off all treatments for residents of Upton St Leonards.**

So why don't you pop up to @TheSalon at Hill Farm and have a chat to Tracy and Gayna over a coffee and see what they can do for you.



@thesalon

Phone 07392 084444 or Email thesalonglos@hotmail.com



Karen Jones recommended Thesalon upton st Leonards.

1 hr · 🌟

Get a youthful glow and regenerated skin with a micro-dermabrasion session, I have received one today and really needed it, my skin was so dry now it feels soft and lovely, it was a good feeling getting rid of that grime and dead skin on my face, now to make sure I look after it, thanks again Tracy for a fantastic pamper X X. Highly recommended

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# St. Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)



*You will be  
very  
welcome  
at all of  
our services*



## Good Friday

March 30<sup>th</sup>

### Hour at the Cross

This service is to be held at  
2.00 pm not 3.00 pm as published in last month's  
USL Life

## Church Calendar for April

|               |                                   |   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sun 1</b>  | <b>8.00 am</b><br><b>10.00 am</b> | <b>Holy Communion service</b><br><b>Easter Celebration</b><br><b>Service with Baptism</b><br><b>followed by short</b><br><b>Communion Service</b> |
| Mon 2         | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| Tue 3         | 9.30 - 9.50<br>9.50 - 12.00       | Morning Prayer<br>Coffee & Chat   |
| Wed 4         | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| <b>Sun 8</b>  | <b>10.00 am</b>                   | <b>Communion Service</b>  |
| Mon 9         | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| Tue 10        | 9.30 - 9.50<br>9.50 - 12.00       | Morning Prayer<br>Coffee & Chat   |
| Wed 11        | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| <b>Sun 15</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>6.00</b>       | <b>Communion Service</b><br><b>Evensong</b>   |
| Mon 16        | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| Tue 17        | 9.30 - 9.50<br>9.50 - 12.00       | Morning Prayer<br>Coffee & Chat   |
| Wed 18        | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| <b>Sun 22</b> | <b>10.00 am</b>                   | <b>Communion Service</b><br><b>Followed by the APCM</b>   |
| Mon 23        | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| Tues 24       | 9.30 - 9.50<br>9.50 - 12.00       | Morning Prayer<br>Coffee & Chat   |
| Wed 25        | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| <b>Sun 29</b> | <b>10.00 am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion Service</b>   |
| Mon 30        | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |
| Tues 1 May    | 9.30 - 9.50<br>9.50 - 12.00       | Morning Prayer<br>Coffee & Chat   |
| Wed 2 May     | 4.00 - 4.30                       | Evening Prayer  |

## Who's who at the Parish Church

### Priest in Charge:

Rev Clodagh Ingram

*Clodagh is available to be contacted Sundays through to  
Wednesday*

### Curate:

Rev James Turk

[revjamesturk@gmail.com](mailto:revjamesturk@gmail.com)

*Please note due to James's work commitments, calls, texts  
and emails will be answered evenings and weekends*

### Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Rachel Hall

### PCC Secretary

Enquiries via Rev Ingram or Keith Robbins  
[pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

### Church Treasurer

**Vacancy**

### Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

### Deanery Synod Representative

Dorothy Cox

### Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

### Mother's Union

Rachel Hall

### Church Cleaning Rota

Claire Appleyard

### Church Flowers

Jenny Cunningham

## Upton St Leonard's Mothers' Union

*Our meetings are held in Church at 2.00 pm*

*Everyone is very welcome to join us*

Next Meeting April 19<sup>th</sup>



Speaker: June Dolphin - 'To Zambia with Love'

*Rogation Sunday* is the day when the Church has traditionally offered prayer for God's blessings on the fruits of the earth and the labours of those who produce our food. The word "rogation" is from the Latin *rogare*, "to ask." Historically, the Rogation Days (the three days before Ascension Day) were a period of fasting and abstinence, beseeching God's blessing on the crops for a bountiful harvest. Few of us today directly derive our livelihood from the production of food, yet it is good to be reminded of our dependence upon those who do and our responsibility for the environment.

There will be a number of walks to suit different mobility and fitness levels taking place on the afternoon of Sunday 6th May to mark Rogation Sunday and give thanks for the beautiful area we live in. All are welcome whether church goers or not. Details in next month's USL Life.

# St. Leonards Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

## Tower Floodlighting

On Easter Sunday Becky and Ben Hicks will sponsor the Church Tower to celebrate the Baptism of their son Daniel Charles Hicks. Daniel is a joyful addition to the family and has been warmly welcomed by the congregation of St. Leonard's.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

*If you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday/anniversary/ Baptism or in remembrance of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details.*

*There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will help us too.*

*Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month*



*Notice of  
Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) to appoint Church Wardens*  
Everyone on the Church Electoral Roll or resident in the village is invited to attend  
followed by  
*Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)*  
open to those on the Church Electoral Roll  
both to be held at St Leonard's Church  
on Sunday 22 April 2018 at 11.30 am

The Annual Revision of the Electoral Roll 2018 will take place from 18<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April

**Note: existing members do NOT need to reapply.** New members need to sign up by 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## Mothers' Union - June Dolphin will be our speaker on 19 April

June has kindly agreed to talk about her "Shoebbox" trip to Zambia – she writes: *"Our time with the hundreds of children was so special and will live in my heart for ever. Their loud singing, clapping, and dancing to welcome us was deafening as were their screams of excitement and joy after they opened their shoe boxes. These simple shoe boxes are opening doors for the sharing of the Gospel, transforming lives, giving children opportunities to learn, have a meal, clean water and share time together"*.

Anyone who helped with the appeal for 2017 or if you would like to volunteer your help this year or maybe you would just like to learn more about this very worthwhile cause you will be more than welcome to join us.

*Jenny Cunningham*



## Thank You

St. Leonard's Church would like to thank Rahul and Seeta Odedra and their customers at the Village Shop for supporting the church funds. They kindly gave a generous donation from their charity fund which will be put to good use. The Church community appreciates their support since they moved into the Village.

*St. Leonard's P.C.C*

Did you notice that extra sparkle in Church at the end of February? On Wednesday 21 February, Guide Thinking Day, the Guides came to the church and armed with dusters, polish, brushes and irons they got to work. The pews had a good brush and polish, the windows, where accessible, were dusted and freed from cobwebs, the brass polished and the carpets ironed (drips of candle wax can be removed with brown paper and a warm iron!) Hassocks were retrieved from behind the Snell tomb, cleaned and tidily re-stacked. What a difference an army of Guides made! Thank you to all the girls who came, you did yourselves proud. At the end of their cleaning the Guides gathered together to remember and think about Guides all over the world and Clodagh finished off with a prayer of thanksgiving.





*Rev Clodagh Ingram writes*

*No Hoax Easter*

There will be much comment on the fact that Easter Day falls on April 1st year. Easter Sunday usually falls early to mid-April and occasionally at the end of March but for the first time in 73 years Easter Sunday shares the same date as April Fool's Day. Easter Sunday's date changes every year and has done since 325AD when the Church Council decided that Easter Sunday would always fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the equinox. This followed on from the fact that the Jewish Passover is celebrated on the first full moon of the equinox and Christians believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ took place at the time of the Jewish Passover.

No doubt there will be claims that Jesus rising from the dead is a hoax and Christians are foolish for believing that Jesus is the son of God who came to save the world.

I have to admit that there have been some great hoaxes played and by some very well respected people. In 1976 the British astronomer Patrick Moore made an announcement on BBC Radio 2. He said this: "At 9:47 a.m. today there will be a 'once-in-a-lifetime' astronomical event occurring." He said that listeners could experience it in their very own homes. The planet Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, temporarily causing a gravitational alignment that would counteract and lessen the Earth's own gravity.

Patrick Moore told his listeners that if they jumped in the air at the exact moment that this planetary alignment occurred, they would experience a strange floating sensation. When 9:47 AM arrived, Radio 2 began to receive hundreds of phone calls from listeners claiming to have felt the sensation. One woman even reported that she and her eleven friends had risen from their chairs and floated around the room. The date was 1st April 1976.

But I think my favourite hoax is the one Burger King played in America in 1998 when they published a full page advertisement in an American newspaper announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" especially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger, etc.), but all the items were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The next day, Burger King issued a follow-up press release which said that thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich not realising that it was in fact 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Perhaps it's because I'm a left-hander that that particular hoax appealed to my sense of humour, but whatever clever hoaxes are uncovered by midday on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, Jesus' resurrection from the dead will not be one of them. There is strong historical evidence regarding the death and resurrection of Jesus, along with the testimony of eye witness accounts and the lived experience of millions of Christians for over 2000 years.

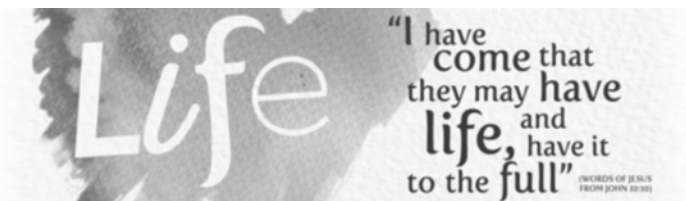
The Romans kept good records. So did the Jewish historian Josephus. They refer to the crucifixion of Jesus around 30 AD; and Jesus' followers known as his disciples were eyewitnesses to his resurrection and most of them died for their belief.

Christians believe that sin and death do not have the last word in life because Jesus' death and resurrection overcame everything that separates us from God's love and we have hope for the future no matter how challenging the present circumstances we find ourselves in.

Good Friday was as bad a day as it could have been for Jesus and his followers, his disciples thought all hope was gone and yet on the third day they discovered Jesus risen from the dead and life and hope restored for them and for everyone who chooses to turn to Jesus and follow him.

Easter Sunday may coincide with April Fool's Day this year but Jesus being alive is not a hoax, rather an invitation to follow him and live life in all its fullness.

*Clodagh*



# St. Leonards Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

## Dates for your diary

Apr 19 Mothers' Union 2.00 pm  
Apr 22 APC Meeting 11.30 am  
May 6 Rogation Sunday Walks

## Save the Date

Fundraiser for Church repairs  
*Barn Dance*  
At  
*Herrings Farm*  
Evening Saturday 14 July  
Barn dance with live music for dance  
by  
*'Hetty Pegler's Tump'*  
Followed later in the evening by live band  
*Freefall*  
With band member Rev. James Turk  
*Bar & Refreshments will be available*

We are recruiting for local people in preparation to ring the 8 bells for the centenary of the First World War Armistice in November 2018 (refer to attached poster). You are welcome to come along to any one of our regular practice evenings to know more about the technique, the ringing community, and perhaps, to see if it would suit you to take up this familiar British tradition as it will provide you with a new set of skills that can bring many rewards. Wednesday evenings, 7.30 pm-9.00 pm (tower door).

Charlie  
(USL-8 Tower Captain)



## Christian Aid

Each Tuesday morning we continue to hold a coffee morning in the church and although we do not demand payment most people put a voluntary donation into our glass jar. The coffee begins to flow at 10.00 am and everyone is invited to attend. Up until now the money collected has been used towards church maintenance but in January we agreed that one half of the contribution would be paid out for charity, and we selected Christian Aid.

We were inspired by the opportunity of a windfall, because over the Christmas period the government offered to match payments by 100%. Our first payment was for £48.00 and we expect this figure to be increased to £96.00.

We are advised that our contribution will be used to help the following causes:

- Providing life saving food in East Africa
- Supporting displaced Rohingya families
- Helping support families and their livestock in Kenya.

Rachel Hall has coordinated our Christian Aid activities for many years, in particular the Christian Aid week and we are pleased to be supporting her efforts.

We are hoping to receive regular updates of Christian Aid activities and I will keep you advised in future editions of USL Life.

Mike Blanch

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# Information

## Parish Council Update (Village Improvements)

### Speeding Issues

In an earlier update it was explained that the Council were exploring the idea of a 20mph Zone in the village.



**IT'S GOOD NEWS!!** We have recently been informed the surveys carried out late 2017 have supported this approach. This won't be a quick fix as it requires us to following a formal process with legal implications and cost. Next steps are to meet with the Highways Team, hopefully in April (their new financial year) to progress the detail and work up the necessary plans. You will be updated as progress is made but I am sure you will welcome this approach.

As a result of this success, there will be an impact on the Vehicle Activation Signs and possible Pedestrian Crossing in Churchfield Road. Once the 20mph Zone is implemented, new surveys will need to be completed to see whether the average speed of vehicles warrants Highways investment.

### Road Repairs

The recent improvement to Bondend Road was very welcome. The next planned work is to improve the road surface in 6 Acres. We are also bidding for funds to improve the surface of Dirty Lane.

### Outdoor Gym (on the Recreation Ground)

Following the public consultation in 2017 where the idea was supported and equipment choices were identified, we are looking at how to fund this and are hopeful we can progress implementation before the summer.

### Children's Play Equipment

We received useful input from the public consultation exercise. Shortly we will be looking at some good ideas already implemented other council areas. Again we are looking at possible grants to help part fund this and will provide an update once the necessary work is completed.

### Benches

At the last Council meeting it was decided to site two benches on the new patio next to the Pavilion building so people watching sporting activities on the Rec have somewhere to sit. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a bench please contact Roy Balgobin on 621688 or [uslclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:uslclerk@btinternet.com)



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# Information - cont'd

## Home Security

Many of you will be aware that there were several break-ins in Upton recently and this has caused some concern particularly with elderly residents who live on their own. If someone is determined to get into your home they will do so (e.g. by smashing windows) but there are a number of things you can do to make it more difficult for burglars. Some examples are shown below :-



- Timer switches linked to lights / radio
- Having an alarm system and using it when you go out / go away
- Having fencing / hedges around your back gardens (low walls / fences make it easy to access and leave properties)
- Closing curtains when it gets dark
- Not advertising going away on social media such as Facebook
- Locking all doors and windows when you go out

We have covered this subject before but if you have access to the internet, you can get more detailed advice on the following website - [www.gloucestershire.police.uk/stolenmemories](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/stolenmemories)

The Police recently mentioned their intention to have a mobile unit parked at the Village Hall on 27 April. They will be available to give advice but if you want their help just ring 101 and ask for someone to visit and they will help you to improve your security arrangements. Please take advantage of their help if you need it.

**Make it as difficult as possible for Burglars!**

### Upton Show Secretary Vacancy

Following on from last month, you may remember that after many years as Secretary for the Upton Show, Peter Macey will be stepping down after this year. The Team are now looking for a replacement and the following are the main responsibilities of the role.

1. Organise & minute meetings. The committee has already developed a very effective schedule where every activity is listed & maintained, each committee member has been assigned a number of tasks & is expected to liaise with the secretary to enable the "schedule of activities" is kept up to date. This schedule is distributed electronically on a regular basis keeping committee meetings to a minimum

2. Maintain effective records and administration - contact details & filing, compiling names & addresses, officials and officers.

3. Committee communications & correspondence

It's an opportunity to join an enthusiastic committee and help contribute ideas for continuing the creation of a well established show with the aim of carrying it on into the future, thereby keeping the tradition of Upton Show alive.

### Backwards and Forwards Quiz from last month's magazine. Answers in bold

Forwards I am a great female singer, backwards I am eager  
**Diva / Avid**

Forwards I am cosy, backwards I am weapons **Snug / Guns**

Forwards I boast, backwards I am clothing **Brag / Garb**

Forwards I can, backwards I am an island **Able / Elba**

Forwards I am a poet, backwards I am dull **Bard / Drab**

Forwards I adjoin, backwards I am a musical instrument

**Abut / Tuba**

Forwards I was created, backwards I am a cheese

**Made / Edam**

Forwards I can be found in the bathroom, backwards I am a small quarrel **Taps / Spat**

Forwards I am the bottom of a boat, backwards I am a vegetable **Keel / Leek**

Forwards I am a slang for food, backwards I am a county in Alaska **Grub / Burg**

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# Information - cont'd

## Phone & Computer Clinic

This is just a short reminder to our readers that the phone and computer clinic is still going and much used.

If you are having trouble remembering how to do something or something doesn't seem to be working on your phone, computer or tablet, do give one of us a call or email:

Richard West

Jane Reed

Andy Russell

This is a free service. One of us is usually at the Monday morning coffee at the BMI, so you can contact the clinic there, or we can come to your home.



## Upton goal feast!



The footballers' good season continues, and recently the first team put 11 goals past Dursley town. Jordan Cooper and Daniel Creed both had hat-tricks (so who gets to keep the ball?). Luke Hawkins, coming on as a sub bagged two, and there was one goal each for Stuart Griffith, Lewis Newell and Jamie Webley.

The first team are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Division 2, only one point behind the second placed side which has played two more games than Upton, so a 2<sup>nd</sup> or even 1<sup>st</sup> place finish remains quite likely.

The second team are top of the Stroud District League Division 3. Both teams were promoted last year, and it looks like they will both be promoted again. Heady days for the Village Football club!

## Coffee Club (Mondays - BMI - 10 am to noon)

On behalf of the Monday Coffee Club we would like to extend our thanks to the BMI committee and in particular Alec for their continued support and the use of their facilities to make this social event possible.

A raffle was held on 12 March and due to the generosity of members, raised £147 for the nominated 2017-18 BMI charities.



## Local Author - Rachel Sargeant

Rachel Sargeant, an Abbeymead resident and reader of USL Life, has become a best-selling author with HarperCollins. Her latest book "The Perfect Neighbours" reached the top ten Amazon Kindle chart and No 1 in the British and Irish Kindle crime chart. It tells the story of Helen, who moves with her new husband to Germany. He and all her neighbours teach at an International School. But her new start is about to become her worst nightmare. When violence and tragedy strike, cracks appear in the community and Helen realises her perfect neighbours are capable of almost anything.



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# USL Life Arts Corner



This month we have chosen to feature two poets with very different views of April.

## Home-Thoughts, from Abroad by Robert Browning (1812 - 1889)

O to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England – now!

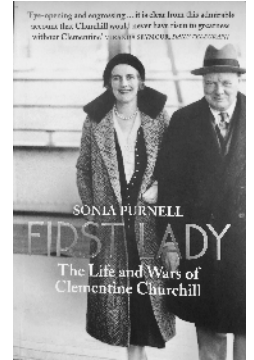
And after April, when May follows  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clove  
Blossoms and dewdrops – at the bent spray's edge –  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
-Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

### SPRING:

So long as you are not actually ill, hungry, frightened or immured in a prison or holiday camp – Spring is still Spring. The earth is still going round the sun and neither the dictators nor the bureaucrats, deeply as they disapprove of the process, are able to prevent it.  
George Orwell (1903 - 1950)

## Book Review

This month we recommend “The First Lady – The Life and Wars of Clementine Churchill” by Sonia Purnell, published by Aurum Press at £9.99 ISBN 978-1-78131-307-7. This gives an alternative view of Winston Churchill whose political life is currently featuring in a major film and many history books and programmes. This account of the life of Churchill's wife suggests that Winston would never have risen to greatness without Clementine. She gave him confidence and conviction together with a feeling of security. These gifts enabled him to be the dominant politician of his age.



## Extract from The Waste Land by T. S. Eliot (1888 – 1965)

April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.  
Winter kept us warm, covering  
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding  
A little life with dried tubers.



**We continue to commemorate Villagers who gave their lives in WW1, on the centenary of their death**  
*We Will Remember Them*

### Alfred James Davis

Alfred was the son of Edwin and Rosa Davis of Rees Farm, Watery Lane. He was born in 1897 and went to the Village School. He enlisted, at the outbreak of the war, in Gloucester, in September 1914, though he was aged only 17. He served in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Regiments of the Gloucestershire Regiment. While serving in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion he was sent to Gallipoli in 1915 and when they were evacuated to Egypt he was sent to France.

He was killed, aged 21, near Bethune in northern France on 18 April 1918 during the battle of Loos. He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Loos Memorial to the missing. He was a Private with regimental number 18998.



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  | Tue | Recycling and Food Waste Week                                      |                               |                   |
| 3  | Tue | Needles & Pins.....  | Village Hall Annex.....       | 9.45-12.15p.m.    |
| 3  | Tue | Senior Circuits.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 11.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 3  | Tue | Badminton.....   | Village Hall.....             | 8.30-10.30p.m.    |
| 4  | Wed | Wednesday Probus.....  | B.M.I.....                    | 10.00a.m.         |
| 4  | Wed | Stitchers.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 10.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 4  | Wed | Pavilion Painters.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 2.00-4.00p.m.     |
| 4  | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....                                   | Village Hall.....             | 7.30-9.30p.m.     |
| 4  | Wed | Bingo.....   | B.M.I.....                    | 8.00p.m.          |
| 4  | Wed | Tai Chi.....   | Village Hall Annex.....       | 8.00-9.30p.m.     |
| 5  | Thu | Senior Circuits.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 9.30-10.15a.m.    |
| 5  | Thu | Tai Chi.....   | Village Hall Annex.....       | 9.30-10.30a.m.    |
| 5  | Thu | Fitness.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 6.00p.m.          |
| 7  | Sat | Litter Picking.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 10.00a.m.         |
| 9  | Mon | Coffee Club.....   | B.M.I.....                    | 10.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 9  | Mon | Yoga.....  | Village Hall Annex.....       | 12.15-1.45p.m.    |
| 9  | Mon | Yoga.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 5.30p.m.          |
| 9  | Mon | Fitness Training (2 sessions).....                                 | Village Hall Annex.....       | 6.00-7.30p.m.     |
| 9  | Mon | Zumba.....   | Upton St Leonards School..... | 6.30-7.30p.m.     |
| 9  | Mon | Parish Council Meeting.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 7.30p.m.          |
| 9  | Mon | Twyver WI.....   | Village Hall.....             | 7.30-9.45p.m.     |
| 10 | Tue | Rubbish and Food Waste Week/Garden Waste for those with brown bins |                               |                   |
| 10 | Tue | Needles & Pins.....  | Village Hall Annex.....       | 9.45-12.15p.m.    |
| 10 | Tue | Tuesday Probus.....  | B.M.I.....                    | 10.00a.m.         |
| 10 | Tue | Senior Circuits.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 11.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 10 | Tue | Badminton.....   | Village Hall.....             | 8.30-10.30p.m.    |
| 10 | Tue | Copy Date for May issue of USL Life                                |                               |                   |
| 11 | Wed | Stitchers.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 10.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 11 | Wed | Pavilion Painters.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 2.00-4.00p.m.     |
| 11 | Wed | Bingo.....   | B.M.I.....                    | 8.00p.m.          |
| 11 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....                                   | Village Hall.....             | 7.30-9.30p.m.     |
| 11 | Wed | Tai Chi.....   | Village Hall Annex.....       | 8.00-9.30p.m.     |
| 12 | Thu | Senior Circuits.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 9.30-10.15a.m.    |
| 12 | Thu | Tai Chi.....   | Village Hall Annex.....       | 9.30-10.30a.m.    |
| 12 | Thu | Fitness.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 6.00p.m.          |
| 16 | Mon | Coffee Club.....   | B.M.I.....                    | 10.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 16 | Mon | Yoga.....  | Village Hall Annex.....       | 12.15-1.45p.m.    |
| 16 | Mon | Yoga.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 5.30p.m.          |
| 16 | Mon | Fitness Training (2 sessions).....                                 | Village Hall Annex.....       | 6.00-7.00p.m.     |
| 16 | Mon | USL Life AGM.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 7.15 for 7.45p.m. |
| 16 | Mon | USCAN AGM.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 8.30p.m.          |
| 16 | Mon | Zumba.....   | Upton St Leonards School..... | 6.30-7.30p.m.     |
| 16 | Mon | Abbeydale Garden Club.....   | Village Hall.....             | 7.30-9.45p.m.     |
| 17 | Tue | Recycling and Food Waste Week                                      |                               |                   |
| 17 | Tue | Needles & Pins.....  | Village Hall Annex.....       | 9.45-12.15p.m.    |
| 17 | Tue | Senior Circuits.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 11.00-12.00pm     |
| 17 | Tue | Junior Jujitsu.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 4.00-5.00p.m.     |
| 17 | Tue | Brownies.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 5.30p.m.          |
| 17 | Tue | Badminton.....   | Village Hall.....             | 8.30-10.30p.m.    |
| 18 | Wed | Wednesday Probus.....  | B.M.I.....                    | 10.00a.m.         |
| 18 | Wed | Stitchers.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 10.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 18 | Wed | Pavilion Painters.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 2.00-4.00p.m.     |
| 18 | Wed | Bingo.....   | B.M.I.....                    | 8.00p.m.          |
| 18 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....                                   | Village Hall.....             | 7.30-9.30p.m.     |
| 18 | Wed | Tai Chi.....   | Village Hall Annex.....       | 8.00-9.30p.m.     |
| 19 | Thu | Senior Circuits.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 9.30-10.15a.m.    |
| 19 | Thu | Tai Chi.....   | Village Hall.....             | 9.30-10.30a.m.    |
| 19 | Thu | Fitness.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 6.00p.m.          |
| 21 | Sat | SPRING SHOW.....   | Village Hall                  |                   |
| 23 | Mon | Coffee Club.....   | B.M.I.....                    | 10.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 23 | Mon | Yoga.....  | Village Hall Annex.....       | 12.15-1.45p.m.    |
| 23 | Mon | Fitness Training (2 sessions).....                                 | Village Hall Annex.....       | 6.00-7.00p.m.     |
| 23 | Mon | Zumba.....   | Upton St Leonards School..... | 6.30-7.30p.m.     |
| 23 | Mon | Camera Club.....   | Village Hall.....             | 7.00-9.00p.m.     |
| 24 | Tue | Rubbish and Food Waste Week/Garden Waste for those with brown bins |                               |                   |
| 24 | Tue | Needles & Pins.....  | Village Hall Annex.....       | 9.45-12.15p.m.    |
| 24 | Tue | Tuesday Probus.....  | B.M.I.....                    | 10.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 24 | Tue | Senior Circuits.....   | Pavilion.....                 | 11.00-12.00p.m.   |
| 24 | Tue | Junior Jujitsu.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 4.00-5.00p.m.     |
| 24 | Tue | Brownies.....  | Pavilion.....                 | 5.30p.m.          |
| 24 | Tue | Badminton.....   | Village Hall.....             | 8.30-10.30p.m.    |

|    |     |                                    |                         |                 |
|----|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 25 | Wed | Stitchers.....                     | Pavilion.....           | 10.00-12.00p.m. |
| 25 | Wed | Pavilion Painters.....             | Pavilion.....           | 2.00-4.00p.m.   |
| 25 | Wed | Bingo.....                         | B.M.I.....              | 8.00p.m.        |
| 25 | Wed | Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....   | Village Hall.....       | 7.30-9.30p.m.   |
| 25 | Wed | Tai Chi.....                       | Village Hall Annex..... | 8.00-9.30p.m.   |
| 26 | Thu | Senior Circuits.....               | Pavilion.....           | 9.30-10.15a.m.  |
| 26 | Thu | Tai Chi.....                       | Village Hall.....       | 9.30-10.30a.m.  |
| 26 | Thu | Get Together Club.....             | Village Hall.....       | 2.30-4.30p.m.   |
| 26 | Thu | Fitness.....                       | Pavilion.....           | 6.00p.m.        |
| 28 | Sat | Race Night.....                    | B.M.I.....              | 8.00p.m.        |
| 30 | Mon | Coffee Club.....                   | B.M.I.....              | 10.00-12.00p.m. |
| 30 | Mon | Yoga.....                          | Village Hall Annex..... | 12.15-1.45p.m.  |
| 30 | Mon | Fitness Training (2 sessions)..... | Village Hall Annex..... | 6.00-7.00p.m.   |
| 30 | Mon | Yoga.....                          | Pavilion.....           | 6.30p.m.        |

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

### MAY

|    |     |   |                          |                    |
|----|-----|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 7  | Mon | Bank Holiday                              |                          |                    |
| 10 | Thu | Copy Date for June issue of USL Life      |                          |                    |
| 14 | Mon | Parish Council Meeting.....               | Pavillion.....           | 7.30p.m.           |
| 14 | Mon | Twyver WI.....                            | Village Hall.....        | 7.30-10.00p.m.     |
| 17 | Thu | History Group (A History of Farming)..... | Village Hall.....        | 7.45-9.15p.m.      |
| 18 | Fri | BMI - AGM.....                            | B.M.I.....               | 8.00p.m.           |
| 19 | Sat | Watch Harry and Meghan's Wedding.....     | B.M.I.....               | From 11.00a.m.     |
| 21 | Mon | Abbeyle Garden Club.....                  | Village Hall.....        | 7.30-9.45p.m.      |
| 21 | Mon | Lady Downe Charity.....                   | School.....              | 7.30p.m.           |
| 28 | Mon | Camera Club.....                          | Village Hall.....        | 7.00-9.00p.m.      |
| 28 | Mon | Bank Holiday.....                         |                          |                    |
| 31 | Thu | Get Together Club (Summer Lunch).....     | Painswick Golf Club..... | 12.30 for 1.00p.m. |

### JUNE

|    |     |                                      |                   |                |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 4  | Mon | Parish Council Meeting.....          | Pavilion.....     | 7.30p.m.       |
| 4  | Mon | Upton WI.....                        | Village Hall..... | 7.30-10.00p.m. |
| 10 | Sun | Copy Date for July issue of USL Life |                   |                |
| 11 | Mon | Twyver WI.....                       | Village Hall..... | 7.30-10.00p.m. |
| 16 | Sat | Village Day.....                     | Village Hall..... |                |
| 18 | Mon | Abbeyle Garden Club.....             | Village Hall..... | 7.30-9.45p.m.  |
| 23 | Sat | Summer Quiz.....                     | B.M.I.....        | 8.00p.m.       |
| 25 | Mon | Camera Club.....                     | Village Hall..... | 7.00-9.00p.m.  |
| 28 | Thu | Get Together Club.....               | Village Hall..... | 2.30-4.30p.m.  |

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary



## Tennis

The season restarts in April, and the Tennis Club would love to see old and new members! Club mornings Sunday 10am and Club night is Tuesdays at 6pm - a great time to get to meet members and join in and find out about the club and what's on.

Contact Rod Kirkpatrick

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# Birds in Upton

Spring is in the air as I write this and by the time you read it, will actually be here. After the chilly Winter months leading up to Christmas, with only even colder weather to look forward to, as a birdwatcher, once Christmas is over I start to look forward to the



Summer migrants arriving which will herald the start of better, and warmer, weather.

In Upton, generally the first to arrive is the Chiffchaff, a small yellowy/beige bird, which can be heard making its distinctive 'chiffchaff, chiffchaff' call as early as March. The mean date for its arrival in Watery Lane is the 15th and this conjures up one of my earliest memories of my time in Upton. On that date in 1989, I spent the day with a friend, sorting pieces of Cotswold stone from the pile of rubble that was left of the old cottage we bought, so that it could be incorporated into the new garden. It was my first Chiffchaff of the year but by the end of the day I have to confess I had had enough of the constant 'chiffchaff' call going on within a few feet above my head!

Once the Chiffchaff is identified, some passing through and some staying to breed, other migrants quickly follow. Everyone's favourite 'to spot the first' is the Swallow, sadly declining in numbers, but which can still be seen regularly in The Stanley and The Portway where they nest around the farm.



Unfortunately, although the House Martin can still be seen in Upton, its numbers have greatly reduced over the last few years. Around the same time, the Willow Warbler, very similar in plumage to the Chiffchaff but with a completely different call, also arrives and can be heard in

the country lanes around the village. Even

experienced birdwatchers struggle to tell these birds apart unless they are actually singing.

Spring is also the time when our resident birds start to form pairs, build nests and breed and it is fascinating to be able to watch the progress and the hard work put in by the parents to feed and fledge broods of Blue Tits and Great Tits in garden nestboxes.



By April many of our birds will already be nesting. Blackbirds and other members of the Thrush family can start as early as February/March in a mild Winter. We are fortunate in Upton to have such beautiful countryside and many different habitats to

wander through and just look, and listen, for the birds. Cud Hill is particularly good for warblers such as Blackcaps and Common Whitethroats and farmland birds such as Skylarks and Yellowhammers.

After decades of being advised that we should not feed the birds during the Summer months, on the basis that birds try and feed the nestlings whole peanuts and choke them, the scientific opinion changed a few years ago and we are now advised that offering bird seed and nuts to our birds throughout the year is a good thing. Scientists have realised that birds are not stupid and that in times when natural food (insects, fruit or seeds) are in short supply, the parents will eat the bird table food which enables them to save the natural food for their chicks.



So, if you do feed the birds in Winter, please don't stop now, they will be grateful for your offerings.

Lynne Garner

## In Memoriam

### Ron Ring

It is sad to announce the death of Ron Ring. He was brought up in Gloucester, and many of you will know that his wife Ginny was born in the Village. Ron started adult life as a Purser in the Merchant Navy. He then trained as an accountant and worked for Walls, Bulmers Cider and Bang and Olufsen in their Gloucester headquarters.



For 32 years Ron and Ginny lived in Georgian Close, easily close enough to stay in touch with Upton, and four years ago they moved to Perry Orchard. The picture of Ron was taken last Christmas.

### Thanks . . .

Ginny says: "Please can I pass on my thanks to so many who have been so considerate and helpful to me following Ron's death. It was wonderful to move back into the Village, and recently I have felt a huge wave of support from my fellow Villagers."

Ginny also would like to thank the Police Community Support Officers who were so kind to her after the break-in at the house, and theft of Ron's car. The PCSO even brought flowers for Ginny. She thanks Parish Council chairman Keith Pearson for his care and concern. And finally she thanks Revd Clodagh for her love and support for the family, and for conducting the beautiful funeral service for Ron. Ginny adds: "I believe Ron would have been overwhelmed, particularly at the number of people who attended the service and the BMI afterwards".

### Janet Johnson

Gerry Johnson and his family would like to express their gratitude for all of the kind actions and wishes towards them, from neighbours, friends and villagers after the sudden passing of Gerry's wife Janet. We would also like to thank the BMI club for lowering their flag in recognition of Janet who was a club member.

Janet loved living in Woodland Green in the Village; she loved the community itself and socialising in the BMI club, where she got to know many of its members.

Gerry Johnson

### UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://usllife.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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### Tru cuts

We are happy to announce we can now provide a perm service with our stylist Marie, on Mondays.

The salon has been enlarged and we are now offering beauty treatments in our new beauty room, with Sarah.

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*Trudy*