

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News



Issue 92

April 2022

April starts off in the Village with the

Spring Show

Saturday 2 April 2pm at the Village Hall

Entry - £1 (50p for children)

Raffle, Refreshments

Come and see the displays of flowers, crafts, arts, photos



Join in! A walk for fun on Sunday 3 April - raising money for the School PTA.



Maps are available on the day, at the School

The Spring Show

After a gap of two years because of Covid, the Spring Show is back - do go along to this colourful display of crafts, flowers, etc.

We asked Mike Stratford to remind us about the background of our Annual Spring Show - his article is on the right.

It may not be too late to put in your own entries of crafts, flowers, etc. Forms for entries are at the Post Office or from Marilyn Bannister at 38 Six Acres.

The first Spring Show was in 1974, initially as an off-shoot of the Flower Show. It was started by a group of ladies but helped by the men of the Flower Show Committee. Those involved in 1974 were Mr & Mrs Sproston, Mr & Mrs Rumsey, Mr Edey, Mrs Stanbury, Mrs Gardiner, Mrs Tredgett & Mrs Harvey. Judges in 1974 were Miss Cridland (cookery), Mr Bill Jenkins (children's section), Mrs Burcombe (handicrafts), Mrs Pat Lewis (floral & bulbs).

The entrance fee in 1974 was 3p and 1p for children. The show made a profit of £35.

For many years now the show has been organised by the Social Committee of the Village Hall, currently led by Jackie Lord. Profits from the Show go to the Village Hall.

What's been happening . . .



The Panto!

OK - it was back in February, but this is the first chance USL Life has had to do a write up, and send the Village's thanks to the UpStagers.

Dick Whittington

From all the reports of those who attended it is obvious that the UpStagers had clearly moved up a gear or two, and those who missed the show really missed a triumph of amateur dramatics: *write a note to yourselves to look out for the next production*. Right at the centre of the success was Carol Vye's skill as the Director and her most ingenious script - yes, it wasn't something off the shelf. All performances were sold out!

Costumes, staging and effects were really good, as you can see from the photographs here and on the back page in colour. The casting and acting were well up to the best the UpStagers have ever done.

We received not one but two letters from audience members keen to let us know how good the panto had been, and there were masses of really positive messages on the Village Facebook pages. I have used extracts from the letters and Facebook in the remarks below.

Thanks to Carol & the UpStagers, for a great evening. Our family really enjoyed it like always! Well done guys & gals.

Thank you so much for such fun this evening at the Panto, our two boys front row, absolutely loved every second of it, as did we! Brilliant production. We can't wait for the next one.

That was brilliant. My partner Nick and his mum had a great time.

Went to see Dick Whittington last night at the Village Hall, an absolutely fantastic production. Amateur dramatics at its best. Well done to everyone. a great night not to be missed. Also a big Thank you to the lots of lovely helpers; refreshments and cakes were superb.

The whole cast at the final curtain call



Dick Whittington - continued

Clive Major wrote:

Offering all you expect from a pantomime, the Panto was hugely entertaining.

At the heart of the story were a Principal Boy, slapping his/her thigh in time-honoured tradition, who quickly falls in love with Alderman Fitzwarren's lovely daughter. Dick is befriended by Tommy, a precocious cat - which happily speaks so we can all enjoy his/her whimsical and amusing observations on the plot as it unfolds. The cast carried the Show forward with gusto and a hugely amusing and topical script, with local references, gave ample opportunity to entertain us. Suitably risqué and punning jokes kept us on our toes throughout.

The Show was held together by an outstanding Dolly Dumpling, as the traditional Dame, and Idle Jack who both respectively laced the script with a degree of rumbustious exuberance and pathos which added to an all-round success.

Even the inevitable need for occasional prompts produced their own spontaneous opportunities for the audience to engage with those on the stage. We all enthusiastically booed and hissed from the outset. The overall memory remains of a thoroughly enjoyable night out.

AND the costumes and scene sets were first class with slick and effective technical support. This reviewer was mightily impressed!

Mike Daly wrote:

As we arrived at the village hall, the anticipation was intense. Then the lights dimmed, and the stage was set for the opening scene. After a slightly stuttering start when the loudest voice heard was the off stage prompt, we were soon up and running. The evil King Rat encouraged plenty of vocal displeasure from the audience, and his youthful villainous partner seemed to relish the booing equally.

Dick and his sidekick cat Tommy were an excellent duo who teased out a story of love and jealousy, alongside the excellent Alice and Lazy Jack. A complex web of intrigue ran throughout as we debated who would win the hand of Alice (fortunately most of us knew it wouldn't be Lazy Jack!). After a few more serious characters came into the story to give it some heft, we were eventually introduced to the classic pantomime dame, in the form of Dolly Dumpling.

Dolly, we soon discovered, was no sheep but more a master chef who put not just the dumplings, but the meat and gravy into the panto stew and bound it all together. Dolly was ably assisted by the excellent sea-faring rogues of Captain Skull, Cross and Bones. Skull gave an impression of having modelled his performance on Captain Shakespeare, the gay pirate in the movie, 'Stardust', Similarly Cross and Bones were an unlikely pair whose comic interplay and affectations had us all hooked. How we ended up in Morocco with ghosts, Grand Viziers and Sultanas, is anyone's guess.

The songs and vocal performances were a real joy this year, with some beautiful voices given a chance to surprise and delight us. King Rat's version of the Queen rock classic 'Don't stop me now' came as much of a surprise as any, if only for his ability to keep us guessing where it could possibly go next. As one onlooker was heard to say 'I used to like that song ...' Hmmm.

Overall, this was a performance that took the UpStagers to a new level and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening, happily booing and cheering in equal measure. Well done everyone.

If this inspires you to join the UpStagers, you will be very welcome. Actors, stage managers, behind the scenes workers - the UpStagers needs them all.

They meet every Wednesday evening in the Village Hall, have a great deal of fun, and put on magnificent shows like this one.

Contact Keith Pearson to find out more.



ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT AT THE BMI

There was another great night at the BMI on Saturday 19th February. Ian Oliver, sang and entertained us on what was a very busy night. There were 80 or so members and guests who enjoyed an evening of singing and dancing and sometimes just listening to Ian, as he played a wide range of songs from the 60's right through to the present day.

The next entertainment evening will be on Saturday 30th April, with a return visit from Bak 2 Bak. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Craft 'n Chatter - February meeting

Another successful group meeting. Six ladies went on to finish their silk painting and made so many beautiful coloured scarves.

The knitting ladies are always busy and some ladies bring their own ongoing crafts - very interesting to find out some of the very clever skilled ladies we have within our group.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Our group has been approached to decorate the tops of the two post boxes in the village – one outside the Village Hall and the other one by the shops. We will discuss this project in detail at our next meeting on Thursday 31st

March. We are open to ideas, they can be completely different but it would be in keeping to design a crown. So please sort out your red, white and blue DK wool, size 4mm (No 8) knitting needles and crochet hooks. We will have a stock of wool for you all to use. Also brown wool, a rust colour, to knit the corgis. They need to be included in the project.

We are looking forward to another active meeting. Any new members welcome. £3 per meeting, refreshments included - chatter is free!

There are two tickets left for the Malvern Show on Sunday May 8th. If you are interested just get in touch for details.

Keep crafting everyone.

Anita Diana

Upton WI - March meeting

The main business of the March meeting was the AGM, and we had the reports from the Chairman and Secretary. In the past year, as well as a set of excellent speakers, we had a Harvest Lunch and a Strawberry Tea, which raised £115 for breast cancer research, and we initiated the Chair-based Pilates which has been a great success.

Angela Harris, president, Pam Ridgell, secretary and Jane

Watkis, treasurer, were re-elected, as were all the committee.

There was a special presentation of spring flowers to Margaret Jones who joined Upton WI 50 years ago. Congratulations!

We meet again on Monday 4 April in the Pavilion at 2pm, for a talk on garden birds given by David Cramp. All are most welcome.

Kathy Quant

Twyver WI - March meeting

We were fortunate to have two most informative and thought-provoking speakers, George Paton and Phil Taylor, ex-RAF servicemen, who are taking an annual challenge based on the book "The Freedom Trail" by Scott Goodall, to walk and climb along with other allied airmen and soldiers to commemorate refugees fleeing from tyranny across the Pyrenees. During the Spanish Civil War, and WWII many people climbed high into the mountains to cross the border to escape fascists and Nazis, having to climb to an altitude of nearly 8,000ft.

They return year after year to remember fallen comrades and people who died making the trek. Wreaths are laid in memory at various stops along the way to pay tribute to those brave men and women who made their way over the mountains in poorly insulated clothing, little or no equipment and many carrying their few belongings in a suitcase totally unprepared for the perils of the cold, ice and snow in their path.

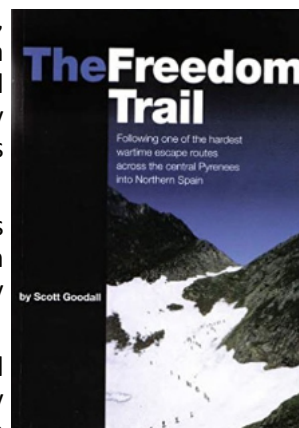
At L'Avion on day 3 of the climb, they take in the sight of a Halifax bomber 644 Sqn based in Dorset which crashed in July 1943, the wreckage of which is still strewn down the valley.

The journey takes 4 days between 5 and 12 July each year and is an arduous but, they say, rewarding journey.

We drew the obvious parallel between the situation currently ongoing in Ukraine and we see on our TVs the daily struggles that today's refugees are facing. We all acknowledged how lucky we are and thanked our speakers for bringing this home to us.

Next meeting 11th April all welcome.

Linda Munnoch





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Parish Council Report for March

We have received two grants from the County Council. One is to upgrade the old toilets in the Village Hall, and the other is funding for the Village Picnic to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Our County Councillor Sue Williams helped to secure these.

Paul Long has decided to step down from the Parish Council after about ten years in post. The Chairman gave thanks for his work and support over the years.

Speeding: It has become increasingly noticeable that many drivers (we suppose mostly people passing through) are ignoring the 20mph zone which runs from The Stanley to the School. There have been instances of near misses and cars damaged while avoiding speeders. Police will now be carrying out regular checks on this area and will prosecute anyone found to be exceeding the 20mph limit. Keith Pearson says: "I would ask all village residents to ensure we are not part of the problem. Thanks for your support."

The Parish Council took swift action on "The Tree" and its future – see page 13.



Foodbank Report

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Gloucester Foodbank, with contributions of food at St Leonard's Church and the Post Office, and cash donations.

Last year the Village sent in 1125Kg of food, 400 Kg collected at the Post Office, 291 Kg at the Church and the rest came from the School's Harvest Festival services.

As you know from the news, inflation and increased hardship means the Foodbank is needed even more. In one month alone, December 2021, the Gloucester Foodbank gave out nearly 11 tonnes of food and supplies. Please continue to give to it.

With Easter fast approaching the Foodbank is always grateful for Easter eggs and chocolate to give a treat in the Easter parcels for children and adults.

The Foodbank does have to comply with Food Regulations on the food that it distributes, so please check the shelf date on items first.

A big thank you to Rahul and Seeta, who continue to be very supportive acting as a collection point for items of food, and also thanks to the Church.

Your continued support for the Foodbank is greatly appreciated.

Dorothy Cox

The Foodbank's shopping list

Most wanted, at the time of writing, is:

- Long life fruit juice (not chilled)
- Tinned Fish
- Packets of instant mash
- Packets of pasta 'n' sauce
- Long Life Milk (not chilled)
- Fray Bentos Pies
- Pot Noodles
- Shampoo
- Deodorant

The following items are not refused but at the present time there is a good stock of:

- Dry spaghetti and pasta
- Baked beans
- Rice (long grain / Basmati etc)

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The Platinum Jubilee Party

The Picnic Fun at the Village Hall is from 2pm to 5pm Sunday 5 June

Strawberries and Cream, Cakes Teas, Coffees and Squash for everyone and this is free to all.



A Bucks Fizz stall (drinks at a small charge).

The History Group will have an Exhibition in the Annex reflecting both the Queen's Reign and 100 years of the Village Hall.



We will have a Giant Obstacle Course, Punch & Judy and Face Painting, for the children. Free.



A Ukulele Band will entertain us.

All weekend, in the Church, there will be Flower Displays in Red, White and Blue for everyone to visit.



Why not decorate your own gardens with bunting and perhaps plan your summer bedding plants this year in the Royal Colours?

Can you help make the day a success?

We need helpers, on the day, to be stewards

We need gifts of cakes

Any questions and offers of help - contact Carol Evans

Happy Birthday Your Majesty

Her Majesty The Queen was born on 21st April 1926 at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair. Not a palace or even a hospital but a townhouse. The house belonged to her Scottish grandparents the Earl and Countess of Strathmore. In 1926 the Queen and her parents moved to a bigger house in Piccadilly.

The Bruton Street house no longer exists; it was demolished in 1937 for the redevelopment of the area. The site is now occupied by an office building and a Chinese restaurant.

In 1936, after the abdication of Edward, the Queen's uncle, the family moved to Buckingham Palace.

In her reign she has seen 14 Prime Ministers.
She drives without a driving licence.
She was horse riding at the age of six.
Her favourite dogs are corgis.
She is a horse breeder.

She was a house owner aged six when the people of Wales gave her Little Cottage in Windsor Great Park.

She sends 50,000 Christmas Cards.

Before lockdown, on a low key visit to Scotland, she met some American tourists while walking. When the tourists asked if she lived locally she mentioned she had a house nearby. When asked if she'd met the Queen she simply pointed at her security and said, "No but he has."

Mike Stratford



Defibrillators

get to know where they are!

One of the Village defibrillators was used at an emergency in February, a reminder that these devices can be life-savers.

There are THREE in the Village:

- At the Pavilion (pictured)
- In the Phone Box outside the BMI
- Inside the BMI

You don't have to be trained in their use. Just open the box, and listen to the instructions! And call 999.

The BMI Presents
Entertainment & Dance Evening
with the return of our favourite
duo

Bak-2-Kab

Saturday 30 April
8pm-11pm



USL Life AGM

The AGM of the USL Life company is on
Tuesday 26 April at 7.30pm in the
Pavilion.

Anyone may attend but only members
may vote. Drinks & nibbles served!

This will be followed by the

USCAN AGM

At approx 8.15pm

Anyone may attend.

HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ

Read with me is urgently calling
for volunteers to hear primary
school children read.



Are you interested in helping
children to develop skills they need
to enjoy the future they deserve?



Do you have an hour or two to
spare, once or twice a week?

Read With Me is an organisation that recruits volunteers to help with reading. Julie Jenner is the local manager and she contacted us asking if we could let you all know about the scheme. She writes:

“Through our volunteers we hear primary school children read once or twice a week throughout Gloucestershire, including Upton St Leonards Primary School.

To enable us to grow and continue to make a huge difference to children we need more volunteers!

More details about Read with me and the work we do can be found at <https://readwithme.org.uk/> or by getting in touch with me.”

Julie Jenner
Volunteer Liaison Manager

Mrs Kat Wood at the School writes: “They are a brilliant charity of volunteers who have helped us immensely by coming in to hear our children read.”

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SUMMER SKITTLES AT THE BMI

We are arranging the Summer Skittles Competition once again at the BMI. This is a friendly competition, for fun more than anything else, with *ad hoc* teams.

If you would like to enter a team, please add your team name, contact name and telephone number, to the notice on the board in the BMI. The games will be held during June, July and the beginning of August. Most games will be played during the week, Monday to Thursday.

Further details will be given to each team captain once we have confirmation of the number of teams that wish to participate.

Village Hall Trust AGM

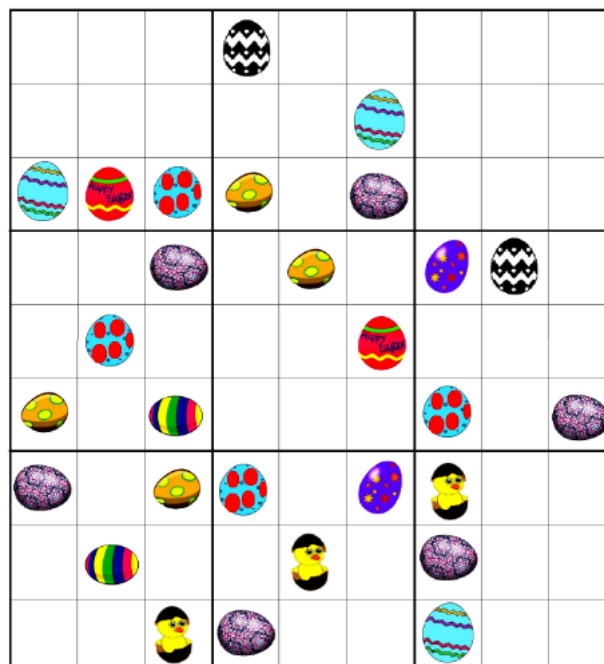
The AGM of the Village Hall Trust is on Tuesday 19 April at 7.45pm in the Annex.

Anyone may attend

Chocdoku

A bit of fun!

Maybe you thought Sudoku puzzles were something mathematical. Not a bit of it! It's all about chocolate and Easter eggs. So complete this one and then reward yourself with 81 little eggs (9 of each type).



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St Leonard's Church News



Priest in Charge: Vacancy
Interim Minister: Rev Philippa Donald

Philippa's parish days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday. Please feel free to leave a message for her on other days and she will respond when she is next in the parish



St Leonard's church
 Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Churchwarden

Gill Howell

Baptism and Wedding Enquiries

Jenny Cunningham

EASTER!

The most important day in the Church's Year

In her article on the next page Rev Philippa talks of the significance of Easter.

In 2020 we couldn't meet at Easter at all, and in 2021 we could only meet under strict social distancing rules, so 2022 will be the first full-scale celebration of the Feast, and all the days leading up to it, for 3 years!

Here's what is happening at our Church:

April 3	8.00 am	Holy Communion	April 15		Good Friday
	10.00 am	Morning Worship & Baptisms		9.00 am	Walk to Prinknash Abbey
April 7 & 8	9.00 am	School – Easter services		2.00 pm	Short service in church
April 10		Palm Sunday	April 17		Easter Sunday
	10.00 am	Holy Communion		8.00 am	Holy Communion
April 14		Maundy Thursday		10.00 am	Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Supper at the BMI followed by Communion in the Old School Room	April 24	10.00 am	Holy Communion
					We welcome Rev Ali Mepham, Senior Interim Minister in the Gloucester Diocese, as our preacher at this service

Meeting in the Community

- Thursday afternoon tea & natter in the Old School Room
- Home communions
- Open air Carol Service at the School
- Carol singing with the brass band
- January's Remembrance Service for all who have lost loved ones
- Lent lunches in the Old School Room
- Easter services at the School
- Maundy Thursday meal in the BMI
- Good Friday walk to Prinknash
- "Open the Book" Bible readings at School Assemblies
- Songs of Praise on the Village Green
- Harvest festival Service at the allotments
- Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial

You may think of the Church as a building. You may think of it as a place where you go for Christenings, Marriages and Funerals. You may think of it as a place where the religious people go for Sunday services.

The Church is much more than all those things. First and foremost, it is a group of people, part of the community, and it reaches out to the community.

Have a look at the list of activities on the left. These are all part of the Church, the community and you.

Come and meet with us at any of these activities

Look out for details, dates and times of these events in the Church pages of USL Life.



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

**Evening meal at
the BMI**

6.00 pm

Please contact Gill to reserve a place
at the meal (there will be a meal
charge)

Followed by Holy Communion
in the
Old School Room



Join us for a walk to Prinknash Abbey

Everyone is welcome to come along

We will be meeting at the Old School Room at 9.00 am to begin our walk to the Abbey following footpaths across fields to reach our destination, so please wear sturdy (waterproof) footwear. We aim to reach the abbey by approximately 10.30 so if anyone is not wishing to walk but would like to join in with prayers, coffee and hot cross buns, please meet the walkers at this time.

If you are going by car and can offer a lift to anyone please contact Gill.

There will be a short contemplative
service in Church on Good Friday at
2.00 pm

Rev Philippa's Letter

Dear friends in Upton St Leonards

There are still a couple of weeks to go until Easter Sunday, as you read this. One of my favourite things about Easter is – yes, the chocolate! I have been a fan of chocolate in general and particularly Easter eggs my whole life, and always savour that moment of biting the top off an Easter egg and tasting that sweet taste. Milk chocolate, dark chocolate, white chocolate – I'm not fussy! Perhaps you're a chocolate fan, like me, perhaps not.

A few years ago I went into the local school to lead an Easter assembly, I took with me 2 Easter eggs which I had bought at the supermarket. I put these eggs on a table at the front and asked 2 pupils to come up and crack open the eggs with a toy hammer. As you can imagine, I had lots of volunteers!

So the first pupil came up and unwrapped the egg and cracked it open with the hammer, to lots of cheers from the pupils! Inside was a little bag of chocolate buttons, which I gave to the pupil. This went down very well! To give her her due, she did say she would share it with her friends at break.

So the second pupil came up and unwrapped the egg and cracked it open with the hammer, to lots of cheers from the pupils! But inside this egg there was ...nothing. It was a hollow Easter egg. If you are around my age (64 later in

April) or maybe a little older, you might remember that in days gone by, ALL Easter eggs were hollow – there weren't bars of chocolate, or bags of sweets, or even a little toy inside them, the joy was in the eating of the egg itself and you didn't expect anything else. However, this did not go down so well with today's pupils. You could hear the collective 'Ahh' as they realised there was nothing inside the egg and the pupil who had cracked open the egg for me looked somewhat disappointed.

I told them that the fact that the egg was empty was good news at Easter! They weren't convinced.

So I explained to them how after Jesus had died on the cross on Good Friday – which they had learnt about in Open the Book – he came alive again on Easter Sunday, and when the disciples came to see his body, which had been placed in a cave, with an enormous stone covering the entrance, they found that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty.

There was nothing there! They had been expecting to see Jesus' body, and it wasn't there. The fact that the cave was empty was good news, because it meant that Jesus had risen from the dead, just like he had said he would.

The fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead – which Christians refer to as the Resurrection – is at the heart of the Christian faith.

Continued on next page

Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival

Over the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend we will be holding a flower festival starting on June 5th in the church. If you would like to make a flower decoration or arrangement or sponsor one to be made for you or even donate flowers or money, all would be gratefully received.

To enable as many people as possible to see the flowers we want to keep the church open for visitors throughout the weekend if anyone can spare some time to steward this event please contact Gill Howell (contact details on page 9.)

The theme will be red, white and blue (of course!)



St Leonard's Church News

Rev Philippa's letter – continued

Many people today just don't believe that this happened. They point out, quite rightly, that it is not possible for someone to come alive again in that way. There are certainly stories and accounts of people who have been described as dead for maybe a few moments, who are then brought back to life by medical intervention. So in one sense, there are people who have been 'resurrected.' But no-one has been laid in a cave for 3 days and then come back to life and lived some more life on this earth, walking around, eating and drinking, spending time with their friends. Only Jesus has ever done this.

Jesus came back to life to show us that he had power over death. That if we believe and trust in him, then when we die, we can go to be with him in heaven, for ever. Surely this is good news! That death is not the end, but that there is life after death, and in a place where the Bible tells us there is no illness, or tears, or suffering or pain.

It's hard to believe in something as strange as the idea of someone coming back to life in the way Jesus did, or in the idea that we can live on after death, and we don't

know all the details of how that will actually happen. But the Bible tells us that's what faith is all about.

In the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, in chapter 11, it says:

"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."

We all hope for good things, both in this life and the next. My prayer for you this Easter is that your faith, however strong or weak, assured or wobbly, will be strengthened by the good news of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the knowledge that, with belief and trust in him, we too can have eternal life.

At the end of the assembly I let the slightly disappointed second pupil take away the cracked pieces of the hollow Easter egg to share with his friends, too!

With love and my prayers for a very Happy Easter, from
Rev Philippa

At the World Day of Prayer on March 4th at St Augustine's Matson, the Lords Prayer, in Welsh, was read by Margaret Stewart.

Margaret wishes to thank all her friends and neighbours who, by their help and support during and after her stay in hospital, enabled her to feel well enough to participate in the service.



HOME COMMUNION

Most of our weekly services at Upton St Leonard's church are Holy Communion services.

But if you find it difficult to get out and about, we can bring Holy Communion to you in your home. It does not matter if you have not been to church for a long time. It does not matter if you are in

difficulties of one sort or another. It does not matter if you feel that you have been 'good enough'. Jesus welcomes everyone to receive the bread and wine to strengthen them for whatever they are facing in life. It is a wonderful privilege as an ordained minister, to be able to offer communion to all those in our Parish and community and to pray for them.

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home at any time, please contact Rev Philippa (contact details on page 9)

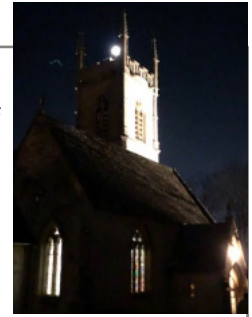


For many years a team of volunteers from church have gone into St Leonard's Primary school on a regular basis telling (and acting out) stories from the Bible which have been specially written for young children.

The visits had to stop during COVID due to all the restrictions, however the team are hoping to restart after the Easter holidays. We could do with a few more people to add to our 'cast' and if you feel this is something you may like to be involved in please get in touch with one of the team - Mike Stratford, Dave & Val Knight or Rachel

Middleton – any of them would be pleased to hear from you.

Meg James who has been a valuable part of the team as actress, story teller, wardrobe mistress and props supplier, and good all rounder has decided it's time to retire from her story telling duties. You will be sorely missed Meg but a big thank you for all the time and effort you have put into this worthwhile cause and there will, of course, always be a space for you should you realise you miss the 'roar of the crowd' and decide to come back.



Tower Floodlights for March & April 2022

On the 6th March, the Church Tower was lit for John Baker in remembrance of the anniversary of his passing and on the 12th March for his birthday. With love from Carol and family.

The Tower Lights will be lit on the 18th April in remembrance of Dr Frank Hakim being the fifth anniversary of his death, a dear husband, father and grandfather. Kindly sponsored by his wife Margaret and the family.

27th April, in remembrance of Norma Brinkley, whose birthday it would have been on this day. Kindly sponsored by her son, Alan.

The Church Tower will be lit on the 28th April in memory of my daughter Tracy on her birthday. With love and happy memories from all the family.

To sponsor the tower floodlighting in memory of a loved one, please contact Jenny Cunningham. There is no set charge - just donate what you feel is appropriate for you. *Please note the deadline for inclusion in the Church pages is the 8th of the preceding month.*

Who's who in the Parish Church

Church Treasurer - Vacancy

Safeguarding

Sue Downey

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

USL Life (Church pages), Pew News and Website

Rachel Middleton

Mothers' Union

The February meeting was well attended and commenced with the deferred AGM from January. The business was quickly got through in time to enjoy the speaker, Kate Thompson, Vice President of Gloucester Diocese Mothers' Union. Her long membership of Mothers' Union had taken her to many places in the UK as well as visiting the linked Dioceses of Karnataka and Dornakal in Southern India. She had served as Marketing organiser, selling of MU goods, visiting families for AFIA (Away From It All scheme) and the talk about her experiences on the way was very entertaining.

Next Meeting

Thursday 21 April

Margaret Edwards

"Gloucester City Mission"

Kate Gale - Branch Leader

St. Leonard's Church

Annual Parish Church Meeting

The meeting will take place on

Sunday 24th April

after the 10.00 am Holy Communion Service

In the Old School Room

★ *March 500 Club Winners* ★

★ 1 st Prize	£30.00	★ No. 31
★ 2 nd Prize	£20.00	★ No. 39



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The Tree



Storm Franklin split the right hand oak on the Village Green, making it unsafe. As soon as possible it was cordoned off and the upper branches were trimmed back to what you can see in the picture on the left, with ropes around the split in what remained. Then in mid March the rest of the boughs were removed leaving just the main trunk to a height of 12 foot. This will have its bark removed and the trunk will be left to dry out and season, after which the Parish Council hope to turn it into a sculpture, where it stands.

The tree won't be replaced, but a semi-mature Red Oak tree will be purchased and set in the Glebe Field to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The "passing" of the tree evoked lots of reaction, and here we have a poem by Ted Gardner and a piece by Linda Munnoch about the event:

Oh Dear! – a poem by Ted Gardner

The oak tree on our village green has split right down the centre,
Cursed by the wind of a recent storm whose name I cannot remember.
It was planted many years ago at our good Queen's coronation,
Twas a sapling oak, thought by many folk to cause a notable sensation.
Now since '53, for you and me it has stood in all its glory,
But its time has come, what's to be done? Now that's another story.
The outer branches have been trimmed, it's looking rather bare,
We can only stand by the safety fence and look across and stare –
At a mighty oak that all the folk thought was always going to be there.
I guess in time it will be replaced by another of its kind,
Just to remind us, like you and me, we are only here one time.

The Tree – a piece by feature writer Linda Munnoch

Monday 21st February - Storms Eunice and Franklin have wreaked havoc all weekend and a little R & R in the welcome atmosphere of the morning coffee club beckoned.

The happy buzz of friendly chatter was interrupted by Keith Pearson announcing that the oak tree on the village green was injured. The room fell silent as he told us a large ominous crack had appeared down the trunk and it was going to be assessed for damage and critically, whether it was dangerous or not and we should all give it a wide berth until this could be carried out. A fence was set up around it for safety. We carried on the morning and obviously the conservation of the tree was very much on people's minds.

Thursday 24th February – time for afternoon Tea & Natter at the Old School Room arrived – it's so good to get out and just meet friends and neighbours again!

Ted and Mary and friends are occupying a table next to our group and my ears prick up when I hear talk of The Tree. Information has reached us by now that the tree, and its twin, were planted in 1953 in honour of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, how apt that we should be celebrating her Jubilee this summer. Now, according to T & M who are born and bred in the village, the green wasn't actually the Village Green at the time the tree was planted. At that time there were no houses on Bond End and apart from a few houses either side of Churchfield Road the vista was open fields. There was a half circular wall and space now known as the Garden of Memory and stone plaques which are still visible placed to commemorate WWII, to go with the WWI Memorial on the opposite side of the road. Ted and Mary spent many halcyon days as children playing in the fields and have wonderful memories of their childhood before 'progress' took over and building began.

Oak trees are a powerful symbol of Britain. Our sailing ships were constructed from the strong timbers and the wood has been used over the centuries to produce magnificent carvings, furnishings and building material. Sadly, this oak will no longer be cradling wildlife in its arms but we will be talking about The Tree for a long time.

"This oak tree and me, we're made of the same stuff" - Carl Sagan



Upton Show

This year the Upton Show will take place on Saturday 10 September.

Get Planting!

There will be many classes for vegetable, fruit and flower competitions as usual. Lots of you are busy planning and planting in your allotments and gardens - so if you are a regular entrant in the show you can get some guidance here, and if you are not usually an entrant maybe this article will inspire you to try!

The vegetable section has classes for all the usual items, and even one for "any other vegetable" - that takes care of everything! There are novice classes for those who have never won a first prize before. And of course there are those special classes: heaviest potato, heaviest onion, longest runner bean, heaviest marrow, largest pumpkin by circumference.



In the fruit section there are classes for dessert apples, culinary apples, pears, plums, rhubarb, blackberries, autumn raspberries and any other fruits, plus a prize for the heaviest culinary apple.

In the flower section, as well as more general "flowers of your choice" there are classes for cosmos, Rudbekia, many rose and dahlia classes, sunflowers, gladioli, fuchsia, orchid, hydrangea, succulents and cactus. Again there are novice classes.

There is also a section for young gardeners : radishes, carrots, runner or French beans, cress, tomatoes, courgettes, sunflowers. There are two age groups for young gardeners.

The full schedule and class details will become available on the Show's website* and information on other classes will be seen in later issues of USL Life, including handicrafts, flower arrangements, photography and children's sections.

*uptonstleonardsshow.com

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Motorway Airborne Pollution

Tony Pryce – USL Parish Council Motorway Working Group

The problem of motorway noise needs no introduction, it blights our lives on a regular basis and has done so for years. But what about the air-borne pollution associated with it? Is this a threat that needs to be addressed as well?

Whilst motorway traffic creates many different types of pollutant, two are thought to pose particular health problems: nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and the tiny airborne particles known as particulates. Stroud District Council assure us our level of nitrogen dioxide is within prescribed limits, however it does not measure particulates, so the Parish Council has been exploring ways in which our level of exposure can be established.

With generous assistance from local firm *Enviro Technology Services Ltd*, we have been measuring the level of particulates in the back garden of a property at Woodland Green, and the results covering a five-week period are reassuring. The UK Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 limit particulates according to size: those less than 10 micrometres in diameter (PM10), and those less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter (PM2.5). For the period under review the average PM10 reading

was 13.8 µg/m³ (statutory annual average limit 40 µg/m³) and the average for PM2.5 was 6.8 µg/m³ (statutory annual average limit 25 µg/m³). There were occasions when readings spiked above the permitted annual average, however there is good reason to believe these are not sufficient to be of concern, and to test this assumption we are planning a repeat of the monitoring exercise in the summer of 2022.



Duncan Mounsor, Managing Director of *Enviro Technology Services Ltd* with the air pollution monitoring equipment.

Let's have a coffee together . . .



In the March issue of USL Life we featured the new place to meet and have a hot drink at the Portway Farm shop, and very nice it is too! Of course you knew of them, but we thought we might point out, for balance, the large range of nearby places to go with a friend for a cup of tea or coffee or chocolate or whatever. So there is:

- Monday coffee morning at the BMI
 - Any afternoon at the BMI
 - Tea 'n natter in the Old School Room on Thursday afternoons
 - Prinknash Shop and Café
 - Portway Farm Shop
 - Morrison's Café & Abbeymead Community Centre
 - Coopers Edge Community Centre
 - The Rococo Gardens Tea Room
- . . . and of course you could treat yourselves to a fabulous full tea at Bowden Hall or Hatton Court.



The Painswick Music Society organises a few concerts every year (now in its 76th season), usually on Saturday afternoons in St Mary's Church. We mentioned the March 26th concert in our March edition. These concerts bring internationally known musicians to Painswick – it's amazing to realise these high quality performances take place so near to us.

The four concerts this year are:

- > Saturday March 26 - 3pm - The Carducci String Quartet, with Clare Hammond (piano)
- > Saturday April 9 - 3pm - Jess Gillam (saxophone) and James Baillieu (piano)
- > Saturday April 30 - 4pm - Voces8 - Choral Music Celebrating Regeneration
- > Saturday May 14 - 3pm - Iyad Sughayer (piano)

Tickets are £23 or £20 depending on which concert, and there is a discounted season ticket for £55

Arts Page

Following a period of low mood and restrictions, we have looked for poems and sayings this month which reflect hope for the future. The book we recommend caused us to smile and laugh as we read. We hope it lightens your days too.

A GLASS OF WATER by May Sarton (1912 – 1995)

Here is a glass of water from my well.
It tastes of rock and root and earth and rain;
It is the best I have, my only spell,
And it is cold and better than champagne.
Perhaps someone will pass this house one day
To drink, and be restored, and go his way,
Someone in dark confusion as I was
When I drank down cold water in a glass,
Drank a transparent health to keep me sane,
After the bitter mood had gone again.

Extract from THE BUILDING OF THE SHIP by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years

In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, ----- are all with thee.

Thoughts

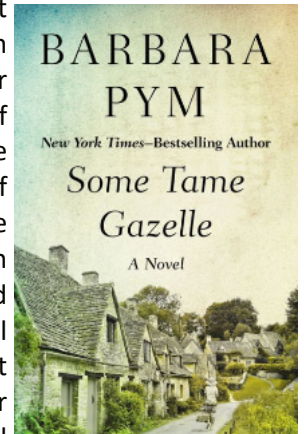
On the cause of the present discontents
To complain of the age we live in, to murmur at the present possessors of power, to lament the past, to conceive extravagant hopes of the future, are the common dispositions of the greatest part of mankind.
Edmund Burke. Statesman. 1729 – 1794

From Elements of Common Law
Prosperity is not without many fears and disasters; and adversity is not without comfort and hopes.
Sir Francis Bacon. Lord High Chancellor of England.
1561 – 1626

Book Review

Some Tame Gazelle by Barbara Pym

Barbara Pym is a master at capturing the subtle mayhem that takes place, in the pre-war years, in the apparent quiet of the English countryside. *Some Tame Gazelle* was the first of Pym's nine novels. Pym wrote some of the novel in 1934 when she was a student at Oxford University. It was not well received but she later revised it and it was accepted for publication in 1950. The novel details some months in the life of Belinda Bede, a spinster in her fifties who lives in an English village. Her younger sister shares her home and the two women observe and take part in village and Church life. There is a lot of irony and gentle humour in this slim novel – an easy read for April.



... And from our own Village Poet, Ted Gardner:

A HINT OF SPRING

I look out of my window to a view I've seen before,
The woods are turning from brown to green, maybe
winter is no more.
The snowdrops in full blossom and the crocus too,
The days are longer and the sun seems warmer too.

It's a hint that spring is coming and the grass will soon need a mow,
The veg plot will need weeding so the seedlings can poke through.
Are we saying goodbye to the season of damp and rain,
And hopefully saying warm hello to a lovely spring again?

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APRIL

3	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
4	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
5	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week, and garden rubbish for those with brown bins.....		
5	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
5	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15am
5	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
5	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
6	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
6	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
7	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
10	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
10	Sun	Copy date for May issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
11	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
12	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15am
12	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
12	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
12	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
13	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
13	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
13	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
14	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
17	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
17	Sun	Easter Sunday		
18	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
19	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week and garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
19	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15am
19	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
19	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
19	Tue	Village Hall Trust AGM.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.45pm
19	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
20	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
20	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
20	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
21	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
24	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
25	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
26	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
26	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15am
26	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
26	Tue	USL Life and USCAN AGM.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
26	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
27	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
27	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
27	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
28	Thu	Craft 'n Chatter.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.30pm
28	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
30	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm

MAY

2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
9	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
9	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
10	Tue	Copy date for June issue of USL Life		
15	Sun	Sunday lunchtime Jazz.....	BMI.....	1.00-3.00pm
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
18	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
19	Thu	History Group – Howard Carter – Ian Crowe.....	Village Hall.....	7.45pm
26	Thu	Craft 'n Chatter.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.30pm

JUNE

5	Sun	Jubilee Picnic.....	Village Hall	
6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
11	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
25	Sat	Summer Quiz.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
29	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
30	Thu	Craft 'n Chatter.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.30pm

To place an entry in the Village Diary, please contact Paula Quinn

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Brickhill	07876 764425
Yoga	Wednesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Sylvia Bennett	07921 591521
Yoga	Fridays 10am	Pavilion	Sylvia Bennett	07921 591521
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Helen Osborne	07872 941324
Seniors Fitness NEW	Mondays 10.30am	Pavilion	Helen Osborne	07872 941324
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

New Fitness Class

Helen Osborne (who runs the chair-based Pilates class) is starting a new class: **All-over Body Fitness for Seniors**. She writes: "With the popularity of my Chair Pilates at the Pavilion, I'm really excited to announce this new class on Mondays 10.30- 11.15am. Please give me a call on 07872 941324 to find out more and enrol. It is a 6 block session, for £40."

Football Club Report



The 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons were greatly affected by the pandemic, and though some games were played, promotions and relegations didn't happen. So this season saw the first competitive leagues for some time, and the season is drawing to a close.

Upton's first XI play in the giddy heights of Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Division 1 - the highest Division they have ever been in. It looks as though they will comfortably finish mid-table - at the time of writing they are 6th of 16, Won 9, Drawn 4 and Lost 9 games.

The reserves play in the Stroud and District League Division 2. They are in 11th place of 13 at the time of writing, with a record W6 D0 L13, so they are in a scrap to avoid relegation.



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This month, very sadly, we have obituaries for three Villagers

Glenda Buck

1948-2022



Glenda and her husband Gerald moved into Perry Orchard in the 70's with two young girls. Glenda became involved in the Playgroup and other activities in the School and Village. When the girls were older, she took a job at Gloucester Library and continued there until retirement. More recently she joined the team that ran the Get Together Club. Glenda died in February after a brief illness.

Spencer (John) Hemming

1931-2022

John and Lesley first lived in Perry Orchard and then bought Upton Mill in 1967. They ran a Livery and Riding School and their children, Andrew and Sara, were born at the Mill. John later developed a business supplying sports medical equipment. He enjoyed keeping pigs and hens and growing vegetables. He and Lesley were staunch supporters of the Village Show. He loved people and conversation and always had time to talk. Recently he and Lesley moved to a bungalow near the school.



Roger Fitzsimmons

1930-2022



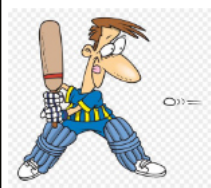
Roger and his family moved into Six Acres in 1968. At that time he worked in the City Architects Dept. Later he re-trained as a speech therapist in the NHS. He became interested in helping people with brain injuries and set up the first Headway House in Gloucester in 1983. In 1995 he was awarded the MBE for services to healthcare. Roger leaves his wife of over 70 years, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Tennis



The lighter evenings mean that the Tennis Club's Tuesday evening members meetings at the Rec resume (6pm). If you want to join the Tennis Club do go along to one of these meetings or contact Rod Kirkpatrick.

Cricket



April sees the start of outdoor practices and the first cricket games. Adult nets are on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. Just turn up at the nets on Tuesdays if you want to join the club to play in the adult games.

Coaching for youngsters is on Thursdays from 5pm. Contact Andy Russell. Junior places are rather limited - we already have many on our books.

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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Andy Russell
Barbara Swindin
Peter Wilson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman
Treasurer: Owen Stinchcombe
Feature writers: Christina Caldwell
Linda Munnoch
Ann Morphew
Jane Reed

Church pages: Rachel Middleton
Clubs / Societies / Organisations: Catherine McLean

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Pam Tickner
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Next month's editor

Peter Wilson



Contact via the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page

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Colourful costumes for Dick Whittington, pictures from our photographer Jim Browne (who is, of course, in the frame, top right.)

On the bottom right, the Dame meets an audience member after the show. Picture by Jadine Emma Huxtable.



The UpStagers

Look out for their next performance!

Facebook: @TheUpStagersUSL