Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 6

February 2015



February is.

Candlemas Day



r's halfway done toni h a-glowing we are knowing Spring will con

Valentine's Day



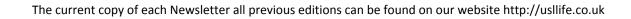
much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.

Early Lambs

Pancake Day







Letters to the Editor



If you would like to air your views or have been inspired by an event or simply wish to know something, please let us know. We very much want to hear YOUR thoughts.

Dear Brown Labrador

Thank you for your request in last month's "Scoop!" article. We are so pleased with your letter. We always pick up our "litter" and are very unhappy with those who do not. There are two hotels in Upton with visitors strolling through a village and we want them to have good memories of their visit, so come on everyone: keep Upton clean.

P.S. Dear humans, please can you stop throwing your drink cans, bottles and plastic wrappings along the way. We have litter bins in the village. Use them or take your rubbish home. Looking forward to a beautifully clean Upton St Leonards in 2015. *From two well behaved canines*

It is that time of year when it is so cold outside. The "other half" and I toss a coin to see who will do the dog walking. How good it would be just to open the gate and say to the boys: "Off you go, see you whenever", but the days of small lanes, little traffic and tolerant people have long disappeared. So put on the heavy footwear, long muffler etc. and set off with a heavy sigh (I'd rather have won the toss and enjoy the coffee in bed). But by the time home comes into view after your trek you will be glowing with the satisfaction of having been part of the exquisite painting of the landscape against the grey skies. The bare branches are full of beauty; you can feel the deep breathing of the earth and plants as they slumber in their well-earned rest. Man-made noise continues, but there is a silence in the year that is hard to explain. Perhaps it is the silence of expectancy, new life about to be born. How will we ever understand the miracle of the delicate snowdrops each year breaking through the hardness of the earth, and the cheerfulness of the daffodils heralding Easter? What perfect timing nature has. **"The Villager"**

...AND WHAT OF OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS?

right hand side. Collection service available.

In February we realise that most of winter is now behind us but the weather can still be very unkind. However, whatever happens, it should not be long before it is over and Spring is here.

At present, winter migrants such as fieldfare, redwing, mistle and song thrushes are still flying around the surrounding fields and gardens whilst squirrels and jays are busy digging holes in lawns searching for the hazelnuts and acorns they buried last autumn. I have rarely seen them find any so whether they have been stolen by another animal earlier or whether they have forgotten the exact location of their storage hole remains to be seen.

By mid-March summer migrants start to arrive, the earliest generally being sand martins and chiff chaffs. Sand martins are not likely to be noticed over Upton St Leonards but a trip to the Frampton on Severn/Slimbridge area or Westbury on Severn can produce a fair few early on - identifiable by being a small brown martin but without the white rump so obvious on the house martin. However, the chiff chaff is abundant in and around Upton, it is a small yellow/light brown bird more easily recognised by its call - chiff chaff etc etc. For me it is the chiff chaff that heralds spring and summer and better weather, rather than the swallow which is a more well known migrant but generally does not arrive until later in April. So, walking around Upton, listen for that chiff chaff call and then try and spot the bird which is singing - a mean date for hearing the first chiff chaff in Upton is 15th March, so not long to go.

We are situated on Upton Hill in Upton St Leonards. e:support@gotogcs.co.uk	Fast, Friendly & Dedicated Service In Your Local AreaFamily Run BusinessImage: Colspan="2">Settin 1968Eamily Run BusinessImage: Colspan="2">Settin 1968CEDAR MOTOR HOUSE LTDGrove Court, Upton Hill Gloucester GL4 8DA 01452 617240 or 07976 322735MOT TESTING WHILE YOU WAIT FOR PETROL AND DIESEL VEHICLES Diagnostic Fault Code Reading. Vehicle Servicing & Mechanical Repairs. Clutches & Timing Belts Replaced, Top Quality Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts Fitted AT Competitive Prices. Insurance & Accident Repairs. Clutches & Timing Belts Replaced, Top Quality Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts Fitted AT Competitive Prices. Insurance & Accident Repairs. Clutches & Timing Belts Replaced, Top Quality Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts Fitted AT Competitive Prices. Insurance & Accident Repairs. Clutches & Timing Belts Replaced, Top Quality Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts Fitted AT Competitive Prices. Insurance & Accident Repairs. Clutches & Timing Belts Replaced, Top Quality Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts Fitted AT Competitive Prices. Insurance & Accident Repairs. Clutches Verice for Repairs. Clut Prices & Top Yuton	Roger Brown Painter and Decorator Tree Quotations Telephone 01452 617750 Mobile 07786 765722 7 Twyver Close Upton St Leonards	GLOUCESTER COMPUTER SPECIALIST Troubleshooting Computer Virus Problems Desktop and Laptop First Aid Broadband and Wireless Setup Hardware and Software Updates NO CALLOUT FEE Only time spent on site is charged for (Subject to a 30 minute minimum charge) Home and Business Network Setup Working in the IT Industry since 1983 t:08456 803 805 m:07780 664 516
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What's been happening in Upton?



Congratulations

Winners of the Best Garden in Upton St Leonards

First Prize: Congratulations to John and Hazel Day of Perry Orchard for winning the Best Garden of 2014!

> Second Prize: Maggie Theakston

> > **Third Prize:**



outside, you'll be ready and raring to go!!

February's speaker is Adrian Bull (from Green Thumb) who will offer advice and information about lawn care.

...And the winner of the Christmas Puzzle is:

Congratulations

Robert Spratt

..... and for those of you that are still a little perplexed, the answers are on page 4

Front page picture: Did you spot that the Pancake Day picture features the late Chrissie Rumsey? Our thanks go to Evelyn Rumsey for this picture of Chrissie and work colleagues winning a pancake race in King's Square some 30 or so years ago.

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New Year revellers welcomed 2015 in style at the B.M.I. on Wednesday 31st December. A hundred members and guests celebrated the evening with a cold meat and salad buffet and danced all night with music provided by Ian Oliver. Below is a photo of the



Christmas Puzzles The answers! Thanks to those who sent in a response, guite a few. Only one, from Robert Spratt, was completely correct so the prize bottle of wine goes to him. UP-TON – The clues led to two words, one containing letters UP, the other TON: 1. Sugary plate: SYRUP TECTONIC 8. Take over, but not physically: COUP PLATONIC 14. A pick-me-up broth: TONIC SOUP 2. Eat a snack in South Africa: SUP BILTONG 9. Small fry and a large fish: PLANKTON GROUPER 15. Fool on the edge of the Cotswolds: DUPE CARTERTON 10. Pain in the neck flares up: TONSIL ERUPTS 16. Make up for a duck? ATONE SCAUP 3. Indian money in your mouth? RUPEE TONGUE 4. Chop and get back: MUTTON RECOUP 11. Highest fastening on your coat: UPPER BUTTON 17. Sauce in Birmingham: KETCHUP ASTON 5. Churchill's very proper: WINSTON UPSTANDING 12. Set hard: GROUP STONE 18. Sing for the prize! INTONE CUP 6. Uncontrolled fast poll, by the sound of it: WANTON GALLUP 13. Amazed by an airtight box! 19. Dealer and poet: CROUPIER MILTON 7. German manufacturer's heavy cloth: KRUPP CRETONNE ASTONISHED TUPPERWARE 20. Distressed - no key! UPSET ATONAL CONNECTIONS - The connected words, underlined, are in alphabetical order. There were five sets of connections: US Presidents, Dickens books, USL Street names, Beatles songs and words that looked to be English, but were actually French and the connected word was the translation into English! ABRAHAM LINCOLN – US President GEORGE BUSH - US President NORWEGIAN WOOD – Beatles song SIX ACRES – USL street name PEN PLUME – French word CHRISTMAS <u>CAROL</u> – Dickens book **GERALD FORD – US President** THE STANLEY – USL street name DIRTY LANE – USL street name GOLD OR - French word PENNY LANE - Beatles song TOOTH DENT – French word HERBERT HOOVER - US President PINLOCKS – USL street name OLIVER TWIST – Dickens book LITTLE DORRIT – Dickens book ELEANOR RIGBY – Beatles song HEY JUDE – Beatles song RANCE PITCH - USL street name ULYSSES GRANT – US President BLEAK HOUSE - Dickens book YELLOW SUBMARINE – Beatles song GREAT EXPECTATIONS – Dickens book RED ROUGE - French word The word left out of the list was MERE, and there are only 4 French words, 5 of all the others, so it has to be a French word. MOTHER MERE goes in the list between BLEAK HOUSE and NORWEGIAN WOOD. The BMI Club **Beauty without Cruelty** (Est 1898) Hair, Barber and Beauty Bondend Road Salon Upton St Leonards Open Monday-Saturday MNEY SWEEP Outstanding stylists Members Club, new members welcome. Weddings catered for: Traditional and Power Chimney Two bars, wide screen TV with Sky/BT book the whole saloon Sweeping from £35 for the bride and her Sports. Snooker /Pool Tables.Skittle Alley. Open Fires, Boilers, Cookers and BARBERS party! Stoves Serviced Regular entertainment nights. **Chimney Pots, Cowls and Bird Guards Fitted** Function room hire. Manicure - Pedicure Flue Liners and Stoves Installed to Beauty and Natural Health treatments Latest Regulations

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Love is in the air.



When did it all start?

Valentine's Day has been celebrated in the UK for thousands of years, but when did it all start? It probably originated from a pagan fertility festival in pre-Roman times. There was a Roman festival called Lupercalia in the middle of February to mark the start of spring. There was a range of fertility and marriage rites associated with Lupercalia.

However, one of the most popular theories on the origin of Valentine's Day dates back to the time of the Roman Empire during the reign of Claudius II, 270 A.D. Claudius didn't want men to marry during wartime because he believed single men made better soldiers. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret wedding ceremonies. For this, Valentine was jailed and then executed by order of the Emperor on Feb. 14. While in jail, he wrote a love note to the jailor's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine." Sounds familiar?

As Christianity spread across the Roman Empire, including much of the UK, this festival became a day of remembrance for St Valentine. Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France, though written cards didn't begin to appear until after 1400.

It seems that the writing of special notes and letters for Valentine's Day gained widespread popularity in the 1700's. At that time the romantic missives would have been handwritten, on ordinary writing paper.

Papers made especially for Valentine greetings began to be marketed in the 1820's, and their use became fashionable in both Britain and the United States. In the 1840's, when postal rates in Britain became standardized, commercially produced Valentine cards began to grow in popularity.



By the middle of the 18th century In Great Britain, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged.



Díd you know?

• Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800s.

- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- In 2010, people sent about 15 million Electronic Valentines (E-Valentines).
- The 35 to 44 year old age group spends the most money on Valentine gifts and cards, followed by young adults aged 18 to 24. The 55 to 64 year old age group spends the least.

One of the most extravagant gifts of love ever given?



On a visit to India in February 2014, I was able to see one of the most beautiful gifts of love ever conceived – the Taj Mahal; built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal.



Love Letter from WWII

My mother, one of life's romantics, kept this letter, and dozens like them, in an old battered cardboard portfolio in her bedroom. Their recent discovery has made some enlightening reading about those living in wartime as well as some treasured memories. The photograph was taken on 25 July 1946. By the way Matt was not my Dad!!

ERGEANTS' MESS, R.A.F. STATION

1554988 w/o hithgow

SOUTH CERNEY,

CIRENCESTER, Glos



My Jarling, It is now 6-30 2 5 have just arrived in carep. fell as less in the train & when woke up & was just arriving at Bristol, & I had to with & hours a train back to bisencester. I have been talking to my pal dear o. I don't think I have been morsed. I am beginning to hate this life darling. Ever since & met you my life seems to consist of sorgen goodlage to you. beaven knows what I am going to do when I move & can't see you for weeks. I love you so much Therma, you fill my whole life now. Without you darling

SERGEANTS' MESS. R.A.F. STATION. SOUTH CERNEY. CIRENCESTER, Glos I dread to thisich of the future. I am going down town after 5 write this dear to see if I can get that to & badge for you , then to bed. Coming down in the bus this morning I never felt so fed up in my life but never mind my love 9 will see you again on Saturday Well dearest & must leave now but till I see you my darling, goodbye & God Keep you yours alone

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What's coming up in Upton?

During the evening of 7th February, Upton will be a checkpoint on the 41st Scouts' Cotswold Marathon. This is the annual Scouting winter night hike around Gloucester and the Cotswold Hills over varying terrain, making it necessary for team members to have a good knowledge of mapping and orienteering.

There are 3 routes :- Bronze 12 miles, Silver 18 miles and Gold 36 miles with entries expected from across the country.

Rent - a - Crowd 2015

Sat 21st March 2015

Venue: Village Hall 8 - 12 Enjoy an evening of Fun with Friends Cost will be less that £10 /each How? Get together a table of fun-loving friends. Bring your own food and drink. Dance to Orbit Disco to round off the evening. The "Theme" will be announced next month

> Prizes for the best fancy dress (Individuals and Group)

Imagination is the only limit on ideas!

Contact organisers: John & Millie Barnes

All profits to be donated to the **Cobalt Unit**

Nutty Badgers Explorer Scouts will be hosting the checkpoint



within the village. So if you should see one of the 150 teams walking between Robinswood Hill, Upton St Leonards and Hucclecote, you know they have only just started on their long winter hike with up to another 30 miles ahead of them.



In a previous year the theme was???? Well spotted ... Festivals!!

B.M.I. SPRING OUIZ SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2015 8.00 P.M. £5.00 PER TEAM OF FOUR (Members and guests) PROCEEDS ON THE NIGHT INCLUDING RAFFLE WILL BE DONATED TO RESEARCH INTO **ALZHEIMERS**



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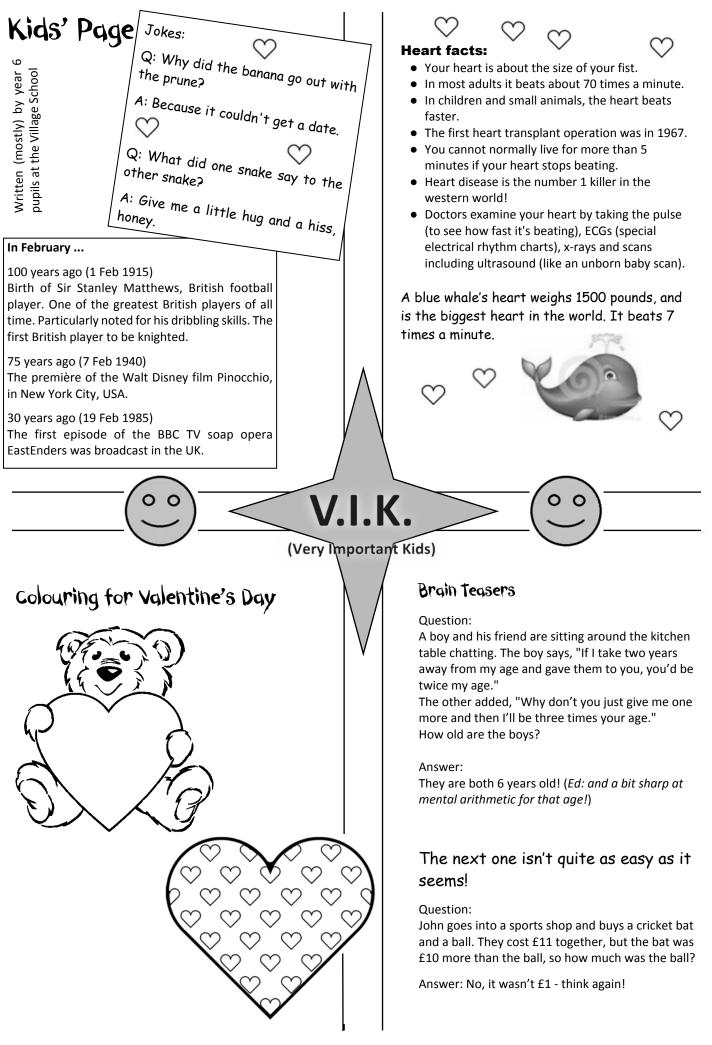


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CHURCH NEWS for the Parish Church, Upton St Leonards

The Priest-in-Charge, Rev Christine Birkett writes ...

Dear Friends,

Although I am writing this in early January the time flies so fast and we are already beginning to think about Easter when we celebrate Christ's Resurrection and our Redemption.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, and we are planning to do two things this year.

Firstly, it is planned to hold meetings at 7.00 p.m. each Tuesday from February 24th in the Rectory for prayers and discussion on a vital Christian topic.

Then on Sunday evenings, beginning on February 22nd, we shall be joining with other local churches and taking turns to host an evening service with a guest speaker on the theme of Lenten Witnesses.

22 February at St P&J, Hucclecote, Bruce Goodwin - Chaplain, University of Gloucestershire - Nicodemus (John 19:39)

1 March at Christchurch, Abbeydale, Richard Atkins, BBC Gloucestershire - The servant girl who questions Peter (Mark 14:66-70)

8th March at St Oswalds, Coney Hill, Bishop Martyn - The centurion who confesses faith in Jesus (Mark 15:39)
15th March at Upton St Leonards Church – Archdeacon Jackie - Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:15-26)
22nd March at St Lawrence, Barnwood – Lesley Hewish – Chaplain, HMP Eastwood Park - The women disciples at the crucifixion (Mark 15:40-41).

If you are resolving to give something up for Lent, it ought to be something that will help us to love and serve God and our neighbour better. An ideal resolution would be to consider sacrificing some of our spare time. I suggest to all Church folk that they might try doing these three things:-

Come to Holy Communion and the evening service every Sunday in Lent and also attend the discussion meetings each Tuesday at 7.00 p.m.

The purpose of Lenten resolutions is not to strengthen our willpower but to deepen our communion and fellowship with Christ and to enter into His sufferings.

As He did so much for us, let us do something more to show our love for him.

The most assured of believers is liable at times to moments of doubt and depression but, *'… I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'…'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful'.*

With every blessing, **Christine**

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Personal Column

From Denise Hay

The family of David Hay wish to express their sincere thanks to all friends and neighbours for the sympathy, support and the many cards received during their recent bereavement and especially for the generous donations given for the charities - the Sue Ryder Hospice and FOCUS - in David's memory.



Upton St Leonards Parish Church Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship Details

January

On Saturday 3rd January the Tower Lights were lit in celebration of the 93rd birthday of Eliza Innes. Kindly sponsored by her daughter, Sally Ponting.

On Sunday 4th January the Tower Lights were lit in celebration of the baptism of Kitty Alice Dare. Kindly sponsored by her parents Richard and Sophie Dare.

February



On Sunday 1st February 2015, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the baptism of Oliver Myatt taking place in the Church that day. Kindly being sponsored by his parents John and Rebecca Myatt.

On Monday 16th February the lights will be lit in loving memory of Mavis Bosley. Kindly sponsored by Horley, Alison Claire and family.

On Wednesday 25th February the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the 90th birthday of Derek Brinkley, being sponsored by his son Alan.

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 Matthew.

There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to gift aid any donation this will help us too.

If you would like to sponsor the Church Tower Flood Lights then please contact Matthew Gibbs on for more details.

Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 10th of the preceding month.

For more information go to www.marriage-week.org.uk

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messenge From the Diocese of Gloucester

7th – 14th February 2015

The Revd Canon Philippa Brunt on

National Marriage Week

One of the joys of being a parish priest is working with couples to plan their weddings and to officiate on their special day. At this stage in their relationship they feel ready to commit themselves to each other in church, before God, in the presence of their family and friends. Couples put a lot of thought and effort into organising their celebrations and it is a privilege to spend time talking with them about their plans, while at the same time preparing them to enter into the sacrament of marriage.

We talk not only about the wedding ceremony in the preparation meetings, however, but also about building a healthy marriage. Marriages can get better and better as each year passes, but it does take time and effort. In all the busyness of life this can so easily slip.

National Marriage Week (7 - 14 February), with its focus on Valentine's Day, is an annual seven day period to focus on the importance of the marriage relationship. Many churches hold special services during this period. These can be wonderful opportunities for couples to remember the love that brought them to their wedding day and to recall that 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.' (1 John 4.16).

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

SUN 1st 8.00am	CANDLEMAS-PRESENTATION OF CHRIST Holy Communion
MON 2 nd	10.00am - All Age Service (non-Communion) 9.00 am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
SUN 8 th	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
MON 9 th	10.00am - Communion4All- Celebration of Marriage 9.00 am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
THU 12 th	2.00pm - Holy Communion hosted by Mother's Union
SUN 15 th	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
	10.00am - Communion4All
	6.00pm - Evening Service
MON 16 th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
WED 18 th	7.00pm - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
SUN 22 nd	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
	10.00am - Holy Communion (Common Worship)
	6.00pm - Evening Service at St P&J, Hucclecote,
	Speaker: Bruce Goodwin, University Chaplain on Nicodemus (John 19v39)
MON 23 rd	9.00 am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
TUE 24 th	7.00pm - Lent Group at the Rectory
At	Martine on 47th Descendentitude desided thet

At our PCC Meeting on 17th December it was decided that we would change our pattern of Services for a trial period including January and February. The pattern would then be reviewed again. The pattern below will be tried out with occasional seasonal additions.

1st Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)	
	10.00am All Age Service (non-Communion)	
2nd Sunday	10.00am Communion4all	
3rd Sunday	10.00am Communion4all	
	6.00pm Evening Service	
4th Sunday	10.00am Holy Communion (Common Worship)	
5th Sunday	10.00am Holy Communion with Guest Speaker	



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Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge:Reverend Christine Birkett627828The Rectory, 12 Bondend Road, GL4 8AG.rev.christine@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Churchwardens: 1 Keith Robbins 2 Vacancy

PCC Secretary: Ceri Darley-Jones

Church Treasurer: Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representative: Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain: Roger Fry

Mothers Union: Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota: Claire Appleyard

Church Flower Rota: Evelyn Rumsey

Electoral Roll Officer: Naomi Stanley-Gunn

Fundraising Committee & Church News Rep: Chris Mitchell

I would like to say well done to everyone who

supported our Fundraising events over the Christmas period: the Band Concert, the Christmas Fayre, the Christmas Raffle and the Carol Singing at Tesco.



All were successful and hopefully enjoyable.

Without the help and commitment from all of you these events would not have been possible Thank you all very much.

Chris Mitchell



No Time to CLEAN or IRON?

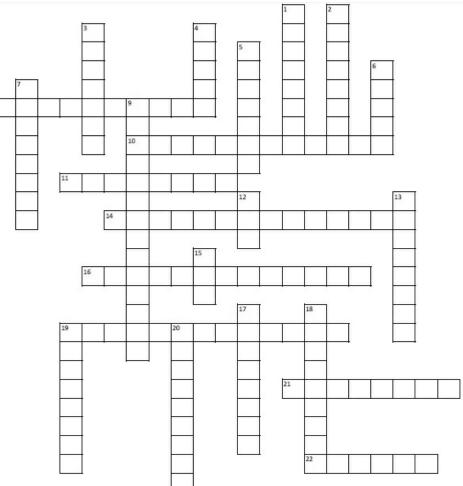
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FEBRUARY CRISS CROSS FACTS



ACROSS

8 A long-running soap opera, first broadcast in the UK on BBC One on 19 February 1985

10 This day is a traditional Christian festival

11 He introduced a system to gauge the depth to which a vessel may be legally loaded

14 World famous steam train went into service from London to Edinburgh

- 16 The first race held on 26 February 1839
- 19 A traditional dish is served on this day
- 21 This flower is a symbol of hope
- 22 Invented a practical light bulb for home use





DOWN

1 On 21 February 1988, whose grave was located under platform 8 at King's Cross railway station?

2 Which car was responsible for setting a new land speed record in 1927?

- 3 Famous novelist born on 7 February
- 4 Famous for writing a diary
- 5 The first policemen were known as these
- 6 22 February 1997: Who was cloned by scientists?

7 Held on 6 February every year to commemorate the signing of New Zealand's founding document

9 What was significant about 15 February, 1971?

12 This weekday marks the season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter

13 The first shelters were erected in Britain in 1939

15 Two Cambridge scientists announced they had found the 'secret of life'

- 17 Divisible by four
- 18 This saint was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity
- 19 This is a 'Season boundary' celebrated throughout Japan

20 What was the fate of Catherine Howard on 13 February 1542?

Dates for your Díaríes:

THE UPSTAGERS NEXT PRODUCTION WILL BE A BLACK COMEDY

"PREPARE TO MEET THY TOMB"

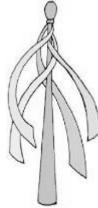
THURSDAY 23-, FRIDAY 24-AND SATURDAY 25- APRIL 2015 7.30p.m.

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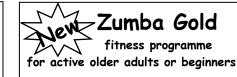
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Zumba with Regina

Village Information

New Website to be launched for USL

As we move forward into the electronic age the Parish Council felt it was time to update the current website and make it more user friendly. We felt a more modern approach would be easier for our parishioners and so at the press of a button we hope all parish information will be available.

We all feel the website should be the first point of contact when looking for more information about the business of the parish and the facilities available, so having come up with a new design, we hope to launch the site in February. All parish information will be updated regularly including such news as the minutes of parish council meetings, planning applications and links to clubs and societies available in the village. There will also be an area on the front page with any urgent news relating to an emergency within the village or other important information.

If anyone running any clubs, societies or other organisations based in the parish, and would like to have a link to their website, Facebook page or Twitter account listed on the site, then please e-mail castle.chrissie@gmail.com with all the details. We hope to have included all the groups we know about, and there will be an area for you to put your details and any brief information regarding meeting times etc. on your page.

We hope the site will enhance the newsletter and is intended for use as the more formal business side of the Parish Council. If you feel there are areas we may have missed or information you would like to see on the website then please contact me directly or Roy Balgobin (see below)

Chrissie Castle - Upton St Leonards Parish Council

USCAN AGM - 24th February

Upton's Community Action Network's committee has spent the last year hibernating because at the last AGM in February '14 no-one came forward to take on the role as Chairman. Two members of the Committee, myself as Secretary, and Owen Stinchcombe as Treasurer, agreed to remain in post to fulfil two functions: to maintain a structure should new people want to resurrect an active committee, and to receive funds from the Parish Council for use by the Footpaths Group which still remains very active.

It is necessary for us to hold an AGM to receive audited accounts and a formal report of work undertaken on behalf of USCAN. This will be held on 24th February at the Pavilion at 7.30 pm.

The Footpaths Group is to be congratulated for its continued efforts.

Cliff Alderman

Shredder

USCAN is paying for the hire of a shredder on TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY. It will be in the churchyard from 9.30-10.30, and then at the top end of Dirty Lane for an hour. You may bring cuttings from your shrubs and hedges, and / or you may come and take shredded material at either site - <u>on the day only</u>.

New Defibrillator for the Village

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that we have invested in a Defibrillator for the village. It is fixed to the external wall on the village hall to the left of the entrance doors. This is an essential piece of kit for use in the event of a cardiac arrest and with so many activities/sports taking place, both at the recreation ground and within the village hall, it would be of benefit to all - while hoping of course that no one will ever need to use it!



The idea is that minutes can save lives when a cardiac arrest takes place and hopefully save a life whilst waiting for the paramedic to arrive. A cardiac arrest can happen at any age. You may be aware that many defibrillators are now placed in public places such as shopping centres and sports halls and any area where large events take place. There are many placed in villages throughout Gloucestershire and it is on the advice of the South West Ambulance Service that we have gone ahead with this scheme.

We will be holding a couple of training sessions and so if you are interested in attending then please send your details to Roy Balgobin. We hope that all organisers of sports teams and clubs etc. will attend so that they know how to use the kit. If we are oversubscribed a second training session will take place - the more people that know how to use it the better. The courses are open to all parishioners but priority will be given at the first training session to club organisers.

We expect the training to take place in the evening and once we have the dates they will be published in the newsletter and on the website. In the meantime please put your name forward with contact details and we will then get back to you with a confirmed training date.

Chrissie Castle - Upton St Leonards Parish Council

Contact details: Roy Balgobin, parish clerk. E-mail uslclerk@btinternet.com, or visit the Parish Office in the Village Hall on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

Village Information cont d

February News from your Village Agent

Lou Kemp 07776 245767

"Death twitches my ear; 'Live,' he says ... 'I'm coming." - Virgil

Well, that's probably not quite how you thought I might start this article, and I have to say it has taken me longer than any other article I've written for you, to put this particular one together. And "why" you might ask? Because I want to talk about one of the biggest "elephants in the room"; death, and how we can prepare for it. When I say "how" I mean in the practical sense rather than in the spiritual one (I'll leave that to those more eloquent writers than myself).

A few weeks ago I was with a friend a few days before she died, trying to help her get her will done, put trusts in place to care for her family and help arrange what would need to be done for her funeral. I had initially got to know her in my role as both Village Agent, when I helped her father, and then over the last 4 years, as her Specialist Village Agent supporting her through cancer. I remember the first time I tried to talk to her about her thoughts around the future planning for her family. She wasn't ready or able to "go there" and so that time and for many other times, we left the "elephant" to hover over us. When is a good time to talk about these things? I'm not sure if there is one but if these conversations can be had at a time when we can plan, talk, look at options, change our minds, cry, laugh and face the fact that well, unwell, young or old, we are all going to die, it would be so much easier.

A really useful document that you can use to start you off is produced by Gloucestershire NHS called "Planning for your future care". In this booklet, there is guidance and the opportunity to note down thoughts, wishes and statements. It breaks down into 5 parts; a place to make a statement about your wishes and care preferences, advanced care planning, a checklist for putting your affairs in order, information about giving someone power of attorney, making a will and a space for general notes. It's a useful document to help you talk with friends and family about subjects that we generally steer away from and doesn't have to be done in one go. In fact it is suggested that we should all have a copy and "dip in" when and where we wish.

A very good source of information is "Dying Matters" which is a coalition of 30,000 members across England and Wales which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life. It is packed with very useful information and if you don't use a computer, ask me or someone else with access to one, and I will look up the information you need.

If you are using financial advisers make sure they are properly qualified and belong to the right professional body. All financial advisers should be registered with the FCA. This means they meet the right standards and you get more protection if you're not happy with the service. For example, you can complain to the Financial Services Ombudsman and may be able to claim compensation if things go wrong

Please call me to arrange a home visit or ask for information to be sent to you.

Planning for your future care: Gina King 0300 421 1845 or ask your GP practice

Citizens Advice 01453 759954

HEALTHCARE FOR YOUR PET

The Christmas and New Year festivities are over for another year and it is customary to make new plans and resolutions so here are a few thoughts for all you pet owners out there.

If your cat, dog or rabbit has not had its annual vaccinations then I would give this serious consideration. A once a year vaccination visit is a bit like an MOT and not just "having a jab". It allows for the continued

dispensing of prescription strength flea and worm medicines and builds history and a rapport with your chosen Practice. Weight control, especially at this time of year, is another area to be tackled for pet and owner alike!

Pet Insurance is often forgotten about once the new puppy or kitten has started going out. Initial costs of new food, new bedding, new collar and lead, toys, and vaccinations often push the extra cost of insurance down the pecking order. My advice is simple. If you cannot afford to pay an unexpected bill of a few hundred pounds then pet insurance is a must. You will still have to pay an initial excess of around £60-100 but at least a portion of the rest should be covered. I am not allowed to offer specific advice but in general cheap policies rarely if ever cover very much as many clients have found out to their cost.

Final comment: most policies will exclude treatment for pre-existing conditions. If your pup or kitten has had a bit of vomiting and diarrhoea, a bit of lameness, a sore ear and a few itchy bits all by the time you get round to insuring it, then any related condition is likely to be excluded. The message: insure early.

Just before Christmas I gave a talk to clients on Christmas time poisons. In October I mentioned that grapes (and raisins, sultanas, fruit cake) are poisonous to dogs, but also consider these too:

Ibuprofen is very toxic to dogs, paracetamol to cats so take care with your winter cold remedies.

Anti-freeze is sweet tasting to cats and very poisonous so mop up any spillages.

For those tidying the garden be careful with moulds and fungi around compost areas, watch out for poisonous plants and bulbs and consider which stick your dog is playing with as you prune your apple and laburnum tree!

Water Maín Renewal

Severn Trent is replacing some of the water mains in the Village. The work is being done by their contractor, Amey. Contacts: Amey Customer Service Manager, Amanda Hales on 07545 114615 or their 24-hour Customer Service Centre on 0800 521 660. email: STW.Works@amey.co.uk . If your call is about water supply or sewerage service, you can call Severn Trent Customer Operations Service Centre on 0800 783 4444.

Schedule	From	То	Traffic control
Woodland Green	05/01/15	17/04/15	Give and take
Footway 78 – 90 evens Woodland Green	26/01/15	06/02/15	N/A
Ash Grove and footways	02/02/15	27/02/15	Give and take
Footways – 55-59, 61-67,and 66-76	16/02/15	06/03/15	N/A
Footways – 26-38 and 40-54	23/02/15	13/03/15	N/A
Footway outside 2-22A Woodland Green	02/03/15	20/03/15	N/A
Staites Orchard	06/04/15	08/05/15	Multi-way traffic lights
Churchfield Road and Upton Lane	27/04/15	22/05/15	Road Closures
The dates are subject to change.			

🚔 'Fríends for You' Befríendíng Scheme



I'm delighted to let you know that GRCC have secured funding from Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to launch Friends for You, a volunteer

befriending service in support of older, isolated and housebound people living in the community.

Friends for You provides a free volunteer befriending service for older people who maybe can't get out as much as they would like and who would enjoy some company in the comfort of their own homes with regular companionship.

A reliable, local volunteer visitor calling regularly each week, offering friendship and a listening ear has a positive impact on a person's state of mind and well-being as well as enhancing their sense of belonging and feeling a valued part of their community. The friendships that develop enrich the lives of both people. Friends for You will be launched countywide, with the local launch events on Monday, 23 February at:

Wotton under Edge Civic Centre from 10am-11.30am., Kings Stanley Village Hall from 12pm-1.30pm and Longlevens Community Centre from 2.30 pm-4pm.

Free refreshments at all venues.

So please do come along to the launch to learn more about this new service. You may well feel it could be something of interest to you, or to a family member or friend. Or, you



may well feel this is something that would be interested in volunteering for.

In the meantime, if you would like to find our more information please do contact Sue Black, Friends for You on 07810 630167 / 01452 528491 or email sue.friendsforyou@grcc.org.uk

Lou Kemp - Village Agent

News from Twyver WI



TWYVER WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our first meeting of the New Year saw us welcoming Mark Cummings from Radio Gloucestershire as our Speaker for the evening. So, with the business quickly dealt with, we all sat back to listen to Mark.

His talk "Waking up Gloucestershire" was so interesting as we heard stories about his life as a radio presenter, about the contacts he has every day with so many differing members of society, the interviews he has broadcast and his other interests outside of the radio. He had us all laughing in no time at some of his funny stories and we were sorry when his talk came to an end.

After a glass of wine to welcome in the start of 2015 our meeting was closed.

Our next meeting will be on February 9th when the topic will focus on the story of nurse Edith Cavell during WW1 entitled "One Woman's Dedication to Duty. Our speaker for March 9th will tell us about Hedgehog Rescue and Rehabilitation.

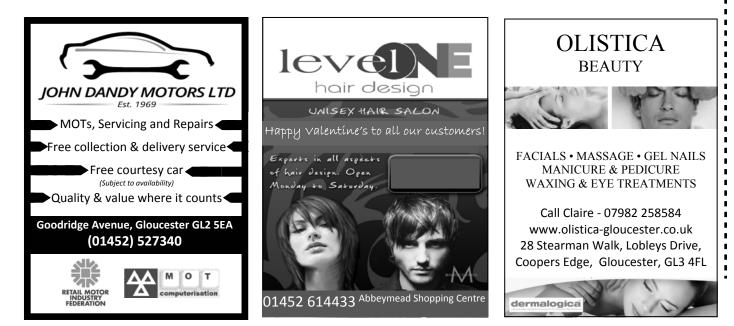
Our meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month at Upton St. Leonards Village Hall at 7-30pm. All visitors will be made most welcome.

VILLAGE DIARY

FEBRUARY

-				3 R U A R Y	
	2	Mon	Yoga (2 separate sessions)	-	· · · ·
I.	2	Mon	Upton WI	-	-
	2	Mon	Zumba	•	•
i	2	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)		
	2	Mon	Parish Council meeting		•
-	3	Tue	Needles & Pins		•
	3	Tue	Tuesday Probus		
-	3	Tue	Zumba Gold	-	
i	3	Tue	Badminton	-	-
1	4	Wed	Pilates		
	4	Wed	Stitchers	-	•
	4	Wed	Pavilion Painters		•
1	4	Wed	Bingo		
	4 4	Wed Wed	Tai Chi Upstagers Amateur Dramatics		
1				-	
	5 5	Thu	Tai Chi Senior Circuits	-	
	э 5	Thu Thu	Painting & Drawing		
1	5	Thu	Zumba		
1	6	Fri	Yoga	-	•
	9	Mon	Yoga (2 separate sessions)		•
i	9	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)		
	9	Mon	Twyver WI	5	•
1	9	Mon	Zumba	-	-
	10	Tue	USCAN shredder	•	•
-	10	Tue	Needles & Pins		
÷ .	10	Tue	Zumba Gold		•
!	10	Tue	Badminton	-	
1	10	Tue	Copy date for March issue of USL Life		
1	11	Wed	Pilates	Pavilion	9.30-10.30am
-	11	Wed	Stitchers	Village Hall	10.00-12.00p.m.
I	11	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I	
1	11	Wed	Pavilion Painters		
÷ .	11	Wed	Bingo	Birchall Memorial Institute	8pm
!	11	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m
-	11	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30p.m
	12	Thu	Tai Chi	-	
-	12	Thu	Senior Circuits		
1	12	Thu	Painting & Drawing	-	•
-	12	Thu	History Group - Ancient Wind Instruments		
÷ .	13	Fri	Yoga		
!	16	Mon	Yoga (2 separate sessions)	-	· · · ·
1	16	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions)	-	
1	16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	-	•
-	16	Mon	Zumba		
i	17	Tue	Needles & Pins		•
	17	Tue	Tuesday Probus		
1	17	Tue	Zumba Gold		
I.	17	Tue	Badminton	-	
-	18	Wed	Pilates		
i	18 18	Wed Wed	Stitchers Ladies Probus	5	•
	-		Pavilion Painters		
1	18 18	Wed Wed			
	18	Wed	Bingo Upstagers Amateur Dramatics		•
-	18	Wed	Tai Chi	-	
i	18 19	Thu	Senior Circuits	-	
!	19	Thu	Tai Chi		
:	19	Thu	Zumba	-	
	20	Fri	Yoga	5	•
-	23	Mon	Yoga (2 separate sessions)		
0	23	Mon	Zumba	-	

23	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions)	Village Hall Annex	6.30-7.30n m
23	Mon	Camera Club	5	
24	Tue	Needles & Pins	-	•
24	Tue	Zumba Gold		
24	Tue	Badminton	-	
24	Tue	USCAN Annual General Meeting	0	•
25	Wed	Pilates		•
25	Wed	Wednesday Probus		
25	Wed	Stitchers		
25	Wed	Pavilion Painters	0	•
25	Wed	Bingo		•
25	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics		•
25	Wed	Tai Chi		
26	Thu	Senior Circuits	-	
26	Thu	Tai Chi		
26	Thu	Get Together Club		
26	Thu	Painting & Drawing	5	•
26	Thu	Zumba	-	•
27	Fri		0	
		MAR		
(Reg	ular we	ekly events not shown below this line)		
2	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7 30-10 00n m
9	Mon	Twyver WI	-	
9	Mon	Parish Council meeting	0	
10	Tues	Copy Date for April issue of USL Life		
14	Sat	Spring Show	Village Hall	
15	Sun	Mothering Sunday		
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
18	Wed	Ladies Probus	-	•
19	Thu	History Group -Tudor Gloucester		
21	Sat	Spring Quiz		
23	Mon	Camera Club		
23	Mon	Lady Downe Charity	-0-	
26	Thu	Get Together Club	Village Hall	
		APRIL	-	
6	Mon	Upton WI	-	7 30-10 00n m
10	Friday	Copy Date for May issue of USL Life		
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club		
22	Wed	Ladies Probus	-	•
23	Thu	Upstagers - Black Comedy - Prepare to meet thy Tomb		
24	Fri	Upstagers - Black Comedy - Prepare to meet thy Tomb	-	•
25	Sat	Upstagers - Black Comedy - Prepare to meet thy Tomb		
27	Mon	Camera Club		
	T I			



Get Together Club......2.30-4.30p.m.

30

Thu

Parísh Councíl Report

This is our précis of the Parish Council meeting on 5 January. Full minutes are available in the Parish Office.

The Chairman, on behalf of all the Councillors and the Clerk, wishes all Parishioners of Upton St Leonards Parish a very Happy and Prosperous 2015

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Concern was raised in regards to problems of the storage and burning of waste and the blocking of a public footpath and also concerns about the water course being blocked on the land at the rear of Staites Orchard. It was agreed that the Environment Agency Waste Exemptions will be checked prior to any further actions.

POLICE REPORT

PCSO Mortimer reported nil crimes since the 8 December 2014 in the Parish. She also advised that speed checks are to be carried out along Bondend Road in the near future.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT - New Era for Partnership Working

(County Councillor Jason Bullingham - Phone 01453 822023 Email: jason.bullingham@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

A new working partnership for Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire County Council is being considered in order to make savings. Whilst several back office functions are already shared, it is being proposed that a shared post of managing director and joint strategic commissioning Director for Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire County Council is created. What is proposed is not a merger of the two organisations, but a stronger way of working together that is expected to save in the region of £100,000. If Gloucester City Council's members agree to the appointment, recruitment for the dual post will begin in December with a view to the successful candidate starting in the New Year.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

(District Councillor Keith Pearson)

The only news to report in this issue is that the District Council, at a special meeting on the 9th December approved changes to the already submitted local plan in line with requirements from the Inspector, the main area of change being the increased number of homes required to be built up to 2031, from 9500 to 11200. It should be noted that of these, some 7000 have already either been completed or given planning consent. Therefore the extra requirement for the next 16 years is around 4000.

RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION Cllr Hunt advised the Council that the Cricket Club were delighted at the support given to the refurbished nets project by the Council, he also reported that the new door canopy for the Pavilion had been delivered and was to be erected shortly.

ENVIRONMENT Cllr Wilson advised that he will progress the improvements to the Village environment, such as the resurfacing of the footpath through the Village Green, and works to improve local footpaths in the near future.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 2 February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. All Residents are welcome to attend.

Volunteeríng Opportuníty

Voluntary Board Member

Based at Barnwood, our mission is to help Gloucestershire people with physical or learning disabilities through life's

Gloucestershire Disability Fund

helping people through life's challenges

challenges by means of grants. We wish to appoint up to three new trustees who can help us maintain our focus and grow the work of the charity. We are looking for exceptional people with experience of

IT & SOCIAL MEDIA FINANCE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE to join our team of trustees at quarterly Board and monthly Grants meetings. People with personal experience of disabilities are especially welcome. To apply, please email your CV and covering letter explaining why you are interested in this rewarding role to info@glosdisabilityfund.org.uk. Charity No: 1048489 www.glosdisabilityfund.org.uk

MmmmmmFood for Thought - 17th February

Time to get those frying pans out, start mixing the batter and practising your flipping techniques!

Easy Peasy Pancakes

Ingredients

- 100g plain flour 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk Pinch of salt



1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying

Lemon wedges and/or sugar, to serve (optional) Caster sugar, to serve (optional)

Method

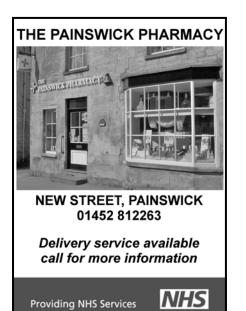
Put the flour, eggs, milk and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a smooth batter. Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time, or start cooking straight away.

Set a medium frying pan or crêpe pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper. When hot, cook your pancakes (see Step 3, above) for 1 min on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.

Serve with lemon wedges and sugar, or your favourite filling. Once cold, you can layer the pancakes between baking parchment, then wrap in cling film and freeze for up to 2 months.

A REMINDER FOR YOUR 2015 SPRING SHOW	UPTON
LET'S MAKE IT A COMMUNITY SHOW!	Web site
34	To contact us,
	postbox by the
UPTON ST LEONARDS 42 ND SPRING SHOW	use the contac
& RENT-A-CRAFT STALL	below:
SATURDAY 14 th MARCH 2015	This month's e
These are just a few Sections in the show. Why not enter?	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
SECTION A – FLOWERS, PLANTS & BULBS 1 A bunch of 6 daffodils, any variety, cut flowers from your garden	Chairman:
 A build of 8 danouils, any valiety, cut nowers from your garden 1 House plant – in flower. 	E ditta and
3 1 House plant – for foliage.	Editors:
4 1 Succulent or Cactus.	
5 Bulbs in any type of container.	
SECTION B – FLOWER ARRANGING	Company Secr
6 MEN ONLY - 'RED NOSE DAY' a red & green arrangement Max.space 18"/46cms	Company Sect
7 'TO MUM WITH LOVE' an arrangement in a basket Max 12"/30cms	Treasurer:
8 'MY MOTHER'S/GRANDMA'S VASE' an arrangement in a vase Max 18"/46cms	
9 'EVER LASTING LOVE' using silk or dried flowers Max 12"/30cms	Feature writer
SECTION XA – OPEN CHARITY CLASSES	
XA1 'SEAMANS MISSION HATS' Knit an adult's hat (no bobble) in double knitting,	Clubs / Societi
using your own pattern, any colour. ENTRIES TO BE DONATED.	/ Organisation
XA2 Upton St Leonards WI -	/ Organisation
A KNITTED ITEM TO BE DONATED TO 'GLOUCESTER ROYAL HOSPITAL	Diamu
SPECIAL CARE BABY UNIT' using your own pattern i.e. mittens, booties etc.	Diary:
XA3 Christchurch Abbeydale Craft Circle -	
KNIT A CARDIGAN/MATINEE JACKET FOR PREMATURE BABIES pastel shades,	Advertising:
using your own pattern. TO BE DONATED TO 'HAND IN HAND SYRIA'	
SECTION F – PHOTOGRAPHY – Max size of photograph 12"x8" (30x20cms)	
Photographs should not have been exhibited in any previous show and must be	Church Rep:
The exhibitor's own work. Photographs may be reproduced digitally or	
conventionally.	
30 'THE EYES HAVE IT'	Distribution:
31 'WORLD CUP FEVER.'	
32 'FUN IN THE SUN'	Photography:
33 'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM - 100 YEARS ON'	
34 'FOOD & DRINK'	Proof Readers
35 'A CLOSE UP' of any subject BLACK & WHITE PRINTS ONLY for This Class.	
53 <i>up to age 16 Years</i> - 'PANORAMA TAKEN ON A MOBILE PHONE'	
Schedules & Entry/recipe forms will be available from the Local Post Office	USL Life is pub
at the end of January or from MARILYN BANNISTER	Limited Compa
RENT-A-CRAFT STALL contact JACKIE LORD	Leyhill Prison
KENT-A-CKAFT STALL CONTACT JACKLE LUKU	

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE					
	Web site: http://usllife.co.uk/				
postbox by the Villa	To contact us, use the website or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:				
This month's editor	: Andrea Dawson				
Chairman:	Peter Wilson				
Editors:	Peter Wilson Andy Russell Andrea Dawson				
Company Secretary	: Cliff Alderman				
Treasurer:	lan Crowe				
Feature writers:	Kathryn Alderman Kaye Redman				
Clubs / Societies / Organisations:	Catherine McLean				
Diary:	Paula Quinn				
Advertising:	Carol Evans				
Church Rep:	Chris Mitchell				
Distribution:	Jenny Cunningham				
Photography:	Jim Browne				
Proof Readers:	Carol Hardacre Christine Ellson Kate Davies				
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Help to feed local people who do not have the money to buy food

The Church is open for donations Friday evenings 6 - 6.30 pm Contact Diana Way 372212 for information