

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 30

February 2017



Poetry Please! - The results - see page 15



Nearly Spring-time!

Days getting longer and brighter, lambs skipping, daffodils, birds starting to claim their territories. It's a great time of year. Time to get the mowers serviced, early planting, spring cleaning. Valentine's Day!



Oh yes - and pancakes. We've sometimes had Village pancake races, but what a waste of this lovely food. I like mine cooked very thin, with sugar and lemon juice. (Pancake day is Tuesday 28 February this year)



Here's a simple recipe:

For the pancake mixture
110g/4oz plain flour, sifted
pinch of salt
2 eggs
200ml/7fl oz milk
75ml/3fl oz water
50g/2oz butter

To serve
caster sugar
lemon juice

Two tablespoons of the butter, melted, goes with the batter mixture. The rest is to grease the pan. The pan needs to be hot. Do a test pancake to check the temperature and to see you are using the right amount of batter for the size of pan you are using - maybe 2 tablespoons for a 18cm/7in pan (tip - transfer the right amount of batter to a separate ladle or cup first so it is all poured in one go.)

New priest-in-charge appointed for St Leonards Church - see page 7



MOTORWAY NOISE REDUCTION

It's time to say a hearty "Well Done" to our Parish Council for their work in pressing the Highways Agency on noise reduction. Last month's newsletter announced the result. Here is the text of the announcement from the Highways Agency's own web site:

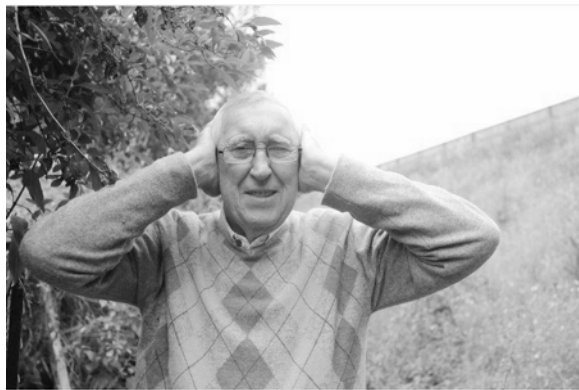
"Highways England had originally proposed a programme of work for 2018/19 but will now be resurfacing a seven-mile section of the M5



at Gloucester with quieter materials next spring – a full 12 to 18 months earlier than anticipated.

Funding has now become available to schedule the M5 resurfacing work in March 2017 – instead of 2018/19.

Highways England has been working with local communities and stakeholders to identify a solution to alleviate a longstanding noise issue between junction 11A and junction 12 around Upton St Leonards and Hucclecote."



David Barber of Woodland Green grimaces at the noise

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTS AT THE BMI OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD

There were two fantastic nights of entertainment this year at the BMI. On Christmas Eve Ian Oliver entertained 80 revellers to a night of music from the 60's right through to the present day. An ideal way to start the Christmas festivities.

On New Year's Eve, over 100 guests welcomed in the New Year to the fabulous "Top Mix". They played a great selection of songs throughout the evening as we all said goodbye to 2016 and looked forward to the year ahead.

POST-CHRISTMAS QUIZ AT THE BMI

Our most recent quiz at the BMI was the most successful since we began our seasonal quizzes a few years ago.

There were 22 teams on the night and with a raffle, the evening raised just over £200. This was a fantastic amount which will be going to the BMI Charity of 2016-2017, Longfield (in memory of Jenny Long). With 2 more events yet before we hand over the money raised we hope to reach over £1000.

The worthy winners on the night were the Woodentops. This team is now proving to be a challenge for the rest of us as they were also the winners of our Autumn Quiz, but well done to them!

Our next quiz will be on Saturday 8th April which will be our Spring Quiz.

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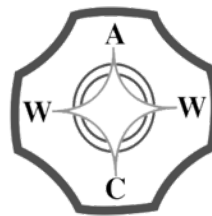
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News from the WIs



Associated Country
Women of the World

UPTON

There wasn't a January meeting. The next meeting for the Upton WI will be on Monday 6th February at 7.30pm. The speaker will be from the Emmaus organisation, which works with homeless people, giving them a place to live and work, and the chance to rebuild their lives. Emmaus runs the furniture recycling store on Eastern Avenue. As usual, new members are welcome.

TWYVER

Three new members, Lorraine, Angela and Tracy were welcomed to the January meeting and special birthday congratulations went to Jo Collins who celebrated a 'significant' birthday.

A busy evening ensued with subscriptions being taken and a Guess the Baby Competition, running alongside members submitting their resolution choices to be sent to the Gloucestershire Federation office where they will be included in the national count. In June, a final vote will be taken as to whether the chosen resolution should become a new WI campaign.

One of our own members, Sandy Baker, spoke to us about the ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) an association of women-led societies and groups working collectively for the shared vision of an improved quality of life for women and communities worldwide. With 420 member societies in 73 countries, ACWW gives voice to over 9 million rural and non-rural women.

Many WIs collect "coins for friendship" at their meetings. This money is sent to ACWW to help provide much needed finance for projects which help women in the developing world. Members were encouraged to bring in their own pennies or any unwanted foreign currency to future meetings. Wine and nibbles were then served whilst the names of the 'Babies' were revealed!

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 13th February at 7.30. The visiting speaker's talk is entitled "Being a Magistrate". New members are welcome, as always.



The picture shows members of Twyver WI Walking Group at the top of Painswick Beacon on a beautifully sunny cold January day. Back row, left to right: Trisha Hales, Penny Owen, Pauline Sugdon, Jackie Clouting. Front row; Janice Gilmour and Pam Tickner.

The nasty side of New Year Revels

It was very distressing to the residents of the bungalows in Bondend Road near the Twyver and Twyver Close that a group of revellers (probably some other name would be more appropriate) decided to invade their front gardens, rip up plants and leave a mess.

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Planning . . .

RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

These cover applications made at the end of 2016 and up to mid-January 2017.

Willingdon, High Street
Ref S.16/2259/HHOLD

Conversion of existing loft and rear extension

Willingdon, High Street
Ref S.17/0026/HHOLD

Change of part of front garden parking spaces

30 Churchfield Road
Ref S.16/2811/GDPE

Removal of outbuildings and erection of single storey extension to rear

St Teresa's Cottage, Prinknash
Ref S.16/2858/CPL

Proposed stationing of a mobile log home for use as a residential annex

Steps House, Portway
Ref S.17/0039/FUL

Resubmission of application (S.16/0142/FUL) for a replacement dwelling. Amendment to extend existing house for garage and car port

PRINKNASH DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REFUSED

On 7th December Stroud District Council issued a refusal notice on the planning application (Ref S.15/2122/FUL) for the development of the Abbey site.

In its refusal the Council states: "The proposed development is for the demolition of the existing Abbey and the construction of 10 houses. It is not considered that a development of this type would be in accordance with the mini vision or guiding principles for the Cotswold cluster. The strategy of the Local Plan seeks to encourage location of new development to settlements with existing facilities that can accommodate the new development."

"In this case the site lies outside the development limits of any settlement. Upton St Leonards is the nearest significant settlement being 1.5km from the site. This is identified in the Local Plan as a

third tier settlement, recognised as having limited facilities. Cranham is about 750m from the site. This is a fifth tier settlement which has a lack of basic facilities and where scope for new development is very limited. Consequently, the site is considered to lie within the countryside which is not considered to be a sustainable location."

USL Life comment: There is no mention (yet) of an appeal against this decision; the applicants have until May to make any appeal.

So the saga of what happens to the site and the building continues, with no resolution in sight.



You can see details of these and all planning applications at Ebley Mill or on-line at the Stroud District Council web site.

WINNYCROFT development: Permission for the 450 houses outline plan on the land between Winnycroft Lane, Matson, and the motorway, was granted over a year ago by Gloucester City Council, on the condition that 20% of the houses would be so-called "affordable". The developers have since claimed that this proviso makes the scheme unviable financially, so the status of the proposed development is uncertain (Ref 14/01063/OUT). There is another outline planning application (Ref 14/01470/OUT) for a further 250 houses off Corncroft Lane, adjacent to the Winnycroft Lane development. The Gloucester City Council website giving access to planning applications has not got the most recent decisions and papers on either development.

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The Spring Show . . .

UPTON ST LEONARDS 44th SPRING SHOW

AND

RENT-A-CRAFT STALL

SATURDAY 11th MARCH 2017 2 – 4pm



We are listing here just a few Sections in the show. There are baking & flower arranging classes as well. Why not get a full schedule and enter? Children: you have your own Section of activities too.

39 Days
to go

SECTION E - ARTS & HANDICRAFTS CLASS

- Class 21 A Hand Knitted item up to 4 ply
- 22 A Hand Knitted item in double knitting
- 23 A Hand Knitted item in Fancy Wool/Yarn
- 24 A Crocheted item in any yarn
- 25 Show us your hidden talents let us see what you have made - any media
- 26 A Picture (Handicraft) Max size 18"/46cms square, excluding frame
- 27 A Picture (Art) Max size 18"/46cms square, excluding frame
- 28 A Handmade Bag, made from recycled materials
- 29 A Quilted item

These items should not have been exhibited in any previous show.

SECTION G CHILDREN CLASSES

Age 7 and under:

- 46 Make a collage of a bird - any media A4 size
- 47 Make a vegetable person
- 48 Draw a picture of your favourite animal A4 size

Age 8 - 16:

- 49 Draw a snail and create a mosaic shell - out of recycled materials.
- 50 A collage made from leaves – any subject A4 size.

Any age up to 16:

- 51 Something I have made - any media
- 52 Rocky road bars – show 6 of your best bars to given recipe found on entry form
- 53 Photograph - see the panel to the right

SECTION XA – OPEN CHARITY CLASSES

XA1 Knit a 'Mischievous Mouse' in double knitting, any colour. A pattern is available from Val Doll 610940 or can be found in January's USL Life newsletter or www.battersea.org.uk/support-us/events/knitting-kittens-club. Entries to be donated to the Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

XA3 Knit a JUMPER to fit a 7-11 year old. Any colour/ply using your own pattern. Entries to be donated to the Chernobyl Children's Life Line

SECTION F – PHOTOGRAPHY

Max size of photograph 12"x8" (30x20cms) in all classes

Class 30 'Pretty in Pink'

- 31 'Pampered Pet'
- 32 'A Village Event'
- 33 'Dance to the Rhythm'
- 34 'View from a Gloucester Hill'
- 35 'Shadows' (Black & white prints only)

XA2 'A USL Village Scene' suitable to be used as a postcard or Christmas card.

53 A photograph I have taken of any sport (Class for children up to the age of 16)

Photographs should not have been exhibited in any previous show and must be the exhibitor's own work. Photographs may be reproduced digitally or conventionally

Schedules, entry forms & recipes are available from the Post Office or the Parish Council website uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk -> homepage-latest news link, or from Marilyn Bannister

RENT-A-CRAFT STALL contact Jackie Lord

THIS IS A COMMUNITY EVENT-WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR ENTRIES & SEEING YOU THERE

What's coming up . . .



Saturday 4th February

It's Entertainment Night at the BMI

with

ksB 2 Bak

from 8.00pm

Open to members and signed in guests

Join the UpStagers

for an evening of

Murder Mystery

& 2 course Hot Supper

A bar will be available



23, 24 and 25 March

7pm for 7.30pm

Village Hall

Tickets £13 (Concessions £12)

from Jackie Lord

Advance payment required

due to catering

Upton St Leonards Life
incorporating Church News
Issue 30 February 2017



AGM

The USL Life AGM will be held on Monday 27th March. More details next month.

Anyone may attend, but voting at the AGM has to be restricted to members of the company. To become a member is simple: ask one of the people listed on the back page! Or you can join on the website usllife.org.uk

The **USCAN** AGM will be held on the same evening, so people can attend both AGMs

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CHURCH NEWS



NEW PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Revd Clodagh Ingram has been appointed to be Priest-in-Charge at St Leonards Church. At the moment she is on the team at St Andrew's, Churchdown, and she will take up her appointment here in April or early May.

Celebration of Marriage

On Sunday 12th February the morning service at 10am will be a service to celebrate marriage. We look forward to welcoming couples, especially those married in recent years.



The service will be led by members of our own Mothers' Union, and is a non-communion service.

You are most welcome at this and all our services

ON CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING . . .

. . . it was 9.50am, ten minutes before the service was due to start. We were thrilled that the new bishop of Tewkesbury, Bishop Robert, was to be the officiant. He was there, plus a sides-person who had unlocked the church and was getting things ready, and . . . only about five others! Bishop Robert suggested we'd better get some chairs and sit in a small circle around the altar. "I'll set them out", he said, and proceeded to do so. Well, no sooner were the chairs in place than we turned around and suddenly the door was nearly overwhelmed with a rush of arrivals. About 50 came in the last 5 minutes. We had to put the chairs away quickly. The main section of the nave was nearly full. It was lovely to greet a fair number of children, and Bishop Robert led a wonderful service celebrating the birth of Christ.

(Read a report on some other services on the next page)

CHURCH CALENDAR - FEBRUARY

Sunday 5th

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Service

Tuesday 7th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Sunday 12th

10.00am Celebration of Marriage. This is a non-communion service led by the Mothers' Union.

Tuesday 14th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat
7.30pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 16th 2.00pm Mothers' Union meeting at 13 Perry Orchard. Speaker: Mary Russell, on her work in rehabilitation for blind and partially sighted people.

Sunday 19th

No morning service
6.00pm Evening Service

Tuesday 21st 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Sunday 26th

10.00am Holy Communion

Tuesday 28th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Wednesday 1st March is Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent. There is a service of Holy Communion at Christchurch, Abbeydale, at 6pm.

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

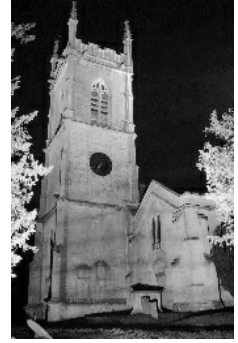
Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Gunn-Stanley

To book baptisms and weddings please call Rachel Hall or Jenny Cunningham

CHURCH NEWS

TOWER FLOODLIGHTS



The Tower Lights are lit in memory of my dear Mum, Mrs Cathlyn Small, who would be 89 on January 28th, from daughter Denise.

On the 25th February, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Derek Brinkley, whose birthday it would have been on this date. Kindly 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 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.

The Christmas and New Year Services

The carol service was led by Rachel Hall. The programme of readings and carols was organised by organist Greg Abrahams. There was not just one, but two choirs. Greg brought some of his singers from St Michael's, Bishops Cleeve, and the Twyver Ladies Choir also sang. A pretty full church (about 80) enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies after.

How many people can fit into the church? On Christmas Eve for the Christingle service there were over 300! Huge thanks to Evelyn Rumsey and Jenny Cunningham for preparing and donating the Christingles. Dorothy Cox led the service. The collection taken at the service will go to the Children's Society. Next year we will have to plan two services - it can't be entirely safe and it was certainly uncomfortable to have that many people crammed into the building.

The midnight Christmas Eve communion was also very well attended, about 100 taking part. Thanks to Revd Ian Calder who took the service. Like other years, it was very pleasing to welcome a number of guests staying at Bowden Hall and Hatton Court. Both hotels laid on minibuses to the church for their guests.

Bishop's Certificate

It is very encouraging to report that two St Leonards Church members - Sheila Thomas and Rachel Hall - attended a course at Gloucester Cathedral and have been awarded the Bishop's Certificate in the Leadership of Worship.

Among the many other tasks undertaken by Sheila and Rachel, they take on the quite daunting role of leading the worship at quite a few of our services, and this course was designed to help them in this work in practical ways.

You will have seen reports in previous newsletters of a number of services led by Sheila and Rachel, for example the outdoor Harvest Celebration. And in this month's edition there are reports on the Christmas and Plough Sunday services which they were heavily involved in. How lucky we are to have two such able leaders!

Keith Robbins

On January 8th we celebrated Plough Sunday. Again it was Rachel Hall who led the service, and it was lovely to have representatives from the Village farming community joining us to give thanks for the land and its produce. John Watts gave a very interesting and amusing address. After the service, appropriately, cider & ploughman's were served. Matthew Sproston and his ukelele entertained!

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PRINKNASH ABBEY PARK GL4 8EU

Church Fabric and fundraising update:

We have been blessed during 2016 with magnificent responses through individual donations and with proceeds from various events – and our income towards fabric and churchyard repairs has been nearly £8700. Amongst these we are again thankful for our shares of Village Day and Gnome Hunt at £1100 and £850 respectively, and to HMRC (yes it's true!) for VAT recovery of just over £1700.

In 2016 we have had to spend £14745, and fortunately we had £19000 in the kitty from 2015 thanks to your generous donations and grants in years past. In addition to ongoing maintenance commitments we have spent £2300 on boiler and heating repairs (but the church is now WARM!), £2100 on repairs to the Vestry roof, £8700 on emergency repairs to other parts of the roof. Sadly as you may recall the church suffered a break-in and the net cost of window repairs was £330. Overall we have been able to carry £13000 forward to 2017 towards our continuing needs amongst which are replacing rotten wood flooring in the Chancel with stone slabs.

Our greatest challenge remains to fulfil the major requirements of the 2014/15 Quinquennial Inspection (QI) by major repair works to virtually the whole roof and to improve significantly the rain-water drainage facilities as a whole.

As has been mentioned in previous USL Life pieces, this is probably the largest work project the church has been required to undertake for several decades and will cost in the region of a quarter of a million pounds. Thanks to Mike Blanch and a small team of volunteers we have made progress and have submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for their approval in principle of a major grant. Following the hoped-for approval we then have to apply again, this time with detailed costings and specialist reports and plans – so it's not a quick process and it will take some time before the funding is confirmed and the major repair work can start.

We are warm and broadly weatherproof for now. The HLF will have noted the generosity of parishioners and organisers of events in their financial support to date – but we will still need your help as items continually emerge (the organ now needs expensive repairs and the sound system is long overdue an upgrade) which are over and above the QI/HLF project. Please continue to support your Church by whatever means you are able. Thank you so much.

Keith Robbins and the PCC with Mike Blanch.



Plough Sunday - some antique farming equipment was used to help with the service's theme

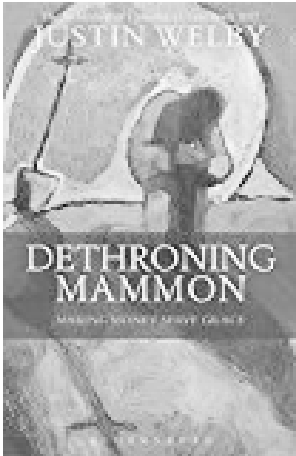
500 Club

December draw winners were Mike Stratford, Mike Blanch, Clive Winstanley and Zoe Ellis.

The Christmas £500 prize was won by Roy Roberts.

January winners were Trevor Hall and Richard Stephenson.

From now on the draw will select two winners every month (rather than four), and the prize amounts have doubled.



"Dethroning Mammon" by Justin Welby

ISBN 978-1-4729-2977-8 (£6.99 at Amazon)

Archbishop Justin Welby's former career in commerce and finance makes him very well qualified to write on the subject of how wealth and possessions ("Mammon" in some of Jesus' sayings) so often take over our lives, and how we must try to stop being slaves to them.

The book is set out as a study (for Lent 2017) in 6 chapters. This is very definitely a book for individual reading rather than group discussion, because each chapter develops its theme with well-reasoned argument, rather than snappy summaries. So it needs to be taken carefully and at the individual reader's pace.

It sets out to link each chapter to an episode in Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem. Though that is of course highly relevant for the season of Lent, it feels slightly artificial to me, and in the end I seemed to get more from my reading by paying less attention than I should have to the attached gospel episode. And indeed the author himself strays from the journey idea in his 6th chapter which uses biblical quotes from the Book of Revelation. I found that the sixth chapter, and the fifth before it, to be the best. (Amid more personal suggestions aimed at me and my giving, chapter 5 contains a really helpful critique of governmental International Aid, I thought.)

There are some very useful questions posed directly to the reader. Here is an example of three questions asked at the end of chapter 3:

"Do you remember a time when someone acted in a surprisingly selfless manner to your benefit?"

"Do you remember a time when you acted in that way?"

"Have you ever regretted it?"

I hope you can see in my example how well constructed those questions are, leading one, surely, to a conclusion that acting selflessly brings huge benefits to the giver as well as the receiver.

I do thoroughly recommend this book to you. I found it very readable.

Andy Russell

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM . . .

This month marks the centenary of the death of yet another young man from Upton, serving his country in WW1.



Private William Francis Dyer

William was the son of Thomas and Honor Dyer who lived and worked at Bowden Hall. He was born in Cheltenham and attended Upton School from 4th May 1896. He served with 21st Battalion Australian Infantry Australian Imperial Forces. His service number was 607 and he died on 10th February 1917, aged 23. He was killed in action attacking the Butte de Warlencourt, a Roman mound of excavated chalk about 17 metres high. It was not relinquished by the Germans until 26th February, when they withdrew to the Hindenburg Line. He is buried in Warlencourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais.



The BMI Club
(Est 1898)
Bondend Road
Upton St Leonards

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Interview with John Skelton

by Linda Munnoch

How many of the regulars frequenting the BMI have admired the paintings on the walls and wondered who painted them?

Curiosity certainly got the better of me and I decided to track him or her down, so you can imagine my surprise to find this amazing artist living within a stone's throw, and when John agreed to the interview I was in for a fascinating afternoon, to say the least.



John was brought up near here on the Haresfield Court Estate and from an early age would take himself off for the day and with 5000 acres to choose from, he found his inspiration in nature and would spend hours drawing. As a result he is a self-taught artist.

However, around 1962 music called and became his passion, playing guitar and travelling with a band, and he even found himself in Germany on gigs, around the same time as the Beatles. He spent a couple of years with the Jet Harris Band (Jet was a world-famous guitarist with the Shadows). John says, wryly, he soon grew up after being exposed to the seedier side of life witnessed when playing the clubs and pubs.

In 1983 John set up business as a typesetter and was doing OK, but along came computers heralding the dawn of a new era in the publishing and printing business, and composers were no longer needed. However John faced up to the challenge, bought new equipment, joined a partnership and made a success in the business world of graphics. But eventually his love for art began calling to him again, and he sold his share of the company in 1997 to be a free spirit. This was a really brave step, as from the ages of 19 to 60 he'd done no painting at all!

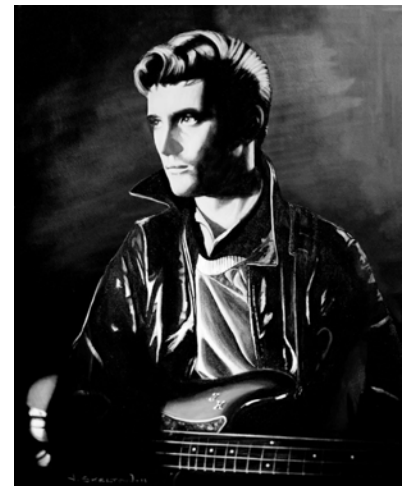
His paintings are realistic in style. He loves to research his subjects thoroughly and puts composite pictures and prints together. Wartime was his inspiration for the wonderful "Plane, Pilot and Girl" which graced the walls of the BMI until it was sold.

We chatted at length of artists from Tracey Emin and Damian Hirst, Michelangelo, da Vinci, to Pop Art, graffiti, native American and aboriginal art. We agreed that the Tower of London Poppy display was incredible. Though not a lover of the modern genre, he is an advocate of artistic integrity - there is something for everyone; it's about making your mark to show you are here*!

His paintings can take anything from 2 hours to 4 weeks and there are more paintings on their way. He is meticulous for detail. His paintings have sold not just locally, but around the world. Some are shown on this page, and you can see more on the web at Cheltenham-art.com. He takes commissions, including portraits and paintings of pets.

John and his wife Heather moved to Upton in 1968 and have a son Andrew who grew up in the Village. Andrew is married to Elizabeth and they have gifted them with two great children, Ethan and Chloe.

It was great getting to know our gifted Villager - thank you John.



Left: Plane, Pilot and Girl
Above: Train at Jingpen Pass
Right: Jet - the Legend

*Early men gathering together to share warmth, food and drink left their painted handprints on the cave walls. Thousands of years later we're admiring paintings on the walls of our BMI ...

Abbeydale Garden Club

The Abbeydale Garden Club held its AGM on Monday 16th January at Upton St Leonards Village Hall. The Chairperson, Anne Evans welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2017, including three new members. All the committee were unanimously re-elected with only one member standing down, after many years of service.

Subscriptions were held again at £16.00 for the year, which represents excellent value considering the wide variety of speakers who inform and entertain us throughout the year. Both Anne Evans and Maggie

Theakston (Secretary), now official gardening judges, gave us many useful tips for exhibiting when considering showing either fruit and vegetable produce or floral entries - mainly to encourage even more people to enter the Upton Show.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, February 20th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Mary Fenton who will talk to us about 'A Taste of Chile'. New members are always welcome. If you would like to know more please contact Maggie Theakston.



History in Maps

It can be fascinating to look at old maps. The illustration on the right is taken from John Speed's maps published in the early 1600's. These represent some of the earliest attempts to show the layout of whole areas of England relatively accurately, though in this case one imagines the maps were more for interest and illustration than actual use in getting from A to B. All our neighbouring villages are shown, except Hucclecote, not established at the time. "Prigne" is of course Prinknash.

Here's a query: What's the story of the village(?) of Nework shown between Gloucester and Hempsted? Nothing there today with that name, is there?






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

VILLAGE DIARY

FEBRUARY

1	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m
1	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m..
1	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
1	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
1	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
1	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
1	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
2	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
2	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m
4	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
6	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
6	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
6	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
6	Mon	Fitness Training(2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
6	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
7	Tue	Bins: Recycling and Food Waste		
7	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
7	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
7	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
8	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
8	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
8	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
8	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
8	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
9	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
9	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Fri	Copy Date for March issue of USL Life		
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
13	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
13	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
14	Tue	Bins: Rubbish and Food Waste (and garden waste for those with brown bins)		
14	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
14	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
15	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
15	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.0.a.m.
15	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
15	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
15	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
16	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
16	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
20	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
20	Mon	Fitness Training.....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
20	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
20	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
21	Tue	Bins: Recycling and Food Waste		
21	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
21	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
21	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
22	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
22	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
22	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
22	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.0-4.00p.m.
22	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm.
22	Wed	Bingo.....	Village Hall.....	8.00p.m.
22	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30pm.
23	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
23	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
23	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
27	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-11.30a.m.
27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.

27	Mon	Fitness Training.....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
27	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
28	Tue	Pancake Day - Yum, yum!		
28	Tue	Bins: Rubbish and Food Waste (and garden waste for those with brown bins)		
28	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
28	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

MARCH

4	Sat	Rent a Crowd.....	Village Hall.....	t.b.a
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 April issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Spring Show.....	Village Hall.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
16	Thu	History Group - The Restoration of the Cotswold Canals.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
21	Tue	Lady Downe Charity Trustees Meeting		
23	Thu	Upstagers Murder Mystery Dinner.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
24	Fri	Upstagers Murder Mystery Dinner.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
25	Sat	Upstagers Murder Mystery Dinner.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
26	Sun	Mothering Sunday		
27	Mon	USL Life and USCAN AGMs. Details to be announced		
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
29	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
30	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

APRIL

3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
8	Sat	Spring Quiz (revised date).....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for May issue of USL Life		
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
16	Sun	Easter Sunday		
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
24	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
26	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
27	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn get your event in the diary



DEDICATIONS on the seat on the Village Green

To get a plaque naming a loved one please contact the Parish Clerk, Roy Balgobin, in the Village Hall office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, or phone 621688



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Poetry please!

We have been asking readers to send in poems about the Village. The number of entries in our competition was slightly disappointing, but maybe the quality makes up for lack of quantity? Vall Doll's poem on the left below was judged a (very narrow) winner over Ted Gardener's on the right. See what you think! Congratulations to both.

The Village, by Vall Doll

The busy-ness of the motorway
Keeping us in the twenty-first century
And built alongside the Twyver stream
The school echoes cheers for the school sports team.

The cattle graze in our fair fields
Folk walk our lanes, dogs at their heels
Strolling onwards towards the Kings Head
Where they'll quench their thirst and be fed.

The old airfield is now bright at night
But the Abbey off Portway is still out of sight
When darkness settles on Upton hill
And all the village is quietly still.

The Village Shop and Village Hall
Are meeting places loved by all
Visit our church and you will hear
The murmur of those who once lived here.

My home, by Ted Gardener

And yet who would take from me these meadows
green that I call home,
These ancient pathways through woods and
places I have roamed,
Where buzzards soar on rounded wings,
And in the hedgerow the blackbird sings?

The sun through dappled branches shines
Upon this golden village mine.
No shadows dark to hide the way
Or impede my progress through the day.
For in the constant brightness see
This place here is left to me,
Where God's own bounties are bestowed,
This Upton that I call home.

A Former Upton poet - E R P Berryman

What timing - completely unplanned! On day after the USL Life editorial group was looking at the poems from current Upton residents, the History Group had a talk on a former Upton poet - Colonel E R P Berryman. The talk was given by David Walton.

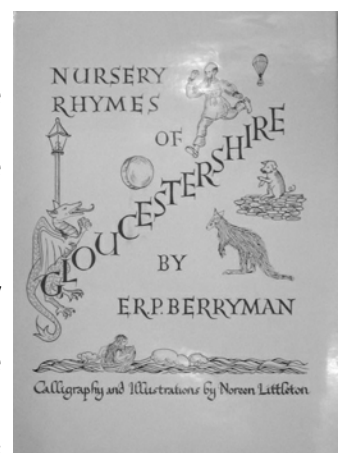
"Ted" Berryman was born in Hampshire in 1883. He joined the British Army, and before WWI was serving in India with the Garwhal Rifles. In 1914 his unit was called to fight in France. In 1915 Berryman was wounded, and during his convalescence stayed in Upton St Leonards with the Fielding family in the house that is now the Hatton Court Hotel.

To cut a long story short, after the war he married one of the daughters and settled in to live in Edmonds Hill, just below Hatton Court on Upton Hill. His daughter Felicity married Major Robert Nesham who also lived on Upton Hill - many remember him as the Reverend Robert Nesham, who was a curate at the church in the 1960s.

Back in the 1920s Berryman was inspired to write nursery rhymes for his children, and they were reckoned to be so good that he was persuaded to publish them. He weaved magic rhymes (he refused to call them poems) taking Gloucester and Gloucestershire names as their theme. So a rhyme about Seven Springs was all about a kangaroo which escaped from Bristol Zoo and in 7 huge bounds ended up at the eponymous spot. Where did the name "Ladybellgate Street" come from? Of course it was about a lady who rang a bell to get through a gate.

Colonel Berryman's rhymes have been collected into two major books, "Gloucester Nursery Rhymes" and "Nursery Rhymes of Gloucestershire". A Painswick artist produced a wonderfully illustrated and hand-written version of the latter (see right), and some of the rhymes have been set to music.

Colonel Berryman died in 1964. Maybe we'll be able to print some of his Nursery Rhymes in a later newsletter.



The Lady Downe Charity

Could the Lady Downe Charity help you or someone you know?

It is now mid winter and we have certainly experienced a mixed bag of weather. For some however, winter is a very testing time with the costs of extra heating and food as well as problems some older people may have in getting about. When Lady Downe provided her investments to be used for the benefit of the village, she was particularly concerned in helping those who at any time had a special need. Nowadays this might be the replacement of an essential piece of household equipment, the costs of hospital visiting, or whatever is particular to you. Applications for help made to the Trust are dealt with in absolute confidence but sometimes people who might benefit do not like to ask for help. If you know of someone who could do with that little bit extra, perhaps you might find a way to help and encourage them to apply.

Applications can be made to The Clerk to the Trustees, The Lady Downe Trust, The Coach House, Well Close, Coopers Hill Gloucester GL3 4RZ or by email to ladydowne@btinternet.com or via the website www.ladydowne.org



Owen joins the USL Life team

A big welcome to Owen Stinchcombe who has volunteered to be USL Life's treasurer, taking over from Ian Crowe. Owen helped us set up our website and is the USCAN treasurer, so is already well used to these Village organisations. Huge thanks to Janine Black who has been acting treasurer for most of 2016.

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

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