

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 68

April 2020



CORONAVIRUS

Our Village Newsletter looks rather different than planned, because all the upcoming events have been cancelled. You'll only see a very brief Diary. But we will try to keep publishing, giving you something to read in your isolation.

The Village Helpline is active
Lots of volunteers are ready to help you if you need it.

VILLAGE HALL CENTENARY

The Village Hall is 100 years old. Building started in 1919 as part of the recovery efforts after the First World War, and the Hall was opened in 1920. The money for the building itself came from the Birchall family, in memory of the two Birchall brothers who were killed in the fighting. Villagers raised the money needed for furniture and fittings.



The picture on the left was taken in 1920 (in black & white, and it was hand coloured for a postcard).

The picture below left is a view of the Hall, BMI, School and Church. We are not sure when the photograph was taken (shot from somewhere in the present day St Leonards Close).

The Hall has had three major extensions in more recent years. In 1986 the back wall, next to the Rectory, was moved out by about 15 feet, enlarging the main Hall and doubling the stage area. Then in 1992 the Lady Downe Annexe, the passage to it, toilets and second kitchen were added. In 2010, an office, training room and new entrance were built. The end of the hall nearest the BMI remains as it was in 1920.



The Hall as it looks today

HELPLINE PAGE

USL Support

We hope you know by now about the Helpline. Within 48 hours of the launch, we have had more than 50 people call in offering help. A great response!

These Upton Businesses have offered to do food deliveries to your home. **We do urge vulnerable people and over 70s make use of this rather than visiting the shops.** You can pay for your goods by phone, and it means fewer people actually in the premises.

THE VILLAGE SHOP - Call 618189

PORTWAY FARM SHOP - Call 613255

THE CAKERY - Call 07570 765578

At the time of writing, the King's Head is trying to see if it can manage a take-away service. Call the King's Head on 616042, or look out for a display board there. It's quite likely that other pubs and restaurants will offer a service like this.

For other help, please call the Helpline

Events cancelled

More or less all events and meetings in the next couple of months have been cancelled or postponed. Among these are:

The Spring Show (28 March)

The Village day (was due 6 June)

The UpStagers play (end May)

Local elections

Parish Council Annual Meeting

All church services at St Leonards

Church Annual Meeting

VE Day at the BMI

... And many more

HELPERS: If you called in to offer help and haven't received a weekly message on the status, please call Andy Russell 07776 341333. It may mean we haven't got your phone number correctly, or some other error.

Web sites with local information

Here are some you could look out for:

Facebook @USL-Village-Store

Facebook @PortwayFarmShop

Facebook @TheKingsHeadUptonStLeonards

Facebook @atcoopersedge

www.usllife.org.uk

www.uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk

The last two (USL Life and the Parish Council) have a line on their home pages for announcements. Contact Andy Russell or the Parish Clerk to get a message put there.

Safety from Fraud

Nationally there have already been reports of criminals attempting to defraud vulnerable people with bogus offers of help. We are getting messages from Gloucestershire Police to be aware. Please use the published USL Helpline number. Don't respond to a cold caller offering some sort of help. If you get something pushed through your door offering help, or you hear about other offers of help, only take it up if you can convince yourself it is from someone you know, or a source you can verify.

When you use the USL Helpline, the person answering the phone will ask you suggest a password, e.g. the name of a relative, and the person then asked to help you should know that password.

SUPPORT - report so far

We have over 50 people offering to help. At the time of writing we have had less than a dozen calls for help, but more will surely come. So to those who have offered to help - we are very grateful, and you can see by the numbers here that we may not have had to call on your services yet, but we know you are looking out for others

without waiting for something to come through the helpline.

The speedy distribution of the leaflets was made possible by a number of USL Life distributors and a few others. Thanks again. Eight of those offering help are taking on the task of answering the helpline phone, each on duty for a day at a time. Costs for the helpline operation are being met by the Parish Council.

A message from Keith Pearson

As your Parish Council Chairman & District Councillor I am very proud to be associated with a village that has shown such amazing community spirit in the last few days. The actions of our Parish Clerk, Roy Balgobin, Andy Russell & Millie Barnes, to create a Community Support group, with the assistance of our local store owner Rahul Odedra, has been amazing. We must all stick together through this awful crisis and hopefully come out the other end intact.

In the meantime keep safe, look after each other, and of course be optimistic and find a reason to smile every day.

Official Notice about the Parish Council:

The Clerk to the Parish Council and the Council Chairman have carried out a risk assessment in regards to holding Council meetings and have agreed the following:

In accordance with current Government guidelines for the containment of Covid19 all Council / Committee meetings will be suspended for the foreseeable future.

The Council has implemented its emergency powers and has authorised its delegated powers to its Officer (the Clerk) in conjunction with its Chairman and Chairmen of its committees in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council Office in the Village Hall will be closed and the Clerk will be working from home and is contactable by email or phone. The Council is committed to working with its local community voluntary groups to ensure that its vulnerable residents are supported during these difficult times.

Roy Balgobin
Clerk to the Parish Council

Sandra Walklett has retired



Many of you will have asked Sandra, A La Carte Private Car Hire, to drive you around. She has been an advertiser for years in this newsletter and in the Church News before that.

Sandra says she wants to thank most sincerely her many loyal customers in the Village - you've kept her busy. She's now looking forward to not driving around!

We send our very best wishes to her, with thanks.

VILLAGE WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We say goodbye, and send our best wishes to Mike and Peggy Blanch and to Ginny Ring, moving away from the Village (but not far - they'll be seen around no doubt).

Welcome to Mark and Julie Watson, newly arrived in Perry Orchard. They've both lived in the area for many years and have often visited the Village

We'd like to make welcomes and farewells a regular feature in this newsletter. Do let us know names (and we need permission to print the names)

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What's been happening . . . (Before the big close-down)

Events at the BMI

It's been quite busy at the BMI over the last few weeks. There were two entertainment nights, 22 February and 7 March. Saturday 7th was a particularly good night with entertainment provided by Jon Clare. It is hoped to have him back again later in the year

On Tuesday 10 March, the first day of the Cheltenham Festival was shown on the big screen in the lounge during the afternoon, with a superb hot lunch provided by Alec and Mary. Everyone there had a great afternoon.

TWYVER WI

Sandy Baker reminded us that ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) was linked with us as a Gloucestershire partner charity which we are allowed to support, dedicated to helping women around the world to set up their own businesses and to ensure knowledge, such as sexual health, water supply, market gardening and education for women of low estate in countries such as India and Africa and to bring them up to a decent living standard, enabling them to provide for themselves. Find out more about supporting this worthwhile organisation on their website.

Our Speaker for the evening was Martin O'Dell, who spoke to us, accompanied by an insightful virtual guided tour of 'Berkeley Castle – my second home.'

Martin began by saying that the castle has been his obsession for many years, as a Guide not an historian, and both lives and breathes it. The Berkeley family have been in residence since Robert Fitzharding, their ancestor, completed The Keep in the late 12th Century.

One of the many well-known interesting historical facts about Berkeley is that Edward II was incarcerated here and although he is said to have met his 'end' with a red hot poker, it is more likely that he was suffocated with a heavy mattress but we shall never know what really happened; he was laid to rest in Gloucester Cathedral



at the BMI

More or less the last public event before the cancellations at the BMI was another Sunday lunch jazz session by John Beckinham and his trio. It was much liked!

In due course, once the current crisis is over, this will be a regular feature. We hope to have a jazz session every two months.

and I dare say most of us will have paid him a visit at some time. Other historical figures who have graced these walls are Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, and William Shakespeare wrote 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' for a family wedding held at the castle.

The last jester in England, Dicky Pearce, is reputed to have fallen from the minstrels' gallery and met his demise here - his tomb is in St Mary's churchyard in Berkeley.

The house of Edward Jenner, who made the life changing discovery of the smallpox vaccine, is within hailing distance of the castle.

In order to keep the castle solvent, a lot of filming takes place, as keeping these ancient buildings in good condition is very expensive. Some of Wolf Hall, The Other Boleyn Girl, Poldark and Johnny English were filmed there. The Butterfly Garden established in the 1950's also attracts thousands of visitors each year.

The Castle re-opens for the summer season on Sunday 29th March and more information on the history of Berkeley is available on their website.

A very well received and informative evening.

Happy Easter to all our members.

Linda Munnoch



The Long Drawing Room at Berkeley Castle

Upton St Leonards WI

Beautiful daffodils adorned the table at our Spring meeting. Business was brief, members being reminded of the Annual County Meeting and the box making workshop. At the Village Spring Show USL WI would have been displaying a map of Australia.

Coming up, on Tuesday 12th May we are having an outing to Bletchley Park, on 24th June a strawberry tea in Angela's garden and on Friday 11th September a wine and cheese event in Lesley's garden.

'Benefits of Reflexology and Massage' was the title given by holistic therapist Judith Humphreys. Judith retrained as a therapist after a teaching career of 25 years.

Originating well over 2000 years ago, healing and massage therapies have always been a welcome relief to many people. Feet, especially, mirror our feelings but through gentle massage, using a variety of aromatic balms, lemon, lavender, ginger etc.,



Judith Humphreys
www.judithhumphreys.co.uk

practitioners encourage the body to re-balance itself and work more effectively, promoting good health and well being. This was a very interesting subject much needed in the world of today. A very warm round of applause followed, with a vote of thanks by Marlene.

Let us keep our spirits up, ladies, by thinking good thoughts, good deeds and living happier, and hoping for more traditional local days ahead, rather than the times of difficulty we now face.

Kathy Quant

Village Litter Pick

Eight good people turned out on our annual litter pick day. Many thanks to them, and to those who actually take the trouble to pick up litter throughout the year without fanfare or a special day. Thanks to all these people most of the areas in our Village are pretty clear of litter, and the only real eyesores are the roads in - Upton Lane, Portway, Nut Hill and Birchall Lane. The latter was cleared on the litter pick day, 5 bags full. It is hoped we'll get Nut Hill cleared fairly soon.

VILLAGE DIARY

A VERY BRIEF VERSION OF THE DIARY!!

APRIL

7	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden Waste for those with brown bins
10	Fri	Copy Date for May issue of USL Life
14	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week
21	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden Waste for those with brown bins
28	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

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Keeping in touch

Are you unable to make much contact with a friend or relatives in a care home, because of isolation rules? If you have a smart phone or home computer it is fairly easy to set up a video call, using Skype, WhatsApp or Facebook (and there are other apps). The staff at the care home will know what to do at their end to connect you - ask them.

One of the the Village phone / computer clinic team can help you set up your end if you don't know how to do that:

Richard West

Jane Reed

Andy Russell

Video phone calls using these apps are free, but you need an internet connection.

And of course it goes without saying that video calls are a great way to keep in touch with anyone!

A letter to the editor

We wish to thank all those kind neighbours and friends who have offered in any way to support this couple of "oldies", (we do qualify, being 88 and 90 this year). We do feel surrounded by a wall of love. Thank you again.

Rachel & Trevor Hall

(Ed: this letter of thanks came even before the helpline was set up. Some good people were quick off the mark)

We were also asked by someone, who wishes to remain anonymous, to say, once again, how grateful she is for all the work done in the Churchyard. It is so tidy and well kept nowadays. It's a lovely place to visit. She knows it is a tremendous amount of work by a few workers very generous with their time and effort.

MEMORIES AND PHOTOS OF VE DAY

We've already received some contributions and are looking for more (use the Village Hall postbox, if you wish). They will appear in next month's newsletter. We show here a couple of items that have been sent in, not of VE Day, but memories of the period.



The picture above is of an Anderson Shelter. The picture came from Pauline Fairbrother, who is one of the girls sitting on it.

On the left is a 'Scobell Bible' presented to Rachel Hall (neé Staite) in 1946 by the Rector Revd M Salisbury. This was an annual award at the school prizegiving to the child showing "Outstanding Christian Character". (The award was named after Archdeacon Scobell who was Rector of Upton 1889-1912.)

New advertisers

We hope you spotted some new advertisers - Gloucestershire Gardens and Val's Curtains, Blinds and Cushions, and there was a request for host families for Swiss students last month.

Please consider using the services of our advertisers. Production of this newsletter is only possible through advertising income, and if our advertisers can see that their adverts bring in business, they'll keep advertising and we'll get even more.

Please let advertisers know you saw their advert here, and, as we said in the last issue, we repeat that we do want more, so if you know of a business that could benefit, ask them to consider advertising with us.

A story for the time

"Where are we going Piglet?" asked Pooh.

"We need to get supplies," said Piglet. For the Coronavirus."

"Ahh," said Pooh, nodding in understanding. "Things like bread, milk, cough mixture, tissues and cat litter even though we don't have a cat?"

Piglet did a little laugh, and a sort of leap and bit of a cough. "No," said Piglet. "No, those aren't the sort of supplies we need at all! What we need are family sized bags of chocolate buttons, massive toblerone, jelly babies and crunchies and a freezer full of stuffed crust pizzas, and all of the Prosecco that we can possibly carry, so that when we get quarantined we won't mind it even slightly. THOSE are supplies."

All of a sudden, Pooh thought that the idea of coronavirus didn't seem quite so bad, and actually, getting quarantined with Piglet and their supplies really didn't sound such a terrible thing after all. "Oh Piglet," said Pooh. "I really do think you are a very wise animal."

As they walked along they spotted Eeyore stood by a stream

watching the sticks float by....

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh, "we're off to buy supplies to sit out the quarantine, would you like to come?"

"No thank you," said Eeyore, "I'm just going to stand here, look at the stream and contemplate the economic impact of a media induced panic that several companies are projecting folding straight out of Brexit. Also the NHS being brought to its knees by a huge panic, and the social impact of people distrusting others because they look or are associated with China. People are dumb."

"Well that's sad." Said Pooh "I much prefer getting tipsy and eating pizza."

"The ironic thing," said Eeyore sadly, "is that panic induces the stress response, and the first thing the stress response does is weaken the immune system."

"Huh," said Pooh, "why would the media do that."

"I don't know," said Eeyore, "I just watch sticks."

(Originator unknown - found in a number of Facebook posts)

A	U	S	D	L	E	I	F	H	C	R	U	H	C
B	Y	Q	T	L	G	H	P	A	I	P	J	H	Y
S	E	T	I	A	T	S	L	O	T	G	X	G	A
K	B	F	A	H	N	O	C	O	R	Z	H	D	W
C	M	D	H	C	Z	L	N	F	Q	T	A	H	D
O	O	X	U	R	C	B	E	V	V	S	W	R	L
L	C	Q	D	I	B	T	W	Y	V	E	R	A	O
N	T	U	L	B	F	O	T	H	N	X	X	N	Y
I	I	W	I	L	O	R	R	O	O	A	W	C	U
P	W	S	D	D	I	G	E	U	T	R	T	E	Q
O	C	P	L	D	O	H	C	H	L	J	N	S	P
Z	A	A	M	E	Q	V	T	W	A	V	X	E	N
N	N	J	Q	O	Y	V	O	U	W	C	R	N	S
D	N	E	D	N	O	B	R	D	N	R	G	U	L
S	T	O	C	K	L	E	Y	I	Y	J	Y	Q	J

UPTON WORDSEARCH

Can you find 21 Upton street names, 4 letters or more, hidden here? The names can be up, down, forwards, backwards and diagonal. The descriptors like Road, Lane, etc. have been omitted. So in the bottom line you can see the word Stockley (Way). The list of names is at the bottom of page 14.

How many can you find before looking there?

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St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Priest in Charge: Revd Clodagh Ingram

Curate: Revd James Turk



Revd James Turk writes

What is hope? Is hope the same as wishing? Wishing is the fingers crossed desire we sometimes have that something does or doesn't happen in the future, and this has come to describe how we use the word hope in the modern world.

I used to do a bit of fishing, and when I was a boy I remember vividly the first time I went with my dad, I remember casting my rod out time after time, cast after cast, just hoping for a bite, hoping for a fish. Now I say I was hoping, but really, I was just wishing. It wasn't hoping because there was no certainty in it as I had absolutely no guarantee or assurance that I was ever going to catch anything. They were just wishes for fishes.

But hope is different from wishing because hope has an essential certainty to it. Hope is the deep core assurance of a bright future, and the world is crying out for a hope like that. I can remember having a conversation once with someone about hope, and I asked the question, do you have hope? Her reply was "I try not to have hope, so then I won't be disappointed". You may feel the same, that you lack hope because there has been so much disappointment in your life. You may be feeling like you are stuck in a cycle of uncertainty or maybe you are feeling ashamed, not good enough, all your dreams are unrealised. Or you may be feeling anxious of a work situation. Maybe your recent experiences of relationships have left you feeling fragile or jaded. But the good news that Easter brings is that hope is real, and I, along with millions of other Christians around the world, believe there exists for all of us a constant and eternal hope.

The Christian hope is about choosing to trust in God, and in his promises to us, because we believe he is the God of Hope! That is literally his name and that is who he is, and he's not about to change. Difficulties and sorrows will still come our way, but the promise is that God never changes and that the hope he brings us is infinite.

Martin Luther King Jr said this

"we must accept finite disappointment. But we must never lose infinite hope"

When Jesus came back to life on that first Easter morning,

Following guidance sent out by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, all services at St Leonard's have been suspended until further notice.

The coffee mornings and all other meetings at the church, and the MU meeting at St Oswald's have also been cancelled.

However - the Church itself will remain open during the daytime, 9am to 4pm. You are welcome to drop in for a private time of quiet in this special space in the Village.

hope broke into history. The resurrection of Jesus is the proof of heaven, the proof of more, and Jesus invites everyone of us to have an eternal relationship with him.

This Easter may the God of Hope fill you and your homes with his joy, his peace and his hope for a brighter future.

James

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk



Bishop Rachel visits St. Leonard's

On February 16th Bishop Rachel Treweek joined us for the evening communion service at St. Leonard's. It was a delightful evening and bishop Rachel led us in our worship. The readings were taken from Genesis chapter 1 and from Matthew's gospel chapter 6.

In her sermon she talked about climate change and the challenges we face. She also spoke in depth on Jesus' teaching about worry, and in her message she acknowledged the reality of climate change and our Christian response to it. But also that we shouldn't be overwhelmed and be fearful and continue to put our trust in God.

After the service tea and coffee was served and there was also cake, which is always nice. Many people stayed after to chat and to speak with Bishop Rachel

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge

Revd Clodagh Ingram

Curate:

Revd James Turk

Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

2nd Churchwarden

Vacancy

PCC Secretary:

Sarah Kent pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

Safeguarding

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

PRAYERLINE

Revd James says: "Contact me if you need prayer at this time. Many people will feel vulnerable and isolated over the coming weeks and even though our church services have been suspended it doesn't mean we can't pray for people. I'd be more than happy to receive emails of prayer requests from villagers at this time."

Tower Floodlighting - April

On 13 April the Tower Lights are lit in loving memory of Pat Caswell on this her 100th Birthday. Sadly missed by daughter Valerie and son Clive and their families.

On 27 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 Pages of USL Life is the 10th of the preceding month.

Something you can do . . .

UPTON SHOW NEWS

The annual Upton Show will be on Saturday 5 September this year, and the organisers have asked us to publish the handicrafts classes, so you can be getting on with making items to show:

- 140 A soft toy in any medium
 - 141 An item in macrame
 - 142 Dress a doll. Any medium. (Doll not being judged, just the dress)
 - 143 An article I have hand-knitted, 4 ply or less
 - 144 An article I have hand-knitted, double knitting, Aran or chunky
 - 145 An article of needlework other than clothing or toys
 - 146 A patchwork or quilted bag
 - 147 An article of cross stitch (please state size and also where the work is to your own design)
 - 148 A cushion cover in any medium – maximum size 40cm x 40cm
 - 149 An item of crochet
 - 150 A piece of handmade jewellery – any medium
 - 151 An invitation card for a special occasion
 - 152 A drawing or painting in any medium. Maximum size 305mm x 460mm excluding frame
 - 153 An up-cycled item made from an old pair of jeans
 - 154 A decorated flower pot
 - 155 An item made of wood or metal (Not from a kit). Maximum dimensions 375mm square
 - 156 A pram cover in any medium
 - 157 Write a short story of not more than 50 words, to include the following words: roses, bicycle, dog, environment, spinning, hilarious, waterfall, train
- Items entered in classes 143 and 144 must be new and unworn / unused
- £5 prize for the best short story



If you have any spare BOOKS for the book stall or UNWANTED NEW ITEMS for the Tombola, please let us have them for our fund-raising stalls. Please contact any committee member – we will collect. We will also be grateful to receive any soft toys for the TEDDY TOMBOLA


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You might have thought that the winter months would be a quiet time for the Scouts: far from it! Every week our Leaders come up with

something different for our young people to enjoy, giving them the opportunity to try new activities or polish up their skills from previous years.

Following the Remembrance Sunday parade in November, in which the Scout Group has always taken a leading role, we were soon preparing for Christmas. The Beavers and Cubs made cards and decorations followed by their parties while the Scouts put on a show which was something like a pantomime but all their own invention. Did you see the star decoration that some of our Leaders made for the Church (pictured on the back page of February's USL Life)? The Upton Beavers also found time for a sleepover at Shurdington while the Cubs spent a night at Leonard Stanley which was great fun for the children involved and for many of them the first night they had ever spent away from home – a real milestone in a young person's development.

After Christmas the Beavers were to be found walking in the dark up Nuthill, under close supervision of course, while the Cubs decided to raise some money to support the work of fellow Scouts in Australia helping communities to cope with the effect of the devastating bush fires. Villagers may have noticed the four hundred Scouts and Guides who came through the village in early

February. They were taking part in the Cotswold Marathon, an annual winter night hike which attracts entries from across Gloucestershire and beyond. It often seems to coincide with the worst winter weather and this year was no different, with the youngsters having to cope with Storm Ciara. A checkpoint had been established at the Village Hall and a team from Upton was pleased to take part and completed their 10-mile walk from Tuffley to Birdlip in 3 hours 37 minutes – a very respectable time. Older participants walked the complete 30-mile circular route which the winners managed in 8 hours 46!

At half term the Cubs went for a weekend Pack Holiday at the County Scout Centre in Cranham where they followed a busy programme of traditional activities while also working towards the new Digital Maker Badge (all about computer programming and robotics). Earlier, at the end of January, the Beavers spent the evening at the new Ninja Warrior Adventure Park in Gloucester which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

In the meantime, three of our leaders also found time to update their First Aid Training and the new Committee members have spent time learning about their responsibilities as charity trustees and the dreaded GDPR. So, the winter months have been anything but quiet and we were planning for an even busier Spring and Summer (but coronavirus has put a stop to activities for now).

Thank you for your interest and support
Paul Trott
Group Scout Leader

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This month's feature article:

Discovering Arts and Crafts

The Voyage of a new Crafter JAN PRIDAY

as observed by Linda Munnoch

Let's start with a quote by William Morris (1834-1896):
 "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful"

Even today William's designs are still loved and used for wallpaper and furnishings for the home as they are timeless, colourful and elegant. The Arts and Crafts Movement, which lasted about 60 years, came about because artists and creatives at that time were disenchanted by the mechanisation of the creative processes being introduced to society and longed for a simpler more fulfilling way of life. In today's throwaway society we have got used to the idea of buying everything and tossing it out when something else takes our fancy. We are all guilty of this and now find ourselves on a polluted planet full of stuff we cannot break down. Plastic is an example but there are other items we merrily throw out without thinking of the build up in our depots of rubbish. So, here is a project brought to my attention by Jan one evening at the Wednesday bingo session at the BMI.

Our purveyor of the bar, Jan Richings, was quietly polishing an empty blue glass gin bottle (courtesy of



Alec our Steward) when Jan P walked in and sat down. Jan is a seasoned bingo player and regular attendee of our Monday coffee mornings. Jan R walked over and presented her with said bottle and I asked what she was going to do with it? Jan P said she was making bottle lamps. So, intrigued, I pursued it a bit further and turns out she had been out and about one day at a garden centre when she saw them on sale for a tenner and thought to herself, "I bet I could make that", and a crafter was born!

What a good idea, utilising bottles that would simply be thrown in the waste!! What a great craft for an evening, simple and cheap to make as gifts, or for your own homes, and Jan has kindly allowed me to pass on her great idea to you so get cracking!

Take your empty glass bottles, plain or coloured, and re-use them. Wine bottles, gin bottles, diffuser bottles, bubble bath containers, small bottles, large bottles, and various shaped bottles – clean them out, shine them up and insert a specialised cork with string lights attached (these can be sourced on Amazon - other web sites are available) and voila! A simple idea and yet very satisfying! Both useful and beautiful.

Jan has now got the 'bug' and has begun a new project making her own cards. Who knows where this will end!?!

Thank you, Jan, for sharing this with us and happy crafting to all our readers.

Photos courtesy of Martyn Priday (see also the back page for colour shots)





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Arts Page

April showers, breezes and blossom.

Pippa's Song by Robert Browning (1812 – 1889)

The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn:
And God's in his heaven –
All's right with the world!

I So Liked Spring by Charlotte Mew (1869 – 1928)

I so liked Spring last year
Because you were here;-
The thrushes too-
Because it was these you so liked to hear-
I so liked you.

This year's a different thing,-
I'll not think of you.
But I'll like Spring because it is simply Spring
As the thrushes do.

Spring, The Sweet Spring by Thomas Nashe (1567 – 1601)

Spring, the sweet spring, is the year's pleasant king,
Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring,
Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing:
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The fields breathe sweet, the daisies kiss our feet,
Young lovers meet, old wives a-sunning sit,
In every street these tunes our ears do greet:
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!
Spring, the sweet spring!

SPRING is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade. It is the time of plans and projects. It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine.

Frances Hodgson Burnett - The Secret Garden

She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
“Winter is dead”.

A.A.Milne When We Were Very Young.

BOOK REVIEW

Little Women by Louisa M Alcott

Many of you will have seen or heard of the 2019 film of Little Women directed by Greta Gerwig. It was very successful, particularly at the Academy Awards. Whether or not you saw the film we would strongly advise that you read the book. Written in two volumes in 1868 and 1869, it was based on the childhood experiences of its author, Louisa Alcott, and her three sisters. The family had financial difficulties and Louisa wrote to support them and as an outlet for her creativity. The heroine, Jo, is creative and nonconformist as was the author. The novel addresses three major themes: domesticity, work and true love. Little Women was so successful that it was followed by sequels - Little Men (1871) and Jo's Boys.(1886).



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12		11		7	4		14	
7	22				14			13
	17	11		6	16		16	
		14				17		
16			16	19	16			6
	4	5				8	9	
9								17
	34							
10		31					4	

Have you ever tried this form of Sudoku? Good practice for your mental arithmetic and logical thinking.

When filled in, the answer will look like any Sudoku - each line, column and 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. But instead of giving you some numbers to start you off, you are given the sum of the digits that will appear in each dotted line shape. For example on the top row there is a 2-long shape which adds to 4, so this box must contain a 1 and a 3 (no other pair of different digits adds up to 4), either way round, you can't tell which until you collect more information.

Another hint: The top row has 4 boxes placed along it, values 12, 11, 4 and 14, and one with value 7 vertical. The horizontal boxes add up to $12+11+4+14=41$. The digits 1-9 that will eventually go in the top line add up to 45, so the digit missing from the horizontal boxes must be $45-41=4$. That must be in the top cell of the vertical box, and now you know what goes in the bottom cell of that box (3) and you also now know which way round the 1 & 3 go in the box that sums to 4 because the top centre 3x3 box cannot contain two 3s.

One more important rule: all the numbers in a dotted box are different.

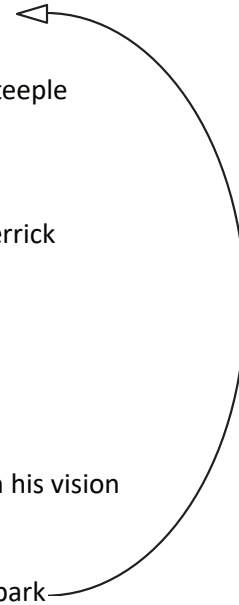
This form of Sudoku is usually called Killer Sudoku. This example was taken from the web site

www.killersudokuonline.com, which has a daily example, starting with an "Easy" one on Mondays gradually getting more difficult through the week. The one above is a Monday one! You can play on your phone or computer, and the site also has (when you select to play online on a phone), normal Sudokus of varying difficulty.

A Circular Quiz

The answers to this quiz form a circle in a way that should become obvious (and helpful in completing the harder questions).

1. USL Village benefactor
2. Artificial pitch surface
3. Bird often fixed on a church steeple
4. Where a pilot sits
5. A dog that can be dangerous
6. Large male wild animal
7. Horribly disfigured Joseph Merrick
8. Be in charge, cope
9. e.g. Six to twelve years old
10. Forest or park warden
11. Make of car
12. Taking everything together
13. No escaping this eye . . .
14. . . . but something wrong with his vision
15. Really fast
16. Old name for mercury
17. Fast growing tree with white bark



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Upton wordsearch answers, see page 7

Birchall, Bondend, Churchfield, Dirty, High, Nuthill, Oldway, Perry, Pinlocks, Portway, Rance, Rectory, Staite's, Stanley, Stockley, Twyver, Upton, Walton, Whornes, Witcombe, Woodland

List of village activities and organisations and contacts

Once a year or so we print this list. If your organisation or activity is not showing, and you'd like it included next time, or if the contact details are not correct, then please get in touch with Catherine McLean, and if we need to, we can publish corrections later. (NB phone numbers and email addresses do not appear on the web version of this issue)

ORGANISATION

Abbeydale Garden Club
 Get Together Club
 History Group
 Needles and Pins
 Probus Ladies
 Probus Upton Men (Wed)
 Probus Upton Twyver Men (Tue)
 Rabbit Club
 Stitchers Group
 The Upstagers
 WI Twyver
 WI Upton

Fitness & Senior Circuits
 Pilates
 'Rebound' fitness
 Tai Chi
 Yoga (10am Mon)
 Yoga (12.15pm Mon)
 Yoga (6.30pm Tue)

Badminton Club
 Cricket Club
 Football Club
 Petanque Club
 Tennis Club

Playgroup & Little Mouslings

Beavers
 Brownies
 Cubs
 Explorers
 Guides
 Rainbows
 Scouts

The editor next month will be Peter Wilson



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Getting out and About . . . (Eventually)



National Garden Scheme

Gardens open for charity, 2020

Gloucestershire's entry to the National Garden Scheme this year consists of no less than 75 gardens. These are private gardens that open up to visitors on various dates. Entrance money and profit from teas and other sales goes to charity. There are 5 gardens within about 3 miles of Upton, and something like 20 within a 10 mile radius. Do get out and enjoy these when things get back to normal! The booklet (pictured), which details locations and when the gardens are open is available from libraries, the Gloucester Tourist Office and online at ngs.org.uk



Jan Priday's bottles - lit up
See the article on page 12

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