

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 108

August 2023



If you're going on a summer holiday in August, have a lovely time!

BUT

If you're staying in Upton, here are a few things for you to think about and to do!

Upton St Leonards Annual Show at the Village Hall
Saturday 9 September
2.00 - 4.30 pm



The UpStagers Amateur Dramatic Society proudly presents

UPS

A Murder Mystery Night

DYING FOR A WEEK


by: Ian McCutcheon

at
Upton St Leonards Village Hall
10 Bondend Road, GL4 8AG

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Thursday 10th – Saturday 12th August 2023
Doors open 7pm – Start: 7:30pm

Tickets £15 per person, café style seating
Come along and guess whodunnit
A fun night which includes a 2 course supper – Bar Available
BOOKING IN ADVANCE ONLY



Just 40 days before the 2023 show begins and still plenty of time for you to decide on your exhibits!

We look forward to welcoming you to one of the most popular events in the Upton St Leonards calendar for an enjoyable afternoon.

The schedules are available on the Upton Show website, at the Village Store and in the Portway Farm Shop.

We would be grateful to receive donations for the bottle stall as well as cakes for the refreshments.

We will also need volunteers to set up on the Friday and Saturday and to clear up after the event.

Please contact Kate Brooks
Show website:- uptonstleonardsshow.com

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If you use any of the services provided by our advertisers, please mention that you saw them in USL Life. They can then understand the impact of their advertising. Thank you

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Guest Suite to rent in USL

Newly available: Delightful ground floor Guest Suite. Central to the village. Lovely views. Private parking. Perfect for visitors whatever their needs. No dogs. For details call 01452 621741 or 07815 197375.

View from the french windows

Editorial

Welcome to this edition of USL Life. We are delighted to announce that the wedding of one of our editors, Pete Wilson, has recently taken place. Pete and Jo tied the knot out at sea on a cruise ship! Congratulations to them both and may they have many years of happiness together. See more on the back page of this newsletter. Meanwhile, here in Upton, we offer our congratulations to Marilyn and Mike, Gill and Mandy, who set up the Weekly Monday Morning Coffee Club seven years ago. See page 4.

This month we have a request for help with our Football Club, news of forthcoming but temporary road closures, and a reminder from one of our esteemed elderly residents that if you are or know anyone who is a carer, please do tell them about the Carers' Hub which can give really useful help to anyone in that demanding situation. Call 0300 111 9000 or contact carers@people.plus by email to receive regular copies of their highly informative magazine. Thanks to Trevor Hall for this useful tip.

Last, but by no means least, preparations for the Upton Show are now upon us and we join the Committee in asking for your support.

Barbara

Are you a carer?

Anyone local who is looking after a disabled, sick or frail person may benefit from the advice and support of the Gloucestershire Carers Hub.

Contact The Hub at Omega House, Bonds Hill, Stonehouse GL10 3RF or call them or send an email. See Editorial for details.

Just get in touch and you will be surprised at how much support there is out there.

UPTON ST LEONARDS AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

Can you spare some time to help?

We have started pre-season training and numbers have been very good with 30+ at every session so far. Our First team will be in Stroud League Div 2 and our Reserves will be in Stroud Div 4. Our 13s will take part in the Cheltenham Youth League and the U16s will participate in the Severn Valley Youth League.

We are looking for an U10's manager/coach for a side we are looking to start as well, so if you would like to help, we would be very grateful. Please contact us.

If any of the village want to follow/support us on our social media pages, we are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok (USL_AFC). Nathan

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF VARIOUS ROADS

Gloucestershire County Council, as traffic authority, intends to make an order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) to temporarily close and restrict part of the roads as detailed in the Schedule below.

- **Bondend Road to Nuthill (74 metres)**
- **Bondend Road No. 90 (22 metres)**
- **Bondend Lane to Bondend Road Jemima Cottage (15 metres)**
- **Nuthill, The Coppice to Hilvertsheem (15 metres)**

The reason for the closure is for new electricity supply work.

The Roads are expected to be closed between 1st August 2023 and 25th August 2023, where the presence of approved signage will indicate whether the closures are in force. Further advance warnings of dates/times will be displayed on site prior to the closures and restrictions taking effect. The order can permit the closure and restriction of the Roads in any order, or simultaneously as required. For further information, please contact Gloucestershire Highways on 08000 514 514 or visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Alternative Route – As signed on site. Emergency and Pedestrian access to adjoining properties will be maintained.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE UPTON SHOW ON FRIDAY 8 AND SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER.

See front page for details.

What's been happening?



MONDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB

Monday Coffee Club. BMI. 10am-12noon

On Monday August 1st 2016 we had 29 people turn up to our first Coffee/Tea morning.

7 years on and it is still going strong (a regular 40+) giving the Village Community a place to start their week for couple of hours in a warm, relaxed, welcoming place to catch up with new and now long standing friendships. We don't have any speakers, just people talking/laughing amongst themselves, sharing stories, reminiscing, chatting about any topics, sport etc., and over these past years enjoying the social side of being together has been a blessing and a life link. Time flies by when you are enjoying yourself.

We would like to thank the BMI Committee, Lorraine & Brian for letting this weekly event continue. If you feel like calling in, come & find us in the lounge bar any time between 10am & Noon on a Monday. How long you stay is up to you, whatever fits in with your day, any appointments or other commitments. There is no adult age limit (it's just a number & we are all young at heart), free parking, free biscuits, you buy your own drinks. Look forward to celebrating 7 years (minus 18 COVID months) & many more to come.

Love Gill, Mandy, Mike, & Marilyn.

LADIES PROBUS

The talk for the June meeting of Ladies Probus was given by Mr Gerald Buck, who included some amazing slides as he gave us an insight into the lives of the inhabitants of Tristan da Cunha, an isolated island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean which takes a week's sailing from South Africa to reach. We had a fascinating picture of how hard life can be – beginning with disembarkation, which involves climbing over the side of the ship using draped netting before jumping into the arms of the crew awaiting below in a small boat to take passengers &



VILLAGE HALL AGM

On the 9th May the Upton Village Hall Trustees held their Annual General Meeting. The Chairman Keith Pearson was re-elected for a further year, but indicated that this would be a final year for him, so plans would need to be made to find a new Chairman. Mrs Jackie Lord who has been a Trustee for many years and Chair of the Social Committee also for a very long time, has stepped down due to other commitments, but offered to help on an ad hoc basis when free. The Trustees thanked her very much for all her sterling work.

All other Trustees agreed to continue and were accepted unanimously. A few members of the Community Groups who use the hall were also in attendance. 2022/23 showed a small excess of revenue over income, but the hall finances remain strong, with an amount now set aside as a reserve for a possible need for the roof replacement when needed. Bookings at the hall remain solid. The Trust now has two vacancies for Trustees to bring it up to full operating level, so if you are interested in helping or know someone who might please contact the Chair. The members agreed that £250 (50%) of the income from the Spring Show would be donated to the Church Roof Fund. The representatives of the Playgroup expressed their gratitude for all the help received from the Trustees. The main Hall floor was refurbished during the last year, but would require much more in depth attention within the next couple of years. The highlight of the year was the Jubilee Picnic enjoyed by a large number of folk on what was a reasonable day of weather, although given the summer we had, it could have been a little kinder.

Keith Pearson

cargo to harbour – the reverse happens when boarding the ship!

July brought us back to familiar surroundings with a visit to The Gallery in Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham for the Martin Fry exhibition.

August's meeting is on Wednesday 9 August in BMI at 10am for coffee before our own Sue Wilson will give her talk entitled 'Behind the Microphone ...Life as a Radio Broadcaster' . So please come along & join us .

What's been happening? Cont'd

Ode to Jan

Bar staff come and bar staff go, but Jan, you're bar
staff from heaven,
You've put up with us for 36 years since 1987.

No more pulling pints, washing glasses and calling
last orders,
You may go on your holidays to Devon, Cornwall or
even the borders.

Leave your address and number, you might get a call,
Saying come back to the Club and pull pints once
more!

You've reached that time in life at an age I won't
mention,
Sit back, relax and enjoy your pension!

*This tribute by Bob Tranter was written in honour of
Jan Richings whose retirement from the BMI after 36
years of service was featured in the two preceding
issues of USL Life.*

UPTON WI

In July our speaker, Pamela Holland, gave us an enthralling talk and slide show entitled "The Enchanted Island". The Isola del Garda is tiny, but it is the largest island on Lake Garda in Italy and is surrounded by several even smaller islands including the island of dreams and the island of rabbits. The main island has been inhabited for centuries, the first known residents being monks in 879AD. Legend tells us that St. Francis of Assisi may have been there in his retirement 1201AD and since then many notable families have been residents.

The present owner is the widowed Lady Charlotte Cavazzi, who was originally from Shrewsbury. Lady Charlotte designed the current gardens which are sometimes open to the public. Along with many flower borders there are lemon and orange groves, olive trees and pomegranates, but, above all, the roses are the Lady's favourite, reminding her of home, and she herself prunes them. The topiary garden, in the design of the French Fleur-de-Lys, is a haven of tranquillity.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 7 August and is to be a Strawberry Tea Party, which will take place in Jan and Chris Pearce's garden. Tickets are available from Angela Harris. Then, on Monday 4 September at 2 00pm, there will be a talk on Charlie Chaplin's Early Life, presented by Paul Murphy. All ladies very welcome.

Kathy Quant

TWYVER WI MEETING 10 JULY 2023

At this meeting our Speaker was David Fisher who, after training as a teacher, became Head of Design at Chosen Hill School. David gave us a lesson in photography, using our phones. As a new user of a 21st century smartphone, it brought dread, as I'm still mourning the end of life of my old tiny Nokia and, from the sounds emanating from others in the room, many were also reticent. However, we needn't have worried as he warned us from the beginning that he has attempted to instruct his parents and would tread carefully!

So starting off 'low', he began by saying he used an iPhone and assumed we all did – a resounding 'No' went through the room – but David wasn't deterred and carried on astounding us with QR codes and the magic thereof, and how movies are now shot on iPhones, as video cameras have now become practically obsolete and regrettably SLR cameras are following close behind.

This technology is now introduced to kids at GCSE level and they know more than David and are teaching him

from YouTube! He decided after 22 years in the classroom he needed to do something different, so he retrained in Art Psychotherapy, obtaining an MA and began his new career at Cinderford School, where Photography was used as a way for the children to express their feelings. Art Psychotherapy services do amazing work in Adult Mental Health services too. David recommended Photoshop to us and one important tip he gave us is: Never use Flash. We then learned basic rules of 1/3rds and grids on photos. David suggested we take a mindful photo and think about the image you want to portray.

To progress your photography abilities, check out Instagram, Happy feed, Hipstamatic, Social media and Websites Taylor Wessing, mindfulphotography.org.uk.

Nicola gave the vote of thanks for an interesting and eye opening talk. The usual business followed and we all enjoyed strawberries and cream as a reminder that summer's here. The next meeting will be our walk in August – members check your emails for information.

Linda Munnoch

What's been happening? Cont'd

Recent Events at the BMI

On Thursday 22 June it was "Ladies Day at Ascot", always an extremely busy day at this famous racecourse. Not to be outdone, we held our own "Ladies Day" at the BMI. There were two long tables of finely dressed ladies, in their posh frocks and hats, together with a few well-dressed gentlemen. A fabulous afternoon tea and a glass of prosecco were enjoyed by all courtesy of Lorraine and Brian. Everyone said this was the best "afternoon tea" they had tasted and would put many hotels to shame. We had a selection of sandwiches, sausage rolls, salmon and cheese bagels together with gorgeous cakes and scones, absolutely delicious! (See photo on p. 20) We watched all the races on the big screen, and I'm sure we enjoyed ourselves just as much in the comfort of the BMI lounge!

The summer quiz took place on Saturday 24 June. There were only 11 teams, however a total of £147.50 was made on the night for the BMI Charity for 2023-2024 which this year will be the Church Roof Fund. The winners were The Woodentops with 124 points, 2 ahead of Team GB with 122. The next quiz with Andy will be on Saturday 16 September.

Saturday 8 July saw the return of the band Summer Night City to the BMI. Over 80 members enjoyed an hour or more of Abba hits, followed by a selection of disco music played by this popular band. A really enjoyable evening.

And what's coming up?

The Village Show

On Saturday 9th September it will be The Village Show.

There has been some sort of village event in Upton going back hundreds of years. In the distant past there was The Cherry Fair which was held on the first three Sundays after July 5th, old Midsummer Day. Stalls with cherries, ginger bread and other goods were placed near the Kings Head and previously near the church. The Cherry Fair probably originated in pagan times as it is associated with Midsummer's Day. However, the name 'Cherry Fair' is probably later in origin, as cherries were introduced from Asia with the arrival of the Romans.

The Village Show as we know it was originally called a Flower Show and included Upton, Cranham and Painswick. The show in this form started in the late 18th century. The earliest detailed record I have is for the show in 1891, Cranham was included in 1892. The show was held at Bowden Hall with many other activities, not only exhibits of flowers and vegetables. The judges for that show commented that what was shown was of high quality, but the exhibits were limited in quantity.

Expenses for the show in 1891 were £27 18s 2d with tent hire being £3.00.

A special competition was held for entries from houses where there was no under gardener. How many houses in Upton now have a under gardener?

There were also athletics and a cricket match was played between Upton and Cranham. Upton won by 11 runs, the scores being Upton 36, Cranham 25. Hardly a high scoring match.

When Bowden Hall was sold in 1925 Painswick went their own way. Then various other venues around Upton were used. The show was held at Valley Lane, Commelines Mill Farm and a field on the Stanley. Things did not always go to plan: on the Stanley the Marquee blew down the night before the show. Also shows in the past have been cancelled due to rain and of course two World Wars. In recent years The Show has moved to the Village Hall grounds.

May this year's show go without a hitch and we hope for good crowds and fine weather.

Mike Stratford

Forthcoming Events at the BMI

Saturday 12th August

Pig Roast and Disco

Come and join friends old and new
at this popular annual event

6.30 for 7.00p.m.

Tickets will be available for sale @ £4
from 23rd July

Saturday 16th September

Autumn Quiz

Open to members and signed in guests
@ 8.00p.m.

Please add your name to the booking sheet in
the BMI

By Thursday 14th September

£1.50 per person for teams of up to 6
(Minimum £6 for teams up to 4)

Sunday 17th September

Sunday Lunchtime Jazz

1.00p.m.-3.00p.m.

With J G Jazz & Swing Trio

Open to members and signed in guests

Saturday 23rd September

Entertainment Night

With

“The Social Fretwork”

From 8.00p.m.

Open to members and signed in guests



Have you seen the building work
taking place by the bus stop at the
Post Office? This new coffee shop
is coming soon.

and at the Village Hall

See front page for details of the next performance
by Upstagers: Dying for a Leek

10, 11 and 12 August



WHO DONE IT...!!!!

It's the committee meeting for the 'Snogley and District Gardeners in the Shire' (SADGITS) in the village hall. Is the Chair of the group Del Fyniam having an affair with Bella Donner? Del's partner Rhoda Dendron certainly believes he is? Who destroyed Terry Cotter-Potts leeks before the competition? Why did the Treasurer Flora Bundy resign whilst under a cloud? Was the Club Secretary Daisy Cheyne too close to to her...??

Someone is going to get murdered and Detective Inspector Chris Anthemum tries to find out the truth of the matter.

Can you guess “Who Done it”?

Come and enjoy an evening of fun with a 2 course supper included. There will be a Bar available and a prize for the winner.

Jim Browne

Don't miss this year's UPTON SHOW

Saturday 9th September at the Village
Hall

2.00-4.30p.m.

Can you help? Donations for refreshments and bottles for the bottle stall as well as help with setting up/taking down installations all welcome. Please contact Kate Brooks.

See also front page for details.

Please note that the Breast Cancer Awareness Tea and Chat is on 17th August
i.e. not on 7th August as indicated in the Diary of our July issue. See next page for details.

HOME START STROUD AND GLOUCESTER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have a request from Harriet Walker of Home Start Stroud and Gloucester, the local charity which works with young families supporting them through a difficult time in their lives. The charity runs various groups including post- and ante-natal as well as toddlers and a group for fathers and their children. A volunteer works in the family's home for 2-3 hours per week in order to give children the best possible start in life. Do read the article below which Harriet has sent us and if you are inspired to take on a similar role, contact Home Start either on **01453 297470** or email enquiries@homestartsd.org.

Why I volunteer for Home Start Stroud and Gloucester

Moving to the Stroud district 26 years ago with a young family made me acutely aware of how difficult things can be to cope with in a new place. My husband was working away a lot and I knew nobody. Luckily, I was fortunate in making friends at my children's new school, but it was hard moving into a new area having left a very supportive group of friends who I had met when I had my first baby in Bristol.

When I saw an article in the local newsletter a few years later in 2001 about volunteers for something called Home Start, a family support charity, I was intrigued. I found it needed experience with children, which I had, and also volunteers needed to be prepared to work with families going through a difficult time. Apart from that I didn't need any other qualifications.

My youngest was just about to start school, so I enquired about the role and began my training. Almost 23 years later I am still volunteering and have also become a trustee for Home Start Stroud and Gloucester.

I cycled to Paris from home in 2016 to raise much needed funds for the charity and I also coordinated making art packs in 2020 during covid to help families who were struggling at home.

Volunteering with families in their homes is a real privilege. I have helped many families over the years around the Stroud district many of whom I keep in touch with.

The role of a volunteer is very varied. I have taken families to toddler and baby groups, outings, doctor and hospital appointments. I have helped with shopping, mental health and confidence issues. I have read and played with children, comforted babies and parents and been there for parents who don't always have a supportive network nearby. I visit the family once a week for 2-3 hours and have gained so much personally by seeing families thrive and gain in confidence. I see how valuable it is for children to have regular supportive visits that make a real difference to parents who are finding things tough, as every parent does at some point.

Home Start run regular training courses where volunteers are guided to learn about their role when working within a family. Volunteers need to be good listeners, empathetic, non-judgemental, and willing and able to visit a family on a regular basis. The next course starts in October so if anyone is interested, please contact the Home Start office on 01453 297470 or email enquiries@homestartsd.org.

Please also take a look at our website to see what groups we run to help families give their children the best possible start in life <https://homestartsd.org>

Harriet Walker



AUGUST IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

So come and join in with Tea and a Chat, not forgetting CAKE on **17th August 2pm** at the Old School Room. Let's have a great afternoon and raise funds for such a good cause. There will be a raffle too.

Any cake donations or raffle prizes greatly appreciated. Don't hesitate to contact me for further details.

Carol Evans

St Leonard's Church

Website

www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk



Services for August

August 6th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
August 13th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
August 20th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
August 27th	10.00 am	Holy Communion

Roof Fund Raising Event



Ukulele & TLC

Concert

After much anticipation and hard work for all concerned the evening was a huge success. Despite the awful

weather a good size audience arrived to enjoy the entertainment and Pimms. Apparently the evening got lively with some dancing in the aisles (maybe after the Pimms!)



An amazing amount was raised for the new roof, a total of £900 on the door and £500 donation so a huge

thank you

to everyone who made this event possible.



Jackie Clouting presented a cheque to Dave Knight, kindly donated by TLC for the Roof Fund.



July 500 Club Winners

1st Prize £30.00

No. 22 2nd Prize

£20.00 No. 50

Churchwarden: Gill Howell

Interment and burial of ashes enquiries

**Church Administrator:
Jenny Cunningham**

Wedding & Baptism Enquiries

Sue Downey - Parish Safeguarding Officer



Thank You

To the BMI Club

Who have kindly named our church roof fund as their nominated charity for this year.

Thank you so much to everyone for your support





If you have a child in your family the chances are they attend Upton St. Leonard's primary school and you may have heard them talk of Open the

Book. They might even have come home with a sticker, and hopefully they told you about helping the OtB team tell a story from the Bible.

We are a small team of volunteers who go into the school once a month and hold a small informal 'service'. The children are excited to help although some back out at the last minute, but there is no pressure on them if they change their minds.

In the children's section of these pages, which I hope will be a regular feature, I have copied one of the stories the children may have heard on one of our visits. We have a narrator who leads the service, the rest of the team are actors along with the children who volunteered to help. At the end we conclude with the 'moral' of the story and

a prayer which they are invited to join in with us and to say Amen to make it their own. And then a few moments of quiet reflection.



Thank you to Mike Stratford who has put in so much time and effort for Open the Book over the last 11 years. Mike now finds it is time for him to hang up his 'story telling hat'. You will be greatly missed Mike. (see page 12)

We are, of course, always looking for new recruits so if you think you would like to join please let us know.

It has been lovely to welcome the school through our doors once again to celebrate special occasions and we hope you will come along to our open day to give them a chance to take a good look around.

Rachel Middleton

Children's Corner Story from *The Lion Storyteller Bible* *Open the Book*



The Kind Stranger

Jesus was teaching one day when a man in the crowd asked him a question.

"Can you tell me Jesus, what I have to do to live forever?"

Jesus smiled "Love God" he answered, "and love your neighbour as much as you love yourself"

"But who is my neighbour?" asked the man, hoping to trick Jesus, "is he just the fellow who lives next door?"

"Let me tell you a story," Jesus said, "and I think you will understand."

"Once upon a time there was a man - a man like any one of us - who was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Now as you all know it's a very dangerous road. It's twisty and it's steep, and there's no end of places for robbers and thieves to hide."

"Well, the robbers were waiting that day. And they grabbed the man. And they beat him. And they took his money and left him to die."

"Oh dear," sighed the crowd. They felt sorry for the man.

Jesus went on with his story.

"In a little while, another man came walking down that road - a priest, on his way home from worshipping God at the Temple. He saw the dying man, and what do you think he did?"

"He helped him!" shouted someone in the crowd.

"He saved him!" shouted another.

"No!" said Jesus firmly. "He did not. He took one look at that poor beaten man, then crossed to the other side of the road and walked away."

"Oh my", the crowd murmured.

"Wait," Jesus continued. "Soon another man passed by. He served God at the Temple too. So what do you think this man did when he saw the wounded traveller?"

"He ran for help!" shouted someone.

"He raised the alarm!" shouted another.

"No!" said Jesus again. "He did not. Just like the priest, he crossed to the other side of the road and left that poor man to die."

"Oh no," the crowd sighed.

"Don't worry," said Jesus. "For there was one more man who passed by that day. And he was a Samaritan."

"A Samaritan?" someone shouted.

"A Samaritan?" shouted some one else. "They're different from us!"

"We hate Samaritans!" shouted another

"And they hate us!" shouted a third.

"So I've heard," nodded Jesus. "But when this Samaritan saw the man he did not walk away. No. He bandaged his wounds. He loaded him on his donkey. He took him to a nearby inn. And he paid for that man to stay there until he was well."

Jesus looked at the man who had asked him the question. "So tell me," he said "which of these men was a neighbour to the man who had been robbed?"

"The third one. The Samaritan." the man answered.

"That's right," Jesus smiled. "Because my neighbour is anyone who needs my help. Now you go and help your neighbour too."

Dear God, Some people feel lonely and think they haven't got any good neighbours. Help them to know that you love them and please teach us to be good neighbours to everybody.

Amen



Open Day

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd September

St Leonard's church is looking forward to seeing you! The church will be open from 11.00am on Saturday



*Sunday 3rd
8.00 am*

Holy Communion Service
In the church



*Bell Ringing
'English-Style' ?
and
Fancy Pulling?? !!*



If **YES** - we have an opportunity for YOU to have a go !!
Why not join us in the Tower at the Open Day in support of the

**St Leonard's Church Roof Fundraising Event
Saturday, 2nd September 2023**

from 11am to 1pm

Come and find out how and perhaps discover if you would enjoy a new experience to take you on to an original 'life skill'.

No commitment - just enjoy the moment .

Sunday 3rd 10 am

Harvest Festival

On the Green
(In church if wet)



Followed by an auction of produce

Church Fayre



In the car park

Saturday 2nd September

From 1.00 pm

Teas being served in the
School Room

Flower Festival

2nd & 3rd September

and Saturday 9th September



**Roof Fund
Raised so far
£6402**

(Not including the ukulele concert)

Raise the Roof



**W
E
L
C
O
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E**



Mothers Union

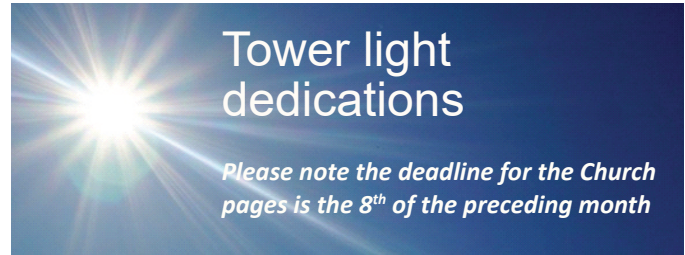
On June 15th ten members and two visitors enjoyed an outing to see the famous Thomas Denny stained glass windows at St Christopher's Church, Warden Hill. They did not disappoint with all ten based on parables taken from the Gospels. At first sight they were just an array of brilliant colour with the colour from each window carrying over into the adjacent one. Then with the help of a commentary and careful perusal of each one, members could pick out details not immediately apparent. They were started in 1985 and completed in 1995. They are well worth visiting with friends and family.

The church is open every day but best to check for funerals. Afterwards members of their Mothers' Union served us with drinks and a delicious array of homemade cakes. They were so plentiful we all went home with "Doggie Bags".

On Wednesday 9th August at 2.30pm there will be the annual picnic in the grounds of the Old School Room, Upton in celebration of Mary Sumner, our founder. Members will need to bring their own eats and a chair if the weather is good, otherwise it will be held inside. There will be a raffle in aid of "The Summer of Hope" appeal.

In early September Branch members will be taking part in the "Wave of Prayer" when we will be especially remembering in our worship our Link Dioceses:- Khartoum in Sudan; Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; Bari & Ilesa in Nigeria and Dugapur in India.

Kate Gale - Branch Leader



Tower light dedications

Please note the deadline for the Church pages is the 8th of the preceding month

On the 12th August, the Church Tower is lit in celebration of the 17th birthday of Charlie Davies, kindly sponsored by his Nanna, Brenda Davies

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

If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or any other reason, please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details.



Mike being presented with a Waterstones gift token to mark our appreciation of all he has done for Open the Book

Mike Stratford & Dave Knight



28.08.15

It's been a long slow job raising money for the roof and even more expensive now!

During a heavy downpour recently (July 3rd) the roof decided to prove its point on how urgently a replacement is needed! Luckily some of the churchyard volunteers took shelter in the church and they were able to strategically place a few buckets.



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DJH Home Services, Gloucester Established 1984

We are advised to become greener and to try to cut down on air travel – so this month we are looking at travel by rail. We understand that this year the number of sleeper trains has increased during the holiday season, especially in Europe. The services are almost already booked up; perhaps the public are beginning to embrace a more leisurely, slower approach to travel.

NIGHT MAIL by W.H.Auden (1907 – 1973)
(Commentary for a G.P.O. Film,
music by Benjamin Britten)

This is the Night Mail crossing the Border,
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,

Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,
The shop at the corner, the girl next door.

Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb:
The gradient's against her, but she's on time.

Past cotton-grass and moorland boulder,
Shovelling white steam over her shoulder,

Snorting noisily, she passes
Silent miles of wind-bent grasses.

Birds turn their heads as she approaches,
Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches.

Sheep dogs cannot turn her course;
They slumber on with paws across.

In the farm she passes no one wakes,
But a jug in a bedroom gently shakes.



NIGHT JOURNEY by Theodore
Roethke (1908 – 1963)

Now as the train bears west,
Its rhythm rocks the earth,
And from my Pullman berth
I stare into the night
While others take their rest.
Bridges of iron lace,
A suddenness of trees,
A lap of mountain mist
All across my line of sight,
Then a bleak wasted place,
And a lake below my knees.

We rush into a rain
That rattles double glass.
Wheels shake the roadbed stone,
The pistons jerk and shove,
I stay up half the night
To see the land I love.

EPIGRAMS

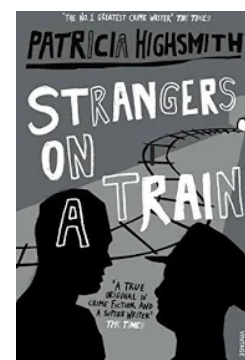
“Railways and the Church have their critics but both are the best ways of getting a man to his ultimate destination”. Reverend W Awdry 1911-1997, author of Thomas The Tank Engine.

“The only way of catching a train I ever discovered is to miss the train before”.
G. K. Chesterton 1874 – 1936

FILMS ON THE THEME OF RAIL TRAVEL

The Lady Vanishes (1938) directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave. Heading for England, a group of travellers are delayed on a train by an avalanche. They move to a hotel and a young traveller – Iris – becomes friendly with the elderly Miss Froy. When Iris awakes Miss Froy has disappeared and the other travellers deny her existence. A thriller!

Brief Encounter (1945). Directed by David Lean. Starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson, this film tells of two married strangers who fall in love after meeting at Carnforth Railway Station. There is no happy ending but Brief Encounter is considered by many the most romantic film ever made.



BOOK REVIEW

Strangers on a Train by Patricia Highsmith (1950). This is a psychological thriller novel about two men whose lives become entangled after they meet on a train and one of them suggests they “trade” murders. They plan to evade justice by carrying out a murder for each other. Each will murder a stranger, with no apparent motive, so neither will be suspected. It becomes tense and complicated but Patricia Highsmith tells a good tale.

All At Sea

Back in December 2018, two people, strangers, one from the North and one from the West Country, decided to take the trip of a lifetime on a land tour of India and the Golden Triangle. The friendship from this encounter endured and became one of a love story and on the 2nd June this year, the same two people, Peter Wilson and Jo Woods, exchanged vows at sea on the Sky Princess and were married by the ship's Captain!

If any of you are contemplating taking vows in the near future, perhaps this is one to consider? The ship, the Sky Princess, is registered in Bermuda as are many of the cruise ships traversing the seas and the reason for this is as follows:

In January 2002 a white paper was published by the Government regarding the modernisation of marriages. It was reported on Lloyd's List that the Maritime & Coastguard Agency hoped the reform of the marriage laws would enable weddings to occur on board British ships. Weddings are a real money spinner as part of the cruise ship industry and this has resulted in companies being reluctant to register their cruise ships on the British register. Therefore ceremonies cannot be conducted on British vessels – although weddings can take place on ships registered under foreign flags. Thus, contrary to popular belief, valid marriages cannot be conducted by the ship's captain on a British vessel – so if you see a movie or read a novel with the romantic vision of tying the knot officiated by a captain on a British ship, think of it as poetic licence.

However, as happens in most weddings at sometime during the planning, things can go awry – even at sea. Due to weather conditions the ship was unable to dock on the planned day and as the ceremony has to be conducted at sea, flurries of changes of itinerary, hair appointments, bringing the date forward by one day, were then changed again at the last minute which, as any bride and groom know, is extremely stressful. However, calm descended and all was well.

Peter and Jo decided that because of their love of travel, getting hitched on board would be a fitting tribute to their destinies. They had written their own vows to each other, and after their commitment, in accordance with the legal requirement of Bermudan law, the Captain began:

“According to the Maritime Marriage Act 1999, Peter and Joanna, you have given yourselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and exchanging of rings, as Master of the Sky Princess and the legal power vested in me by the Laws of Bermuda, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife.” The Captain was Italian so the words spoken had a very strong accent which also added to the flavour of this international event. Peter and Jo wore sumptuous Indian wedding outfits in a nod to their meeting and in gratitude of a fortunate holiday booking.

Peter is a member of our Parish Council and also an editor on this magazine. We wish him and Jo a long and happy life together.

Thank you, Pete and Jo, for the interview and for allowing me to look at your lovely amazing wedding photographs!

Postscript:

The Marriage of the Sea ceremony was a major maritime event in the Republic of Venice on Ascension Day to symbolise the Dominion of Venice and was manifested by throwing a golden ring into the Adriatic Sea.

Now see the back page of this magazine for the lovely photo of our happy couple.

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AUGUST

1	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
1	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
1	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
1	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
2	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
2	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
2	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
2	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
5	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
6	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
8	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
8	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
8	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
8	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
9	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
9	Wed	Bell Ringing Practise	Church	7.30p.m.
9	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
9	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Thu	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
10	Thu	Upstagers – Murder Mystery	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30p.m.
11	Fri	Upstagers – Murder Mystery	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30p.m.
12	Sat	Upstagers – Murder Mystery	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30p.m.
12	Sat	Annual Pig Roast	BMI	7.00p.m.
13	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
14	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
14	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
15	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
15	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
15	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
16	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
16	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
20	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
22	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
22	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
22	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
22	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
22	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
23	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
23	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
27	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
28	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
29	Tue	Recycling And food waste week		
29	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
29	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
29	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
30	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
30	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
30	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
30	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
31	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

SEPTEMBER

4	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
9	Sat	Upton Show	Village Hall	2.00p.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for October issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Sat	Autumn Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
17	Sun	Sunday lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.00p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
20	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
21	Thu	History Group – “The story of HH Martin” by James Rendell	Village Hall	7.45-9.15p.m.
23	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
28	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

OCTOBER

2	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
7	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
18	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
26	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.
29	Sun	Comedy Night	BMI	8.00p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get an event mentioned in the diary.

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Seniors Fitness	Thursdays 9.30am	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
Tai Chi	Thursdays 10.00	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	07800 569019
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

AWARD WINNING CLUB

The BMI has recently received a coveted award from CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale.

(There were a couple of lines about it in last month's magazine, but the news arrived too late in the printing cycle to make more of it then. Here's the fuller story.)

Every year for the past five or more years, the BMI has achieved the standard required for a Cask Marque plaque. Independent assessors look at the quality of all the beers served, checking the storage, cooling, the dispensing etc. The plaque is proudly displayed outside by the entrance (and is pictured here).

But quite a few pubs and clubs have that.

So this year the BMI was nominated to CAMRA for a shot at one of its awards. This organisation, dedicated to the tradition of, and campaigning for, real ale in Britain, sets really high standards. They send official

visitors, and also undeclared spies. CAMRA checks the quality of the beer, of course, but they also look at ambience, cleanliness, availability among other things. There are separate awards for Pubs and Clubs, and for each area. So the BMI initially won the CAMRA award for Best Club in Gloucester. That then meant it was eligible for, and won, the award for Best Club in Gloucestershire. This is a terrific achievement. County winners go forward to the National competition, so it might get yet another accolade!

This is a personal triumph for Brian and Lorraine Dodd and their staff. It is Brian who orders the beer and looks after its storage and dispensing, and the pair of them and other staff who look after the so many aspects that make the BMI a great place to be.

The picture shows Brian and Lorraine with their CAMRA award certificates in front of the fabulous bar.

Andy Russell

This wonderful cartoon of the late Chris Stock (obituary last month) was used for the cover of his funeral order of service. We are delighted to publish it here in his memory.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

FLOODING PREVENTION WORKS - UPDATE

Hard to believe it's a year (18 July 2022) since the public briefing given to residents by Joe Baker and his Flood Risk Management Team (FRMT) from Gloucester County Council. Joe briefed Parish Councillors recently - last month on 13 July. Since last year, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken by Joe and the FRMT with specialist consultants, modelling the very complicated flow of the River Twyver and the Sud Brook and the associated myriad of streams - the map looks like blue spaghetti! Most of the work is upstream of the main village, so unseen, but creation of Natural Flood Management measures such as "leaky dams" have already had a positive impact. The FRMT are making good progress on more significant works for our benefit and Joe will be providing a fuller update for USL Life shortly, with another public briefing in the autumn. Joe and team are working very hard on our behalf and Councillors were impressed and reassured by his dedication and enthusiasm - there are many positives already and in the pipeline.

Roy Roberts - Parish Councillor

USL LIFE IS ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you think you could write appropriate, interesting feature articles for our village magazine, please contact one of the editors. New ideas welcome.

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Next month's editor



Peter Wilson

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Newly married: Pete and Jo on their wedding day aboard the Sky Princess (above) with the ship's captain ...

and now perhaps something to look forward to at the BMI - see the photo below and the article on page 18.



Lorraine's cakes at Ladies' Day at Ascot at the BMI.

This picture shows Brian and Lorraine with their CAMRA award certificates in front of the fabulous bar at the BMI.