

Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 28

December 2016



*Merry Xmas
and Happy
New Year
from the
USL Life
Editorial
Team!*

*There's a lot
going on in
December so
have a look
at Page 5 for
a snapshot*



What's Been Happening in USL ?

Firework Night

On Friday 4th November the annual village Bonfire Night firework display was held at the Village Hall. We were very fortunate to have had the best weather for several years. All day it was dry and sunny and we were able to build a bonfire in dry conditions, which gave us a good speedy burn. All those who attended saw a very good firework display of around 25 minutes. Numbers were well down on last year but this meant crowd space was more comfortable for our location. We made about £2,500 profit which will be used for the hall upkeep. The event more or less pays for the Hall heating for the winter. Finally I would like to thank all those who helped, in any way on the night. They know who they are, but I will just mention our pyrotechnic team, Duncan Lord, Phil Hayes and Andy Skelton, well experienced now, so



thanks for a good job. Keith Pearson, Chair of the Village Hall Trust.



Thank you to everyone who helped, either outside, in the kitchen or running stalls, to make our annual bonfire and firework display on Friday 4th Nov such a success. This event contributes greatly to the upkeep of the Village Hall and this year the weather was very kind to us, making it a very enjoyable event. A special thank you to Chipmunks Nursery for making the Guy.

The "Guess the Number of Sweets" winner was Evie-Mai and the Treasure Hunt winner was Dylan.

Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Village Hall Management Committee



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What's Been Happening in USL ?

Twyver WI Skittles Final



The Twyver Skittles team and their stalwart supporters travelled to the Civil Service Club in Cheltenham on Friday, 11th November to take part in the Final of the Skittles Plate Competition versus the Southfield WI based in Leckhampton.

There was a great deal of excitement in the air as at the end of the first half Twyver were leading by 13 points.

Buoyed up by this slender lead and fortified by a delicious supper, the remaining team members went all out and returned some of their best scores all season, culminating in a score of 328 v 296 to win the plate!

A fantastic result girls... well done!!

TWYVER					SOUTHFIELD						
NAME	HOME TEAM	PTS	NAME	AWAY TEAM	PTS	NAME	HOME TEAM	PTS	NAME	AWAY TEAM	PTS
JOHN	8	8	4	8	4	20	GAIL	6	6	3	9
WENDY	4	2	7	2	2	20	WENDY	2	4	5	3
JILL	7	5	8	5	3	35	MIKE	3	3	5	1
HAZEL	5	5	6	2	2	29	DIANE	4	5	3	4
SUE	6	5	3	4	2	28	DIANE	4	3	6	3
DIANE	5	7	6	7	3	42	DIANE	3	3	2	2
DIANE	6	7	6	5	4	39	DIANE	3	3	4	6
DIANE	7	5	8	6	4	39	SUE	4	7	5	4
DIANE	7	5	6	3	7	31	MIKE	4	4	4	4
VAL	2	5	6	7	4	37	MIKE	7	3	7	6
DIANE	4	7	6	6	6	38	MIKE	5	3	4	7
TOTAL	328						TOTAL	296			

AUTUMN DREAMS - by Mary Naylor

Grinning pumpkins, falling leaves,
 Dancing scarecrows, twirling breeze,
 Colour, colour everywhere,
 Autumn dreams are in the air!
 Autumn is a woman growing old,
 Ready to let what is dead go,
 Her youthful radiance has faded, and that's sad,
 But underneath she discovers a
 spread of colours she didn't know she had.
 Little children screech and run,
 Ghosts and goblins having fun,

Colour, colour everywhere,
 Autumn dreams are in the air!
 Around her a kaleidoscope of leaves are whirling.
 Deep within her visions stir of new life that will be,
 A budding, a flowering, a promise unfurling.
 Autumn is a woman growing old,
 Ready to let what is dead go.
 Calico kittens, rain falling rat-a-tat-tat,
 Big full moon, funny black cats,
 Colour, colour everywhere,
 Autumn dreams are in the air!

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What's Been Happening in USL ?

The UpStagers - A Fete Worse Than Death



In mid November the UpStagers Drama Group, now in their 11th year, presented another fine production at the Village Hall. The play was a comedy murder mystery called "A Fete worse than Death" by Richard James. The story line is very close to our hearts, being all about the Village Show and the produce competitions. In fact amongst the stars of the show was the huge marrow that won at the Upton Show in September, kindly donated by Graham Barratt. The main set was a large tent loaned by the Show.

A tale of jealousy, love and oneupmanship all culminated in bloody murder. In the end it turned out that the murder was committed by four people in a plot. There were some fine performances by a cast of seven, two of whom were first timers in a drama. The event was well supported by the community, getting good audiences every night. The play was directed by Jane Rogers, this being her first time working in that role. She can be well satisfied with the fruits of her labours.

The Group's next production will be in March next year when they intend to present Murder Mystery themed evenings which will include a meal. Numbers will be limited so put a note in your diaries - the dates being 23rd to 25th March 2017.

Thanks to all who supported us and we look forward to seeing you next time. We are always looking for people to join us as actors or backstage helpers. If you are interested, please contact Jackie Lord.

The UpStagers




TWYVER WI REPORT

A warm welcome was extended to 2 new guests and members alike, to the AGM. Business was conducted quickly and efficiently and an assortment of notices were read out, including a request for pyjamas and underwear to be donated to the Gloucestershire based charity Bundles. Members were asked to bring their contributions to the December meeting for distribution.

Thereafter, amongst much laughter, members were engaged in making Christmas novelty boxes or decorating baubles suitable for a range of gifts or even table presents on the 'Big Day'. As usual there was wine and cheese to keep us going!

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 12th December at 7.30pm when Patrick Furley will talk to the group about his Magic Lantern Christmas Show using original plates and readings.



Christmas is coming ...

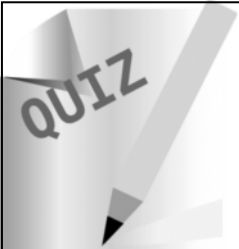
There will be lots of things happening. Here are some . . . Get your diaries ready!

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER	CHURCH 7.30pm	The Christmas Concert with the Gloucester Brass Band. Tickets cost £5 from Rachel or Evelyn , or at the door. Mulled wine & mince pies. Yum!
SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER	BMI	Pensioners' Christmas Lunch. Tickets for BMI members are now sold out.
MONDAY 12th DECEMBER	BMI	Coffee Club Christmas Lunch (ticket holders only).
TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER	Christchurch Abbeymead 7.30pm	"It's Really Christmas" - concert with the Salvation Army Band & songsters. Tickets cost £5, £1 for children, from David. Including refreshments.
THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER	BMI* 7.00pm	Carols & Christmas readings with the Twyver Ladies Choir. Everyone welcome. Free!
SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER	BMI*	Christmas Draw and Carol singing
SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER	CHURCH 4.00pm	Traditional service of Lessons and Carols
SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER	CHURCH 4.00pm	Christingle Service
SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER	BMI*	Christmas Eve Entertainment
SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER	CHURCH 11.30pm	Midnight Communion
SATURDAY 31st DECEMBER	BMI	New Year's Eve party night (Ticketed event for members only)

For the BMI events, further details including timings etc will be on the notice board in the BMI foyer and in the December edition of USL Life. The BMI events marked with an asterisk are open to club members and guests (who have to be signed in). The other BMI events shown here are ticketed.

What's Coming Up in USL?





QUIZ

**POST CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
QUIZ - with Eric**


**For BMI members and
signed in guests**

Saturday 14TH JANUARY 2017@ 8.00p.m.

£5.00 per team of 4

ADD YOUR TEAM TO THE BOOKING SHEET ON THE BMI NOTICE BOARD

**All profit on the night to be donated to the BMI nominated charity for
2016-2017 "Longfield"**



**Quiz
Night**

UPTON ST LEONARDS SPRING SHOW Saturday 11th MARCH 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

GET CLICKING - READY FOR NEXT YEAR'S EXHIBIT SUBJECTS

- 'PRETTY IN PINK'
- 'VIEW FROM A GLOUCESTER HILL'
- 'PAMPERED PET'
- 'DANCE TO THE RHYTHM'
- 'A VILLAGE EVENT'
- 'SHADOWS' Black & white class.



Also WHY NOT make sure you have PLANTED your spring bulbs in any type of container, PAMPER your house plants through the winter, PREPARE plenty of jams and pickles and steadily create your handicrafts during the next few months ready to enter in the 2017 adult classes.

More details to follow in January.

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Christmas Songs Quiz

CAN YOU SOLVE THE CRYPTIC CLUES TO THESE SEASONAL SONGS?

1. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
2. I beheld a trio of nautical vessels
3. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully
4. May frozen precipitation commence
5. As the guardians of the woolly animals protected their charges in the dark hours
6. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
7. Duodecimal enumeration of the passage of the Yuletide season
8. Bleached Yule
9. Jubilation to the entire terrestrial globe
10. Decorate the corridors
11. Small Israeli urban centre
12. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
13. Far off in a food container
14. Monarchical triad



Answers will be given in the January edition

Message

Fireworks in the village

Whilst many people enjoy the setting off of fireworks around the 5th November, this is a plea to consider the impact on animals.

We live in a semi-rural area surrounded by horse, cow and sheep fields. DON'T set off fireworks near livestock. Horses in particular can get very distressed if they are close by, and they are then in severe danger of hurting themselves when they bolt - they simply try to run straight through hedges and fences to get away. We had a report of an incident this year of a horse bolting because of fireworks nearby, though luckily no serious damage was done this time.

You MUST liaise with nearby livestock owners. Just down to normal neighbourly common sense really.

Thank you. Editor

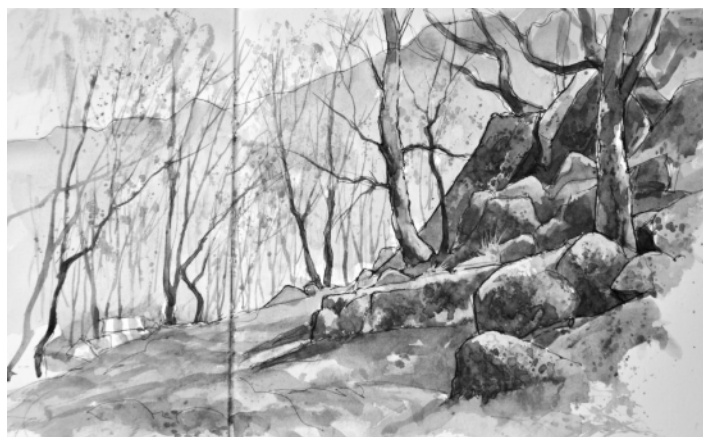
Focus on a Local Business

Continuing our support for local business and enterprise, this month we highlight Barry Herniman's art class which has been held here every January for quite a few years.

Come and join Barry Herniman's four week Watercolour Workshops throughout January at the Pavilion, Upton St Leonards

Start off the New Year by getting out your paints and trying out some new techniques. We do a variety of different Landscape / Seascape subjects during the sessions exploring the fantastic fluidity of this wonderful medium. The sessions commence Thursday 7th January 2.00 to 4.30 pm for four weeks.

If you are interested in booking, please send a cheque for £72 .



Thank You

Dear Marilyn,

It was wonderful to meet you and to hear about the Upton St Leonards Village Gnome Hunt! What a fantastic idea for a fundraising event and you have raised an incredible amount with a total of £850 for Focus – thank you.

We are very grateful indeed for your continued support of our Focus Fund, which will directly support local cancer patients receiving treatment in the Gloucestershire Oncology Centre.

The donations we receive make an enormous impact on our work, enabling us to invest in state of the art equipment, improvements to facilities, and extra care over and above that provided by the NHS. This makes a real difference for our patients and their families, and also supports the Oncology Team in their work.

Thank you also for distributing donation forms to your supporters to enable us to claim vital extra funding for the charity through Gift Aid.

Please do keep in touch with us and we'd love to hear about the next Gnome Hunt!

Thank you again for your kind support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard Smith
Head of Fundraising
0300 422 3231 richarda.smith@glos.nhs.uk

(On page 10 you will see Marilyn presenting the other half of funds raised to our Church)

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CHURCH NEWS

Love comes down at Christmas

There's a most thoughtful poem, written by Christina Rossetti in 1885:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

At first glance you can think this is sentimental. But the poem actually takes us away from the tinsel and donkeys and focuses on the fundamental message of Christmas: Love came down.

In the opening section of John's gospel, usually read in church at this time, there is the same message even more forcefully put:

In the beginning was the word ... and the word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The true light that gives light to all was coming into the world.

Of course there was light and love and truth before the coming of Christ and there is light and love and truth in the best of all of us, whether followers of Christ or not. But at Christmas we celebrate a whole extra dimension and reach of the grace of God to all.

The church calendar on this page (and many of the special events also appear on page 5) shows how we at St Leonards Church are celebrating this special season. Please come and join us, and hear about the light and love and truth revealed and freely given to all of us through the grace of God.

On the 9th we have once again the Gloucester Brass playing many favourite carols and Christmas songs. It was a wonderful warm event last year and no doubt it will be this year as well. Mince pies and some mulled wine.

CHURCH CALENDAR - DECEMBER

Sunday 4th

8.00am Holy Communion - Rev David Eady
10.00am Family Service - Rachel Hall

Tuesday 6th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Friday 9th 9.00-12.00 Cleaning - see page 11

Friday 9th Christmas Concert with the Gloucester Brass
Tickets £5 including refreshments.

Sunday 11th

10.00am Holy Communion - Revd Martin Riley

Tuesday 13th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Sunday 18th

10.00am NO morning service
1.00pm Wedding
4.00pm **Service of Lessons and Carols**

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday 24th

4.00pm **Christingle Service**
11.30pm **Midnight Communion - Revd Ian Calder**

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday 25th

10.00am **Crib and shortened Communion Service**
with Bishop Robert of Tewkesbury

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Sunday 1st January

8.00am Holy Communion
(the only service on this day)

Our service of Lessons and Carols takes place on Sunday 18th at 4pm (note the time, and note that there is no morning service on that day).

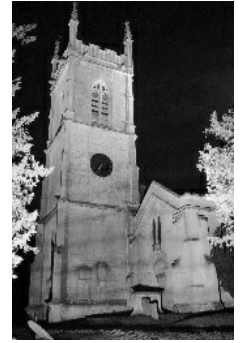
On Christmas Eve we extend a particular welcome to children (and parents and grandparents of course) for a Christingle Service - this emphasises how Christ is the Light of the World.

At 11.30pm, an old friend, Ian Calder, leads the midnight communion service. A great occasion when you can greet your friends and neighbours with a very early "Happy Christmas".

On Christmas Day at 10am the visiting priest is the Bishop of Tewkesbury, no less. He will lead a shortened Communion service as well as taking children to the crib.

CHURCH NEWS

Tower Floodlighting Sponsorship Details



On Tuesday 3rd December, the Tower Lights are lit in memory of Sarah Threlfall on what would have been her 35th birthday. Loved and missed by Julie, Dave, Andrew, Stephen and their families.

In memory of Robert Cannon of Home Farm, who died 30 years ago on the 10th December, from David, Diane, Jane (Canada) and their families.

On Sunday 11th December, the Tower Lights are sponsored in memory of Iris on her birthday, love Liz.

The Tower Lights at Christmas are sponsored in memory of Joe Stubbs, from all his loving family.

If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or for a loved one's life or any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to give to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to gift aid any donation this will help us too. Please note that the deadline to ensure a dedication gets in this newsletter is the 10th of the preceding month. * - please notice the new contact name and number for Tower Floodlight Sponsorship*

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:

Vacancy

Churchwardens:

- 1 Keith Robbins
- 2 Vacancy

PCC Secretary:

Roy Roberts

Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

Mothers' Union:

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flower Rota:

Evelyn Rumsey

Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Stanley-Gunn

To book baptisms and weddings please call Rachel Hall at the number above, or e-mail Jenny Cunningham

Gnome Hunt donation

The picture shows Marilyn Bannister presenting a cheque for £850 to Churchwarden Keith Robbins. This was for half the money raised at the October Gnome Hunt (the other half of the money going to FOCUS).

The church is most grateful to Marilyn and others who organised and took part in the Gnome Hunt.





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we are open on Xmas Day!

Rahul and Seeta



CHURCH NEWS

A Churchyard Wildlife Area

In response to the letter in last month's issue, Sheila Thomas writes: "How wonderful that you have expressed an interest in the churchyard having a designated area to encourage wild flowers and wildlife. Actually the churchyard has for a long time had a designated area but it has been lost amongst the actual gravestones. Thinking ahead we do have a suitable area in mind and if you would like to contact the churchwarden he can liaise with you in developing this area for the wildlife and flowers to flourish clear of headstones and mowers!"

A Brief history of the building - Part 1

Churchwarden Keith Robbins writes: Some of you may know the history of our church but I suspect many do not, so it is my intention to write a three part series of its history in this newsletter.

The church is over 800 years old. The first building dates from about 1190, the time of Richard I (the Lionheart). At that time the building would have been the typical two-celled Norman church consisting of a nave for the people and a chancel for the priest and the altar. It was built as a chapel belonging to the church of St Mary de Lode, then known as "St Mary before the Gates of the Abbey." The doorway now in the south west corner, best seen from the outside by the tower, could be the original Norman main entrance doorway, moved to its current location in one of the many building phases, see below.

The large tub-shaped font, now by the main entrance, is most probably the original Norman one. It was actually removed from the building in 1775 and was taken to Barnwood around 1818, before being returned to Upton in the late 19th century (there is no truth in the story that it spent time doing duty as a horse trough!). It was re-installed in the church in 1913; the font it replaced being given to the church

Would you like to help us with a pre-Christmas Church clean?

You supply the elbow grease and we'll supply the holy dusters and polish. We shall be there on December 9th between 9-12 and would welcome any help.



of St. Luke the Less (which was renamed St Stephen's) in the Bristol Road, Gloucester.

In the 13th century a narrow north aisle was added (approximately half the present width), and the old north wall replaced by the arcading which remains today. This aisle was then extended to its present width in 1850. The south aisle was added in 1835 to further enlarge the space for the congregation, and the windows in the old south wall incorporated into the new one. As these are 14th century, the original Norman windows must have been replaced at some date, as was often done to increase the light in the building. The chancel arch, originally a Norman round one and probably very small, was replaced, in 1835, with the arch you can now see. Further work begun in 1850 included lengthening the chancel by six feet.

There are some interesting pictures of the church in bygone days displayed near the font.

Before 1850, there was a "barrel organ". The 1850 work included the commissioning of Upton Church's first pipe organ, from George Sherborne of Bath, to replace it. The present organ was acquired more recently, from Rendcomb Church, and installed in 1990, with the help of a very large donation from the late Joyce Dance.

Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for funds to carry out repairs to the Church

As mentioned in the November edition of USL Life, to be successful, the Lottery grant application must describe uses for the church building additional to our routine religious services. This is to ensure that the grant aid serves as many as possible in the community.

We obviously have some ideas ourselves but an input from as many people from the village as possible is very important.

From our last month's article we had very little response and hope that we can do a little better this time.

Will you therefore please send your ideas, however quirky, to me

Many thanks

Mike Blanch

Upton Remembers



The annual ceremony to mark Armistice Day was attended by a dozen or so villagers this year. There was a very much larger turnout two days later for the Remembrance Sunday event (pictures below), with the Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides in their uniforms.



Evelyn Rumsey receives Royal British Legion Award

During this year's Acts of Remembrance, Evelyn Rumsey received an award for 45 years service to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, helping with the house-to-house collection in Upton St. Leonards. The award was made by Dame Janet Trotter, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. The picture shows Evelyn with her award and certificate.



Information - a message from our local PCSO



#Stolen Memories

Your home contains all of your special memories. If your home is ever burgled those memories could be stolen. This year, in the run up to Christmas, when the days are getting shorter, take steps to protect your home and keep your memories safe.

Use this checklist to survey your home and implement changes.

Quick Actions:

- Timer switch connected to a light for the front of your home
- Stop 'checking in' to locations online when you're not home
- Avoid posting information about expensive items you own online
- Put any tools or equipment left around in your garden securely away
- Put up a 'beware of the dog' sign
- Move your house and car keys so they are not visible
- Put up a window sticker advertising your alarm / CCTV / Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- Make your property look lived-in and loved from the outside
- Add wire mesh to your shed's window and/or an alarm if possible
- Turn on iCloud's Find My Device and Activation Lock for any Apple products you own
- Replace door locks if required
- Remove unknown people, and those you no longer connect with, from your online social networks

Planned Actions:

- Put up motion-activated security lighting at the back of your home
- Lay down some gravel
- Put high value items in a safe or in a third-party safety deposit box
- Trim your hedges, greenery and bushes to give natural surveillance

Impact Reduction:

- Register your valuables with immobilise.com or bikeregister.com
- Back-up your phone, tablet or laptop regularly (weekly / fortnightly)
- Turn on iCloud's Find My Device and Activation Lock for any Apple products you own

If you see any suspicious activity, people or vehicles in your area please dial 101 for non-emergency or 999 for emergencies. If you would like me to carry out a Crime Prevention Survey on your home please contact me via email or at Barton Street Station.

PCSO Lianne Hiscock

Email: Lianne.hiscock@Gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Barton Street Police Station (personal - 753716, group - 753715, Force Control Room - 101)

Information

December News from your Community/Village Agent
Gill Cannon 07776 245767 / gcannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat However this is also the time of the year when temperatures drop and we need to ensure that we and our neighbours are not at risk. So what should we do?

Stay warm. The NHS advises that your home should be kept at a temperature of a minimum of 18 degrees C. If this is not possible throughout the house at least one room should be kept at this temperature, and your bedroom at night. Use a hot water bottle to keep your temperature up. If you use an electric blanket make sure you have it serviced at least every 3 years.

Eat well. Eating good food, keeping warm with soup, and eating regularly throughout the day is essential to keep you warm from within.

Keep Active. A high level of exercise is not necessary but keeping moving throughout the day – just 250 steps an hour will help your circulation and well-being.

Wrap up. Wrap up warm, inside and out. Wear lots of thin layers - clothes made from cotton, wool or fleecy fibres are particularly good and help to maintain body heat.

Help each other. If you can, check on older neighbours or relatives to make sure they're safe and well. Make sure they're warm enough, especially at night, and have stocks of food and medicines so they don't need to go out during very cold weather.

Keep safe. Wear shoes with a good grip to prevent slips and falls when walking outside. If possible, stay inside during a cold period if you have heart or respiratory problems.

Get your heating system serviced every year by a qualified engineer to ensure it's running safely and efficiently.

Never block air vents and if you have wood-burning, coal or gas heaters make sure there's adequate ventilation.

If water pipes freeze they can burst. Make sure you know where the main stopcock is and check that it's easy to turn so you can turn off the water if you need to.

Make sure your smoke alarm is working. You can ask your local fire service to check your home for fire safety. It's free and you may be eligible to get free smoke alarms fitted. Install an audible carbon monoxide alarm in each room that has a gas appliance.

Make sure you claim all the financial support you can to help with heating bills.

Keep a mixture of salt and sand handy to put on steps or paths in icy weather.

Consider fitting a grab rail if you have steps at your front or back door.

Keep simple cold, flu and sore throat remedies in the house. Follow up your GP's invitation to have a flu jab.

Order repeat prescriptions in plenty of time, particularly if bad weather is forecast.

Ask your local pharmacy if they offer a prescription pick-up and delivery service.

Keep basic food items in the cupboard or freezer in case it's too cold to go shopping. You could also do your food shopping online and get it delivered to your door.

Keep a torch handy in case you lose power and keep your radio, mobile phone, laptop or tablet fully charged, so you can use the battery power if there's no electricity. If there is a power cut you can call 105 for free.

You may also be able to claim financial and practical help with heating your home. Grants available include the Winter Fuel Payment and Cold Weather Payment.

A Winter Fuel Payment of between £100 and £300 tax-free is available to help you pay your heating bills if you were born on or before January 5 1953.

Cold Weather Payment may be available to you if you receive certain benefits. Payments are made when your local temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of 0 degrees C or below over seven consecutive days.

You'll get a payment of £25 for each seven-day period of very cold weather between November 1 2015 and March 31 2016.

Remember if you need advice your Community Safety Team is here to help : -

Gill Cannon – Village Agent 07776 245767 gcannon@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Carol Novoth - Neighbourhood Warden – 07970 250343 carol.novoth@stroud.gov.uk

Paul Barrett – Fire Service - 0800 1804140

Lianne Hiscock – Police Community Support Office (contact details on the previous page)

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful Happy New Year to you all

Information

Parish Council Report - meeting of Monday 7 November

- Plans for a loft conversion and extension for a house in the High Street were supported at the Planning Committee meeting.
- PCSO Lianne Hiscock reported there had been a couple of break-ins in USL recently. She agreed to provide a quarterly Crime Report to the Council (see Lianne's latest message on Page 13).
- Councillor Peter Wilson presented recommended actions to progress the improvement ideas submitted by village residents. These included working with Highways to look at the traffic issues highlighted, costing the ideas and looking at funding options such as applying for grants. Once this work is completed the Council will make final decisions, pull together a plan for implementation and inform the village.
- Chairman Keith Pearson has been invited to a meeting in the House of Commons with Gloucester MP Richard Graham and the Secretary of State on November 30th to discuss the M5 noise issue.
- The new waste system seems to be bedding in after some initial issues with a small number of people still using black bags. Extra bins can be applied for if there is an issue with volume of nappies for families with young children.
- The council has decided to place a decorated Christmas Tree on the Village Green this year.

Poetry Please! - A competition

It has been a great pleasure to publish poems in USL Life every now and again so we are announcing a poetry competition open to you, our readers.

Poems submitted should be new or unpublished material, your own work, on a subject that relates in some way to the Village. Length - short, something like the autumn poem printed on page 3, so it can be printed on half a page. Possibly a picture or drawing to accompany it? Entries to be sent in by January 10th, so that the winning entry can appear in the February issue (if there is a seasonal theme, please note that date!)

The prize? A bottle of wine and you will see your poem in print. The competition will be judged by the USL Life Editorial team.

Do you need help around your home?



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Focus on Local People

Mel and Mark Williams Putting Down Roots- 10 years in Upton

I met Mel at the playing field, we were both out walking; curious about the temporary road in the play area, I asked if she knew why it was there and we fell into conversation. Mel was easy to talk to and I soon discovered a light-hearted sense of humour and a strong spirit of adventure. She lives in the village, enjoys family life here and reads USL Life cover to cover.



Mark and Mel Williams moved from Abbeymead to Upton when their eldest son started at Upton School in the pre-school class, which he was really enjoying. "We were wanting to put down roots and liked the idea of being on the cusp of the countryside and the feel of the village community." When a house in Woodland Green came on the market they looked it over several times, and decided to buy. That was ten years ago. Their home has a young, airy, colourful and comfortable style, with big windows at the back leading to an open south facing garden, so the living area feels bathed in light. Family and holiday pictures cover walls and shelves, and it's clear that home and family are important to the Williams.

Family and holiday pictures cover walls and shelves, and it's clear that home and family are important to the Williams.

"What about the noise?" I ask. "Lots of people ask us that but we think you can hear the hum of the motorway to a greater or lesser extent everywhere in Upton, usually depending on the wind direction, so it's just part of life here. We hardly notice it now and it can feel strangely comforting, the shared familiar sound".

Mark is Retail Manager at Tesco Brockworth and is responsible for all non-fresh goods. Mel works for Natural England as Learning and Development Co-ordinator for South Mercia which covers five counties; local areas include Cotswold Water Park, Cranham Common, and Popes Wood. When they first came to live in Upton Mel worked as Booking Clerk for the Village Hall. "It was a great way to find out what goes on here and get to know the locals ". Mark is on the BMI committee. "We like to get involved in village life; we're big fans of Rent-a-Crowd, the Pig Roast, Village Day, the Flower Show and Skittles. We've done a couple of seasons at the Tennis Club and our children are in the football league and cricket club. Since we came to the village more young families have moved in, which is great. Our boys are sporty and outdoorsy and I know you can't be 100 percent sure, but Upton feels safe for them to call on mates dotted all round the village and head off to the playing field with a football for some fun together ". It's not just village life that they enjoy, the whole family like to get out into the wilder landscape and explore the surrounding hills, woods and valleys. "In just minutes from The Green we can be heading for the hills up Watery Lane and be on the Beacon in no time, we love it! "

Mel appreciates our village shop - "the later opening hours really help"; their nice friendly neighbours; and the feeling of community. "I read 'USL Life' cover to cover, it's good to read about village events especially the ones we've not been able to get to; it creates a sense of belonging and keeps us in touch."

So, how deep are the roots they've put down in Upton? "We definitely feel settled, this is home to us, it's really great especially for family life but, maybe just until the children grow up and find their own way. Mark and I did a lot of travelling around the world before we started a family; we've done most of Europe, New Zealand, Malaysia and South Africa and we dream of doing more, there's a big world out there, and perhaps one day we'll go travelling again".

A huge thank-you to Mel and Mark for this article and for being part of Upton.

We have put as much in here as space permits.
 Events happening weekly are only shown for
 the first month or so

VILLAGE DIARY

MONTH

DECEMBER

1	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
1	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
5	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
5	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
5	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
5	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
6	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
6	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
6	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
7	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
7	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
7	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
7	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
7	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
7	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
8	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Sat	Copy Date for January issue of USL Life		
10	Sat	BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch.....	B.M.I.....	12.00p.m.
12	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
12	Mon	Coffee Club - Christmas Lunch.....	B.M.I.....	12.00p.m.
12	Mon	Get Together Club - Christmas Lunch.....	Bowden Hall.....	12.00 for 12.30
12	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
12	Mon	Fitness Training(2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
12	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.
13	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
13	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
14	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
14	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
14	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
14	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
14	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
14	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
14	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
15	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
15	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
17	Sat	Christmas Draw and Carols.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
19	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
19	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
19	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
19	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
19	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeylee Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
20	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
20	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
21	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
21	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
21	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
21	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
21	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
22	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
22	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
22	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.00-4.30p.m.
24	Sat	Christmas Eve Entertainment.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
25	Sun	Christmas Day		
26	Mon	Boxing Day		
26	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
27	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
27	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
28	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
28	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
28	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
28	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.0-4.00p.m.
28	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
28	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
29	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.

29	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
31	Sat	New Year's Eve Party Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

JANUARY

2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
14	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
16	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
19	Thu	History Group ("E R Berryman") the local poet.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
21	Sat	"Motown Disco".....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
23	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
26	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

FEBRUARY

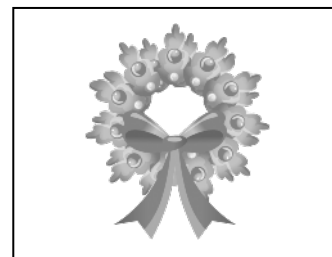
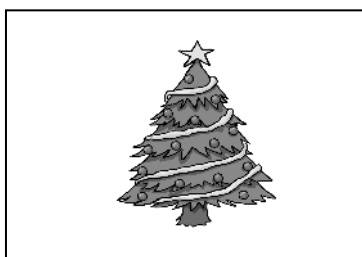
4	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for March issue of USL Life		
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00
20	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
22	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
23	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

New Website and Website Address for USL Life

Please note that our website address has now changed to:
usllife.org.uk

The website pages have been updated with better layouts.



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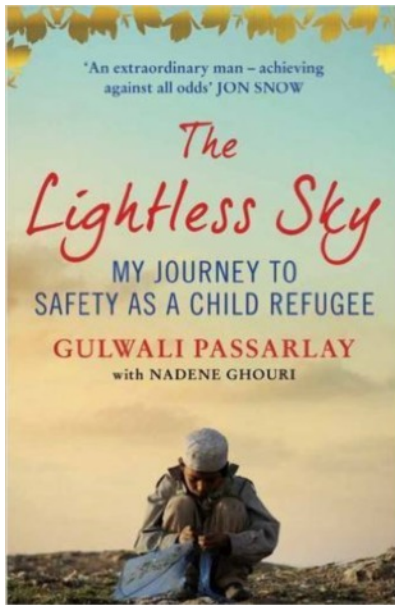
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Book Review

The Lightless Sky by Gulwali Passarlay

My Journey to Safety as a Child Refugee



Gulwali Passarlay and his brother were sent away from Afghanistan by their mother, who feared for their safety when their father was killed in a gun battle with the US Army. Gulwali was then 12 years old. His journey across Europe, of over 12,000 miles took 12 months, spending time in prison, suffering hunger, loneliness and humiliations. He nearly drowned making a terrifying journey in a tiny boat across the Mediterranean. He spent a month in "The Jungle" in Calais and eventually got to Britain. There are extraordinary encounters of neglect, kindnesses and cruelties from officials, strangers and traffickers.

Gulwali Passerlay has a dream that one day a child will read his book and ask, "What is a refugee?" This book is compelling reading, and an excellent portrayal of what many of our world's children are experiencing today. You will not forget this story.

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