

# Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

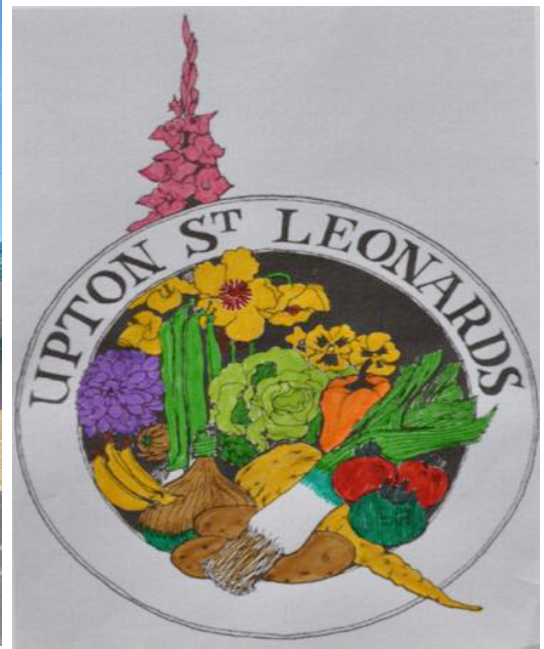


Issue 96

August 2022



Fancy THE Simon Pegg bumping into one of our own villagers, Mike Quinn, whilst at Glastonbury!



The Upton Show is nearly here!  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

## News in this issue



Craft 'n' Chatter Group News - See page 4

- The Upton Show, 10 September - details inside - page 6
- Former USL resident, Simon Pegg, Hollywood actor, screenwriter and comedian plays a GCHQ boss in Channel 4's 'The Undeclared War' - see page 2 for details.
- Local author launches suspense novel inspired by Gloucester - see Rachel Sargeant's email to the USL Life Team - page 2.
- Coffee Club is 6 years old this month! See page 4
- History of Robinswood Hill - Part 2. See pages 14 and 15
- Portway Farm Shop - new Fishmonger service. See page 4

## EDITORIAL



Well, here we are already half way through the summer, looking forward to holidays, either staycations or venturing to foreign lands - maybe? For those of us for whom that is not an option, TV dramas continue to excel and entertain. Former USL resident, Simon Pegg, Hollywood actor, screenwriter and comedian has been featuring in a recent production in Channel 4's 'The Undeclared War' where he plays a GCHQ boss in 2024, where a leading team of analysts buried in the heart of GCHQ secretly works to ward off a foreign cyber-attack on the country's electoral system. Outside the UK of course, Simon is well known for being in 'Mission Impossible' and being a close friend of Tom Cruise!

**Andrea Dawson**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Upton St Leonards Life Team

I am writing to let you know about my new novel which features settings inspired by Gloucester. I am an Abbeymead-based author of psychological thrillers and police procedurals.



Under the name 'Rachel Sargeant', my novels with HarperCollins have sold worldwide and been translated into other European languages. To date, I have achieved sales of over 100,000 copies. The first two chapters of the first book, Her Deadly Friend, take place in the 'Georgian Gardens,' a fictional location based on Painswick Rococo Garden. I wrote the scenes during several visits there. Readers familiar with the real garden will spot some of its features described in the writing.

Her Deadly Friend is the first title in the Glevetham Killers Suspense series. Written as 'Rae Sargeant' and published by Hobeck Books, the series will see DI Steph Lewis investigate cases that take her across the Gloucester area. I would be delighted to provide more information if required.

Best wishes  
Rachel Sargeant

[www.rachelsargeant.co.uk](http://www.rachelsargeant.co.uk)  
Twitter: RachelSargeant3

## Cat Sitter Wanted



I am looking for a cat lover to care for my 10 year old female cat in your home while I am abroad for 3 months this winter. Affectionate cat that likes company but she would be stressed if there were other animals in the house.

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## What's been happening in Upton?

### USL LADIES PROBUS

We had a last minute change of speaker for our June meeting but John Buckley filled the gap admirably with a slide show of various topics,

all of which held our interest as we asked for more!

Judy Jackson kindly stepped into the vacant slot for our July meeting.

Our August meeting is called Show & Tell by Evelyn Walton. There will be

a display of patchwork quilts and lots of tips. Please come along and join us at the BMI at 10.30am on Wednesday 24 August 2022.

### UPTON ST LEONARDS WI

Upton St Leonards afternoon WI had 17 Members attending. We heard 'The Tales of a Travel Rep' from our speaker, Pamela Holland. She explained that a Travel Rep has to know the History, Geography, be ready with First Aid, and have a multitude of organisational skills. She must be friendly, caring, and be ready to help with money changing. Certainly, Pamela was entertaining, humorous and knowledgeable. She had worked in the Canary Islands, Northern Italy, Turkey and Naples. She loved her work, and was inspired by the clients that she met on each tour.

We viewed some wonderful photographs of historic sites of the First World War in the Trento Region of Italy. Apple blossoms and mountains looked so wonderful reflected in the Italian Lakes. Photos of Vesuvius and the Mediterranean Sea brought back so many memories for those who had visited these regions. Marlene thanked her for us all.

The Business part of our Meeting then followed with tea and cake. Our next informal meeting will be on Monday 8th August - 3pm-5pm. It will be 'A Garden Tea' to raise money for our Centenary Fund, to be held at

4, High Meadows, The Wheatridge, GL4 4DG. Tickets are £10. For further information and tickets contact Angela or Pam. The Fish and Chip Supper on the Gloucestershire/Warwickshire Steam Railway on Thursday 15 September will cost £18. This sounds a lovely evening out! Tell Pam ASAP if you wish to come.

The 5th September Meeting will be a Talk by Alan Pinnegar on 'The Great Western Air Ambulance', 2.00p.m. at the Pavilion. New Members always welcome.

*Helen Thorn*

### TWYVER WI

Our speaker for the evening was Pamela Holland who is well known in the travel industry. She took us on "A ride along the Amalfi Coast" from Campagna down to Naples, Ischia and Sorrento which lies in the middle of the Milky Mountains, so called because of the delicious milk and cheeses which are prolific to the area. The road began to appear along the coastline over 750 years ago and is now a UNESCO world heritage site. Fruit and vegetables are sold all the way down the coast, grown in nearby carefully tended

gardens. Many Roman villas were built along this stretch and the area has been a magnet for the rich and famous over the past couple of centuries. Film stars such as Greta Garbo and Humphrey Bogart, and writers such as John Steinbeck made the coast popular.

Over the years there have been storms, tsunamis and plague which have devastated some of the populations, but the people of Amalfi have survived and diversified their way of living, from making paper to developing modern day tourism and producing ceramics,

pasta, anchovies, and even silk worms. Pamela's inspiring commentary was well received by everyone.

There will be no official meeting in August but there will be a social event to be advised. Twyver WI is planning a WhatsApp Group which will enable members to receive information regarding events and to have more personal contact with one another.

A discussion took place regarding a weekend away in London from 7-9th October re a Knitting and Stitching Show; more information to follow.

*Linda Munnoch*

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## What's been happening in Upton (continued)

### Coffee Club Anniversary



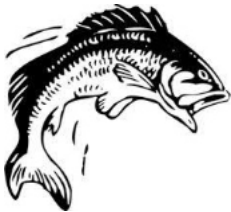
On 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 the Monday Morning Coffee Club held its first meeting at the BMI. Right from the start it was a great success and this success has continued (except for a break because of Covid) and on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> August we celebrate our 6th anniversary.

This popular weekly meeting has been maintained thanks largely to our wonderful band of organisers, Mike and Marilyn, Mandy and Gill, who are always there to welcome us, give us our name badges, ply us with biscuits and remember our birthdays.

We meet at the BMI club by courtesy of Lorraine and Brian and enjoy very much having our coffee and tea served to us. It is significant that we meet on Bank Holiday Mondays when many other activities are closed. This Bank Holiday meeting is very much appreciated by those who may be on their own that day. Starting with approximately 20 attendees, now it is not unusual for numbers to reach 50!!

May the coffee morning continue to flourish so that we can all look forward to experiencing "that Monday Morning feeling".  
**Ann Morphew**

### Portway Farm Shop



Portway Farm Shop have recently introduced a new service - Fresh Fish!

A local Fishmonger will be stationed at the farm shop every Wednesday from 1pm - 2.30pm. In the 1980's the village used to enjoy a weekly fishmonger so now we have gone full circle and 40 years later - fresh local fish is back on the menu!!

### Craft 'n' Chatter



We had a busy and exciting Craft Group meeting at the end of July. As a group, we are now concentrating on making a variety of craft items for our stall at the Upton Show on Saturday 10th September. These items will include beaded key rings, worry worms, hand painted silk scarves, knitted cowls, scarves and hats. Also hand knitted colourful kitchen dish cloths and Fish face cloths. Extra items to sell will be marbled labels and notelets.

We will be kept busy for the next few months. Any ladies who would like to try any of these crafts, just come along to the School Room on the last Thursday of the month at 10am and join us. You will be made welcome

by our friendly group of ladies. **Next meeting: 25th August.**

**Anita Owen and Diana Rosewell**

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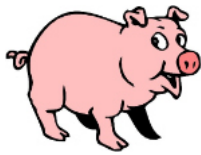
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## What's coming up in Upton - continued?



### UPTON ST LEONARDS ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday 10th September 2022



We hope you are looking forward to this year's show, which we hope will be just as successful as last year but we can't run it without more volunteers. In particular we need people to help on the day with the refreshments and really need donations for the Tombola, book stall and cakes for the refreshments.

If you can offer any help on the day or have donations we could use, please contact Kate Brooks

**Schedules and entry forms are available from the  
Village Stores, Portway Farm Shop or Kate Brooks**



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# SPOTLIGHT ON A LOCAL BUSINESS - CHURCHFIELD AUTOS



My name is Ashley Naylor and my wife, Emma, and I and our 2 kids, have lived on Churchfield Road for the past 5 years. We are regular readers of the USL Life magazine!

Churchfield Autos Ltd is a used car sales operation, founded in 2021 and is located on a former petrol station forecourt on Oxstalls Lane, Gloucester.

After being furloughed from my previous job, I started the business by buying and selling used cars from my driveway on Churchfield Road, hence the business name. You may also notice that the company logo is none other than the church in Upton St Leonards which I sketched and took to a company to get my logo designed. I have a

history of 20 years running sales teams for prestige main dealers and have now grown Churchfield Autos from a driveway hobby to a fully-fledged business operating from a dedicated forecourt and have just celebrated my first anniversary of becoming an official incorporated business.

At Churchfield Autos Ltd we sell high quality used cars which are all independently inspected and well prepared to make sure they are reliable and trustworthy. To date we have received nothing but 5 Star reviews on both Google and Facebook and pride ourselves on being an open, honest and genuine used car company with whom you can feel confident doing business.

Feel free to check out the website [www.churchfieldautos.co.uk](http://www.churchfieldautos.co.uk) or the Facebook page which is [www.facebook.com/churchfieldautosltd](http://www.facebook.com/churchfieldautosltd) where all stock is regularly updated. We also buy cars so if you are interested in selling your car, please get in touch.

We are open on a flexible appointment basis seven days a week and can be contacted by phone, text, email or WhatsApp - details of which are all on the website.

**Ashley Naylor**  
**Director | Churchfield Autos Ltd**

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# July 2022 Parish Council Report for USL Life

## Speeding Cars



As mentioned in previous reports, the Council have been looking at the use of Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) to help keep through traffic within the speed limit. An application was recently submitted by the Council bidding for possible County Council funding to purchase VAS units.

If successful the intention is to acquire 3 units which will be focused on the Churchfield Road area and The Portway. Any progress will be reported in USL Life once a response is received. The Council thanks our county council representative, Susan Williams for her support with our application.

## Allotments

A discussion took place regarding several allotment plots which are in breach of regulations (not being looked after). Those holders will be written to and need to either tend their plots properly or hand them back to the Council who will offer them to those on the existing waiting list.



## Pavilion



The council are currently trying to find suitable contractors so they can tender for the work involved in repairing the render on the top half of the building.

## Oak Tree on the Village Green



After considering several quotes to carve the remains of the Oak Tree, the Council have decided to use part of the tree to create a Jubilee Bench with the remainder being used to host a carving of an owl. Thanks to those residents who responded to our request for themes. By keeping the approach simple, this has significantly reduced the potential cost. In total for the two items, the cost will be £2000 (£1500 from the Council and a generous £500 donation from the Village Hall, for which the Council is most grateful).

*Peter Wilson*

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# St Leonards 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*

### Churchwarden

Gill Howell

### Baptism and Wedding Enquiries

Jenny Cunningham

Dear friends in Upton St Leonards

I'm writing this letter for the August magazine, on a day in July when the sun has been hot and the temperature high, with a fresh breeze, but then yesterday we had rain. Don't you just love British weather?! Where have the seasons gone? I'm sure when I was a child seasons did what they were supposed to do – winter – cold, Autumn – windy, and so on. And summer was HOT! Can you remember what you were doing in the summer of 1976? (that REALLY hot summer) I was taking my A levels, and just about frying in doing so.

One of the highlights of the summer for me, even if the weather isn't very good, is to go, with our caravan, to the Christian conference called 'New Wine' for a few days, held on the East of England showground, in Peterborough. This is a time of worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship, relaxation and friendship, and prayer ministry – praying for each other and being open to the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us.

The first New Wine Christian Conference was held in 1989 and attracted nearly 2,500 people. Nowadays New Wine attracts around 30,000 delegates over two weeks and Soul Survivor (a similar event for young people) attracted over 35,000 young people over a period of three weeks. There are also a number of New Wine conferences held around the UK and abroad each year.

I love attending this conference for a number of reasons

- I spend a whole week worshipping God – heavenly! (excuse the pun)
- I learn lots of new worship songs and enjoy singing some old favourites too.
- I hear some excellent talks, and seminars on a very wide range of topics – Bible study, living the Christian life, topical subjects that the Church is debating, prayer and so on.
- I spend some money in the excellent Christian bookshop!
- I get to spend time with old friends and make new ones
- Most mornings at the mid-morning break I have a 'hot chocolate mountain' – hot chocolate with all the trimmings; whipped cream, marshmallows and a Flake – and only £2!

I always come back refreshed, inspired and challenged about my faith and my Christian life. It's important to be challenged about our faith on a regular basis or we can fall into the danger of thinking we have it 'all sorted', especially if we have been Christians for a long while and have been doing things the same way for a long time.

During the week God always brings to my attention, through the worship and prayer, things that I need to look at in my life – perhaps an attitude that is not honouring to God, perhaps a bad habit that I have fallen into, perhaps someone I need to forgive, or ask

## St Leonards Church News

forgiveness from. Or it might be a challenge to my work – to give more financially, or study more, or concentrate for a while on a particular area of ministry.

Being in God's presence and conscious of his wonderfully unconditional love for me always compels me to want to love others in the same way, and so each year I pray the Holy Spirit working in and through me will help me to do that more and more.

So I go to New Wine expecting God to challenge me and teach me and lead me on in my Christian walk, and bless me with his presence And he never fails me.

The faithful love of the Lord never ends. His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh every morning.

Lamentations 3 v 22 and 23.

I'm now half-way through my time with you as your Interim Minister here in Upton St Leonard's – 9 months in the past, 9 months to go! As I spend time away with God at New Wine this summer I will be keeping you all in my prayers. As we talk and pray about the future of the church and the fellowship, after my time here, I pray that everyone will have their ears and hearts open to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, for his will to be done in this place, and his name to be glorified.

With love and prayers,  
*Rev Philippa 12*

### Services for August 2022

August 6th	Wedding of Jamie Egerton and Tracey Freeman
August 7th	<b>NO 8.00am Holy Communion</b> 10.00am Holy Communion 12.00pm Baptism service
August 14th	10.00am Holy Communion (we welcome Rev Richard Inglesby to lead our service on this day)
August 21st	10.00am Holy Communion 12.00 Baptism service
August 28th	10.00am Holy Communion

July 10th was a very special day for a very special lady, Rachel Hall. It was her 90th birthday and in church she was presented with a lovely card and bouquet of flowers. We all sang Happy Birthday and she proceeded to tell us about how St. Leonard's church has been such an important and integral part of her life. She has been christened in the church, confirmed in the church and married in the church. Following the service and over in the schoolroom there was a special birthday cake for her and after singing Happy Birthday again we all enjoyed some of her delicious cake. Congratulations to Rachel on reaching the milestone of her 90th birthday.



If you are unable to come to church and you would like to receive Holy Communion at home at any time, please contact:

Rev Philippa



## Tower Floodlighting 2022

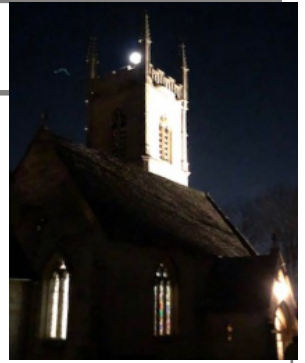
The Church Tower is lit on August 4th in loving memory of my dear husband Pete on our wedding anniversary, Jenny x

On the 11th August, we remember with love and happy memories, Chris, partner to Phil, a loving daughter of John & Evelyn, sister of Jenny and Tone, and a much-loved Auntie. Loved and missed by us all x

On the 12<sup>th</sup> August, the Church Tower is lit in celebration of the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charlie Davies, kindly sponsored by his Nanna, Brenda Davies.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Church Tower will be lit for Alan Williams on the fourth anniversary of his death. With love and thanks for many happy memories. So very much missed by Myra and all the family.

The Church Tower is lit on the 26<sup>th</sup> August in memory of Keith Davies on his birthday, sponsored by his loving wife Brenda.



**Please note the deadline for the Church pages is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month contact Jenny Cunningham if you would like the Tower lit for a special occasion or to remember a loved one**



The coffee morning on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June in aid of the Samaritan's Purse shoe box appeal was well supported.

Thank you to everyone who went along to support this charity

A total of £165.00 was raised

*Thank you*



Donations for the shoe box appeal are always gratefully received and if you would like to donate any items, including shoe boxes please contact Jenny Cunningham for more information.

National Collection Week is 14-21 November 2022

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk>



### SONGS OF PRAISE ON THE GREEN

We are planning to re-instate this lovely occasion to enjoy an open-air service, accompanied by a brass band. Sunday 18 September at 4pm. Check the next issue of USL Life to confirm!



In June members enjoyed an afternoon of poetry written and performed by Pauline Farman, a Mothers' Union Trustee from Cirencester. Her odes proved to be very amusing and entertaining. She is also an avid "Litter Picker" and if you are near her home area you might see a council recycling lorry with her face on the side advertising keeping the local area clean and tidy!

Mary Sumner founded the Mothers' Union in 1876 and she is commemorated by the Anglican church on August 9th. In celebration the Gloucester Diocese will be holding their annual picnic, the first for three years due to COVID at the Millennium Hall, Bishop Road, Shurdington, GL51 4TB at 2.30pm. Members are asked to bring their own chairs and picnic; drinks will be provided. The afternoon will finish with a short service at 4.30pm. It is always a very happy occasion and a chance to meet members from all over the Gloucester Diocese and there is plenty of indoor space should the weather be inclement.

*Kate Gale - Branch Leader*

Summer Hymn Quiz

Here are some lines taken from well-known hymns – can you identify the hymns?

1. In our wanderings be our guide
2. Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing
3. Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
4. My head thou dost with oil anoint
5. Flowers of earth and buds of heaven
6. We are his folk, he doth us feed
7. Songs be in every mouth
8. Who walkest on the foaming deep
9. Bring me my chariot of fire!
10. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven.

Answers in September Issue

Rev Philippa

**Mothers' Union supports Eastwood Park prison, and they need any kind of greetings cards fronts for their "Rubies" craft group. They are used to make new ones to send to their friends and family. If you have any please could you bring them to church and put in the Mothers' Union Box below our noticeboard, thank you.**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£30.00	25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£20.00	57



**No Tea and natter during August**

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# Abbeydale Garden Club

This month's meeting is on Monday, 15th August where we will be holding our Mini Show. Members please bring along your exhibits according to the Schedule below. Please wait until the hall is set up before bringing in your exhibits. Visitors are most welcome; please come along and be inspired by the wonderful produce and plants that we have come to expect!

## MINI SHOW SCHEDULE 2022

- 1 Flowering Pot Plant max dia. pot 8"
- 2 Foliage Pot Plant max dia. pot 8"
- 3 Single Stem Rose
- 4 Multi Headed Rose
- 5 5 Fuchsia head pinned to a board
- 6 5 Different Flower Stems in Water
- 7 3 Hosta Leaves – any variety – in container
- 8 Tied Bunch of fresh herbs – not in water
- 9 6 Raspberries – with calyx – on a plate
- 10 3 Potatoes
- 11 3 Onions
- 12 3 Carrots – leave on 76mm/3 inches of stalk/leaves on top
- 13 3 Beetroot – leave on 76mm/3 inches of stalk/leaves on top
- 14 6 Runner Beans
- 15 5 Cherry Tomatoes – with calyx
- 16 3 Tomatoes – with calyx
- 17 3 Rhubarb Sticks – leave on 76mm/ 3 inches of leaves
- 18 Club Entry – Potted Sunflower – seeds supplied

**In each class of fruit/veg the variety must be the same**

### Photographic Competition – Maximum size 7" x 5" Judged by Members

- 1 Purple Flower
- 2 Any Garden Insect with 6 Legs

### Handicrafts – Judged by Members

Anything made by you and not entered previously



## VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Village Hall social committee is a small group of people which organises the three main events, held at the hall during the year. These events raise funds towards the upkeep of the hall. They are:

- the Spring Show in March/April, which is coming up to its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary;
- the children's quizzes (two of them) around May time, which have been going since 1986
- the November 5<sup>th</sup> firework event, which has probably been going since Guy Fawkes was arrested!



We desperately need new members, as some members of the committee are looking to reduce or give up their roles. If we do not have enough people then these long standing village traditions will have to cease. At present there are six committee members. We need some younger people with new ideas, to whom we can pass on the information before we retire.

It is not a huge time commitment. We have about six meetings a year, in the spring and autumn, which usually last about 2 to 3 hours. Men and women are very welcome. PLEASE consider joining us, we are very friendly and can be flexible on meeting times and days, for those still working

For more information contact Jackie Lord

# **A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROBINSWOOD HILL: PART 2**

## **1. THE USES OF THE HILL**

### **1.1 Iron**

The chief employment in Gloucester before the Norman conquest was the making and forging of iron. This carried on until at least the reign of Henry IV (~1400). The ore was in great abundance on the hill. Reference is made in the documentation to the "red quarry," the term red was used because this was the colour of the stone, being associated with oxidised iron. This may be the major excavation to the South of the hill but there are also small quarries on the East side of the hill on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> holes of the golf course.

Red is the name of the well on the East side of the hill.



There is no evidence such as scoria or cinders from the hill, suggesting that there were no forges there.

### **1.2 Agriculture**

Sheep were kept on the hill in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century with the introduction of dairv cattle by the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.



At that time, the hill was used mainly for agricultural purposes.

Arable cultivation declined from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the estates,

particularly in Tuffley, included a large proportion of permanent pasture in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the hill was described as being predominantly grassland and was still used mainly for agricultural purposes. The soil was described as rich and fertile and produced an excellent kind of herbage, even during the driest seasons.

In 1790, George Selwyn's estate consisted of a number of plantations, which he had started.

In the later 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Matson estate consisted of three large farms, Larkham (now the golf course), Robins and Winnycroft.

### **1.3 Water Supply**

It is well known that the springs on the hill supplied water to the City over many centuries, initially as a result of the initiative of the Religious Houses.

There was an aqueduct carrying water from the hill to the City before ~1350. A supply to the Abbey was established in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. A reservoir was built around this time. In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, the monks of Grey (Franciscan) Friars were also granted a

right to take water from the hill. However, this led to a conflict with the Abbey and the matter was resolved after intervention by Edward, the Black Prince, in 1357, shortly before he died. The pipe supplying the Friary was to be one third of the size of that to the Abbey.

As distribution within the City increased, there was a shortage in supply which led eventually to an Act of Parliament in 1542, in the reign of Henry VIII which required the mayor of the City and the Dean of the Cathedral to take action to improve the supply.

The City corporation bought the pipeline from the hill, along with the Grey Friars' share of the water, in 1630.

This need to supply water was reinforced in 1740 in the reign of George II and, again, by William IV in 1840. The City had a contract with John Selwyn who, at the time, was the owner of the estate with the springs, effectively to ensure a supply of water to the city. The city had the right to break into the water supply "in case any sudden or accidental fire shall happen within the said city for supplying their engines other instruments for extinguishing such fire". They agreed to make good any damage.

It is reported that Selwyn built reservoirs as a result. In 1826, Viscount Sydney made enquiries about possible improvements to supply. However, Viscount Sydney did not proceed with any of the proposals, the cost (£6000 then) probably being prohibitive.

The transfer of ownership of the water works, reservoirs, ponds, water houses, engines, aqueducts and pipes to the Gloucester Water Company took place in 1859.

During the civil war, the King's army decided against an assault on the city. Instead, they limited the supply of water to the City by cutting the pipes from the hill and diverting the streams from Upton St Leonards (the Twyver and the Sudbrook).

### **1.3 The Wells**

It was recognised that the spring water contained dissolved iron. The red well, which is on the Eastern side of the hill, close to St Katherine's Church, is so named because of the colour of its water. The water from the well was taken by the inhabitants of Gloucester as it was reputed to cure ailments. The spring is still flowing today and the red/brown in the water is still apparent.

On the Eastern slopes of the hill are the Well Cross and the Well house, also known as the Monk's Well.

**Continued . . .**

**2. ROBINS WOOD HILL OR ROBIN HOOD’S HILL?**

In earlier times, the hill was named Robin Hood’s Hill. The Acts, discussed above, refer to the hill as such. It has not been possible to establish where this name originated. One possibility is that it is associated with William (of) Nottingham who gave land to the Abbey in 1470. Another suggestion is that the hill “may have been the rendezvous of youth to exercise in archery at festival”.

During the Gloucester siege, the army collected in “Tredworth Feilde, near Robin hoodes hill”.

In 1788, George Selwyn leased Robin Hoods farm to a Thomas Butt. The name was in evidence in 1796 in property transfers. The will of Charles Church in 1830 showed he lived in Robinhoods Hill Cottage with a Robinhoods Hill address. Maps of 1624, 1824 and 1826 clearly show the hill as Robin Hood[e]s Hill.

However, Atkyns, in 1712, states that “The Family of the Robins’s, sometimes called Bowher, have been ancient Teneants of this Mannor [of Matson]. The Scite of the Mannor of Matson was in the Robin’s [estate] and the high Hill in the Neighbourhood was called Robins’s Wood Hill.” It adds “There is another Hill at Church Down, about 3 Miles distant, arising in like manner in the midst of the Vale, and these two are called Robin Hood’s Butts”.



In the Act of Parliament passed in 1836 by William IV, the area is defined as “near to a Hill called Matson’s Hill otherwise Robin’s Wood Hill (in the said Act [of George II] called Robin’s Hood Hill)”.

The first Ordnance Survey map of 1817 by Colonel Mudge has the hill as Robins Wood. A request to Ordnance Survey as to why this name was used led to the response

that they get all of their naming information from traditional convention (i.e. its always been called it) and/or the Local authority naming.

It has been suggested that the name reflects the Robins family because they owned land on the hill, that it was called Robins Wood initially but this was changed, by popular etymology, to that of Robin Hood of the ballads.

I have concluded that this change in name from what was Robinswood Hill to Robin Hoods Hill seems unlikely:-

- Most of the hill was pasture and arable land until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The only woods on the 1799 Inclosure Map of Matson are Grove Wood and Ashcroft Wood, near Matson House and which are still there today. There is no mention of a Robins Wood
- Ownership of the hill on the Matson side was with the Selwyn’s at the time of the name change
- All historic references to the hill have the name Robin Hood’s. The first mention of Robinswood is by Atkyns and even there Robin Hood is mentioned. Further, there is some recorded evidence that Atkyns may not be accurate in some instances
- All Maps up to around 1817 have the hill as Robin Hood’s Hill. A Map of 1824 still has the name Robin Hood Hill
- All addresses up to that time are at Robin Hood’s Hill
- The first Ordnance Survey Map of 1817 uses the name Robinswood Hill – because this was what they were advised, for some reason, was the common name at the time. It is likely that this is the start of the name Robinswood as used today.

**Jeff Dawson**



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# Arts Page

This month let us not be too serious – let’s look at poetry and literary thoughts through a humorous lens.

Ebenezer Jones (1820-1860) was a poet whose work was savaged by critics during his lifetime. In 2010 he was called ‘the worst poet in the world’ by a Daily Telegraph journalist. However, the poem **High Summer** by Ebenezer Jones, about a hot day in the countryside, is pleasantly evocative.

I never wholly feel that summer is high,  
However green the trees, or loud the birds,  
However movelessly eye-winking herds  
Stand in field ponds, or under large trees lie,  
Till I do climb all cultured pastures by,  
That hedged by hedgerows studiously fretted trim,  
Smile like a lady’s face with lace laced prim,  
And on some moor or hill that seeks the sky  
Lonely and nakedly, - utterly lie down,  
And feel the sunshine throbbing on body and limb,  
My drowsy brain in pleasant drunkenness swim,  
Each rising thought sink back and dreamily drown,  
Smiles creep o’er my face, and smother my lips,  
and cloy,  
Each muscle sink to itself, and separately enjoy.

**William Topaz McGonagall** (1825-1902) was a Scottish poet of Irish descent who became famous as an extremely bad poet. He was not concerned by his peers’ opinions about his poetry and he wrote about 200 poems, including “The Tay Bridge Disaster” and “The Famous Tay Whale”. These are widely regarded as some of the worst poems in English literature.

*Beautiful Railway Bridge of the Silv’ry Tay!  
Alas! I am very sorry to say  
That ninety lives have been taken away  
On the last Sabbath day of 1879,  
Which be remember’d for a very long time.*

## The Tay Bridge Disaster (extract)

## SOME THOUGHTS ON BOOKS AND READING

I never read any novels except my own. When I feel worried, agitated or upset I read one and find

the last pages soothe me and leave me happy. I quite understand why I am popular in hospitals.

## Dame Barbara Cartland

The good ended happily, the bad unhappily. That is what fiction means. Anon

There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That’s all. Oscar Wilde 1854-1900

A thick old-fashioned, heavy book with a clasp is the finest thing in the world to throw at a noisy cat.

## Mark Twain 1835-1910

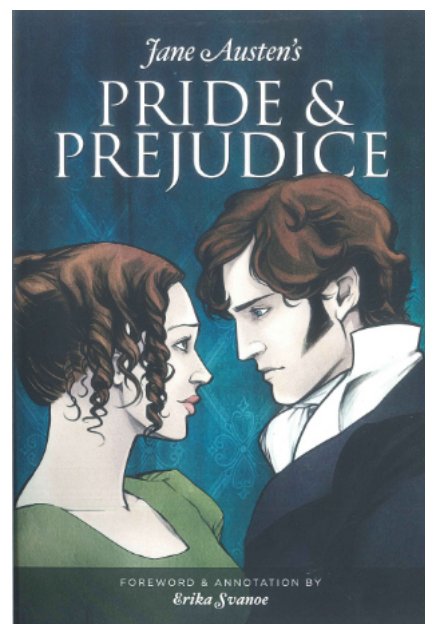
And finally .....John Betjeman, Poet Laureate, discovered what he considered to be “the most terrible line of verse” - from Australia : “And lo! The sword was pocked with wombat holes”.

## BOOK REVIEW WITH A DIFFERENCE

This being August – the holiday month – there is no need to read our recommended novel which is Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.

## IT CAN BE SUMMED UP IN 25 WORDS OR SO:

*High principled woman who is not so superficial as to be taken in by wealth and good looks chooses the rich, handsome and shaggable one anyway.*





## AUGUST

1	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
2	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
2	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
2	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
2	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
3	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
3	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
3	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
4	Thu	NO Tea and Chat in August		
7	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
8	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
9	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
9	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
9	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
9	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
9	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
10	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
10	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
14	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
15	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
15	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
16	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
16	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
16	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
16	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
17	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
17	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
17	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
20	Sat	Pig Roast	BMI	7.00p.m.
21	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
22	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
23	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
23	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
23	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
23	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
23	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
24	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.30a.m.
24	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
24	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
25	Thu	Craft & Chatter	Old School Room	10.00-12.30p.m.
28	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
29	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
30	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
30	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
30	Tue	Tennis	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
30	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
31	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
31	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
31	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.

Please turn to next page

## SEPTEMBER

5	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Sat	Copy date for October issue of USL Life		
10	Sat	Upton Show	Village Hall	2.00p.m.
12	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Thu	History Group – “The River Twyver” – Paul Drinkwater	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
17	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
18	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00p.m.
18	Sun	Songs of Praise on the Green	The Green	4.00p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Centre	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
21	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.30a.m.
24	Sat	Autumn Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
29	Thu	Craft & Chatter	Old School Room	10.00-12.30p.m.

## OCTOBER

3	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.

### 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	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	Resumes in September	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227
Stagehoppers	Resumes in September	Village Hall Annex	Amanda Williams	07737 500769

## Looking Back in Upton History to Another August

Going back to August 1915, the First World War had been raging for nearly a year. Men from Upton had already died and there were plans to form a Volunteer Regiment to encourage men to join the Army. There were also plans for a Boy Scouts' Camp which would include some familiar Upton names. There follows two extracts from The Parish news of August 1915.

### Gloucestershire Volunteer Regiment

In July a meeting was held in the school with a view to starting a Corps of volunteers in Upton. At the meeting 50 men attended as well as women and boys. Capt J D Birchall was in the chair and he told the meeting that every eligible person should enlist. Training would include shooting, trench digging and signalling.

The training would consist of 1 or 2 evenings drill per week, scouting, and an occasional route-march. No medical examination was required. Mr Matthias at the unanimous wish

of the meeting under took the duties of Hon. Secretary. Then 30 names were recorded wishing to join. Four people aged between 14 and 17 also put their names down.

Sadly a number of those attending this meeting were later to enlist in the Army and would die later in the war. On a happier note a Boy Scouts' Camp was also being planned. “The camp was to be held from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to the following Saturday. A site had been obtained between Birdlip and Miserden. The following members of Troop 13 hope to attend: Patrol Leader L. Jackson, Second F. Monk, Scouts J W D Birchall\*, H Wasley, B Thurston, C Yeates, W Bridgeman, C Little and A Broadstock.”

\*Sadly, John Birchall was to die only a year later while attending Eton.

“The Camp is not in order to give the boys a cheap holiday, but to train them in discipline, usefulness, and the Scout Law. The food will be in plenty, but plain and nothing luxurious.”

The programme included:

07.30	Reveille; wash and dress, Biscuits.
08.30	Breakfast, wash up, make beds.
10.00	Prayers then instruction in Scouting.
12.30	Dinner, wash up. Afternoon games
17.00	Tea
	Evening Free Time - no Scout is to leave the Camp.
	Camp Fire and sing song.
20.45	Prayers
21.00	Bed
21.30	Lights Out - NO TALKING!

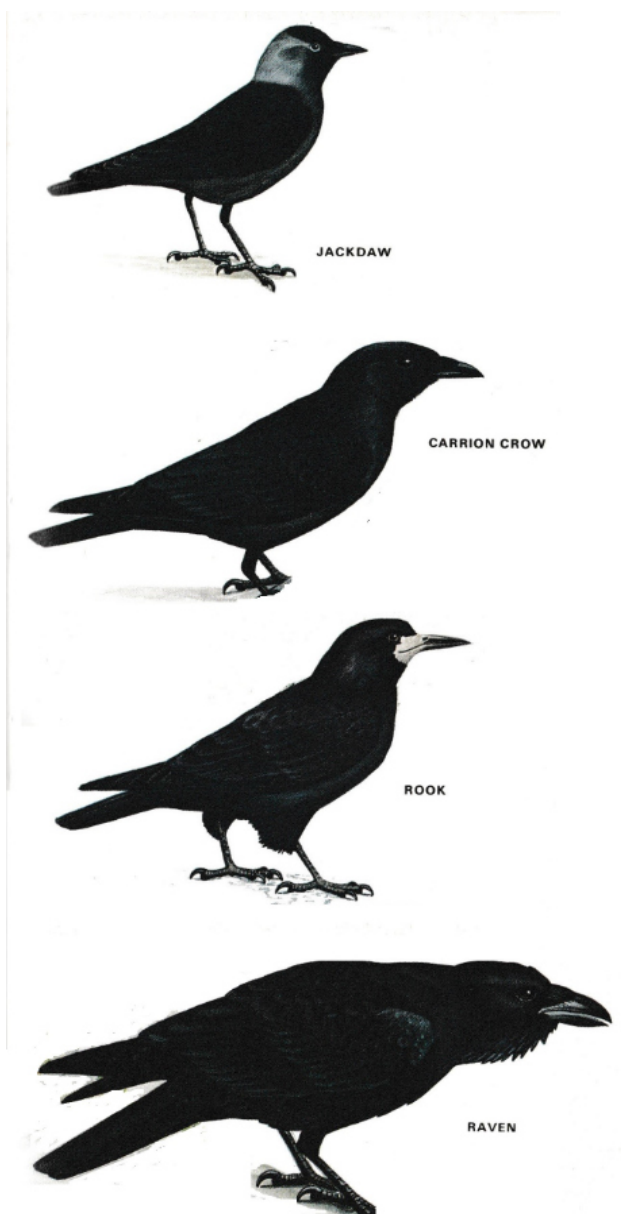
I wonder what Upton Scouts are doing this August?

August 1915 War raging;  
August 2022 War raging in Europe;

What will History record for this year?

**Sourced by Linda Munnoch,  
courtesy of Mike Stratford**

## Hundreds of Jackdaws



June evenings in Upton St Leonards have been enlivened this year with large noisy flights of jackdaws. Most years, near my house, we see maybe up to 50 or 100 on the grass in the fields by day, looking for insects, or sitting on roof ridges and chimney stacks. This year however, we seem to have probably four times that number, seen mostly at dusk in June, looking for a tree to roost in for the night. Noisy! Jackdaws have a sort of cluck sound, some describe it as “tchak”, saying their name. And when a few hundred are sitting in a tree near you, it can be very loud. There are some photos and videos of the jackdaws this year on the USL Community Facebook page. Why, I wonder, has this year suddenly seen such an increase? The dominant bird sounds now as I walk around are the clucks of the jackdaws. I was in Sandhurst village recently one evening, and there were hundreds of jackdaws there too.

About 30 yards from my house is a large oak tree – the one on the path between the Perry Orchard allotments

and High Street. For many years now at the top of this tree there has been a crow’s nest and I would enjoy watching a pair in spring re-building the nest, fighting off other crows. Then I could sometimes see one of them sitting on the eggs. Once the eggs hatched, I would see the adults taking turns to stay with the chicks while the partner went off to find food, and then in May and June I would see the family group, the young ones flying rather ungainly at first. All the while attacking gulls, jackdaws and others that ventured near the nest, though they ignored pigeons and smaller birds. This year started off in the same way, and I believe they got as far as laying eggs. But the nest was abandoned and the tree was taken over by jackdaws – I think the sheer number of jackdaws was too much for the crows.

A quick guide to identifying members of the crow family common in the UK:

**Magpies and Jays** are well known. Magpies are black/white/blue & green. Jays are even more colourful: brown body with blue, white and black features. The other members of the crow family are mostly black in this country.

**Jackdaws:** we have plenty of jackdaws in Upton, they gather in flocks, smaller than other black crows, slightly grey head, smallish beak.

**Carrion crows:** we also have plenty of carrion crows, or more commonly just called crows. These are definitely not sociable. You will see one or two on their own, or maybe a small family group in early summer, calling out with the rough “caw”. They aggressively fend off other birds, so you can often see a couple of crows chasing off gulls, buzzards, jackdaws, other crows. Crows are quite a bit larger than jackdaws, with a big black beak.

**Rooks:** Though there is an area of Upton named Rooksmoor, as far as I am aware we don’t have any permanent rooks in the immediate area, just occasional passers-by. They are the same size as crows, but have a large pale grey beak and cheek patches. Rooks are gregarious and many gather together to nest in rookeries. The same sort of caw as crows, and where there is a rookery, it is obvious, because the sound can be deafening.

**Ravens:** The largest of the black crow family in Britain is the raven. Ravens tend to stay near hills and woods, and up to 2019 there was a pair nesting in the woods near Painswick Beacon. They soar and glide like buzzards, whereas all the other crow family flap their wings most of the time when flying. I haven’t seen ravens here since 2019. Ravens have a very deep croak, unmistakably different from the carrion crow’s higher pitched one. I have omitted choughs and hooded crows which are found in the UK, but not near Upton St Leonards. The picture shows the relative sizes of jackdaws (12” from beak to tail), crows and rooks (18”) and ravens (24”).

**Andy Russell**

# Notices

## Obituary

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dave Quinn of Woodland Green. Dave died peacefully with his family around him on Saturday 9th July. His funeral will be on Friday 5th August in St Leonard's Church at 11.00a.m.



## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Greetings to all the nonagenarians living in Perry Orchard

Rachel Hall - see the Church Pages for a full report.



Ruth Edgington and her twin sister Sylvia Warren (née Allen) were also born on the same day as Rachel Hall, on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1932. Quite an amazing coincidence really!

The Allen babies were born at Oak Villa, High Street, just behind the house where Ruth has lived since the mid-1960s.

Ruth's son Matthew provided the photograph of the girls in the 1930's. Ruth is on the left and Sylvia on the right.

## Congratulations



Many congratulations to Andy and Mary Russell on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary



## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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## Next month's editor

Peter Wilson



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