

# *Upton St Leonards Life* *incorporating Church News*

Issue 90

February 2022



## Reminiscences of our own Village Teddy Boy

See pages 14 and 20



## Advent windows See also pages 2, 19 and 20



Dawn over Kites Hill

Photo by Andy Russell

## Help needed for the organisation of the Village Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

See page 6

**USL Helpline 07898 542 457**

Local farmer  
Mike Long  
with his  
newborn  
lambs



## Editorial

This month we bring you an eclectic mix of reports and photos including a number of events which took place at the very end of 2021 as well as notices and articles relating to the beginning of 2022 and the year to come. Looking forward to June, we hope to be able to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a Village Party, but in order to do that successfully, we need volunteers to help with the preparations, so we urge you to respond to the request for assistance on page 5, if you feel you have something to contribute. Meanwhile, we hope you will enjoy the memories evoked by Ted Gardner of the first decade of Her Majesty's reign. For most of our readers this is history, but for some of us 'Oldies', especially the 'Girls', the Teddy Boy article brings a reminder of the days when we used to starch our frilly petticoats in sugary water in the bathtub and then go out to dance the Rock and Roll. *Barbara*

## WHAT WAS HAPPENING BACK IN DECEMBER?

### Coffee Club



On December 13th Lorraine & Brian, plus helpers, laid on a delicious Christmas lunch for us all. Ann Morphew gave a vote of thanks for the occasion. It was lovely to stage this event and be able to continue meeting up every Monday morning over the festive period. See page 20 for more photos.

**New visitors are always welcome to pop along to Coffee Club 10am until noon, in the BMI lounge.**

### Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve at the BMI

Both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve were busy nights at the BMI. Unfortunately our entertaining duo, Bak to Bak had to cancel at the last minute due to Covid. However we were able to source a replacement act at the last minute which we were grateful for.

New Year's Eve was busy as usual, although we reduced the numbers slightly. We were entertained by *Ian Oliver* who ensured that the music kept us dancing all night. There was a free drink on arrival, nibbles on the tables and a free raffle, all included in the ticket price.

Everyone agreed that it was a great evening and the ideal way to greet 2022.

**Residents of Six Acres** were out in their road singing carols a few days before Christmas. There was a collection which raised £100 - which they very kindly donated to USL Life. We are most grateful for this gift.

Then the residents were out in the street again later the same day when the Gloucester Brass band visited Six Acres, and made more contributions to the collection, this time for the Children's Society. Well done Six Acres!

## ADVENT WINDOWS 2021

USL Primary School PTA would like to thank all the villagers of Upton St. Leonards and beyond who have supported the PTA with the Advent Window Trail, either by creating a window or buying a map to complete the trail. I'm sure we can all agree it was a beautiful walk around the village with lovely windows along the way. Special thanks must go to Michelle King who again organised the whole event.

*Helen Wilks on behalf of Upton St. Leonards Primary School PTA*

See photos of some of the Advent Windows on pages 1, 19 and 20

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## Then in January...

### Post Christmas – New Year Quiz

The first quiz of 2022 at the BMI took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January. The post Christmas quiz has historically been very busy, and this year was no exception.

With 15 tables and 86 attendees it was exciting to find who the winners would be this year. (Unfortunately one team did not turn up on the night which is a shame as we had turned away other teams that wished to attend)

Andy Russell was our quiz master once again, and he produced questions that really got us thinking! Maybe in some cases we may have been suffering from a little "brain fog" after the Christmas/New Year celebrations!

Thank you anyway Andy for a great evening which everyone seemed to enjoy.

The winners on the night were "The Woodentops" with a score of 121 out of a possible 160, a great result as Andy does try to tax our fragile brains!!

A total of £237 was raised on the night from the quiz and raffle. This will be added to the BMI Charity for 2021-2022, "The Air Ambulance".

If you missed the quiz this time, the next one will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, which will be our regular "Spring Quiz".

### TWYVER WALKERS

These ladies didn't let a snow flurry spoil their fun on a walk to Painswick golf club, where they found plenty to chat about over coffee. Lunch was enjoyed at a pub on the way back to the village. They enjoyed the open countryside well wrapped up.



### UPTON WI

The theme for the January meeting was "The Good Old Days", with speaker Michael Morris. He brought a variety of recordings and videos: a rousing performance of Jerusalem in the Royal Albert Hall, with Her Majesty the Queen in attendance; the Glorious Glosters marching through the city; the young Queen's visit to Gloucester in 1955; a clip of a Les Dawson comedy routine at the piano; old dance shows, and plenty more. It was a glorious afternoon of nostalgia to cheer us up.

President Angela Harris announced that Jane Watkis has volunteered to be our Treasurer. Angela also reminded us that next year, 2023, will be a very special year for us. The National WI celebrated its centenary in 2015. Gloucestershire WI's centenary was 2019, and 2023 will be Upton St Leonards WI's centenary. Members are asked for their thoughts on how to celebrate this milestone.

Pam Slater was the speaker at last October's meeting when she told us about the Cotswold Perfumery. She is again our speaker when we next meet, on Monday 7 February, in the Pavilion at 2pm. This time her subject is "Pearls". You are most welcome to come along.

*Kathy Quant*



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## TWYVER WI

At our first meeting of 2022 New Year greetings were extended to all and visitors welcomed. Christmas cards are now being collected for the Cobalt Unit and our trade table is open again. We are hoping to get someone to demonstrate free IT and smart phones for those of us who are not quite as digital savvy as we would like to be. So we are looking forward to that in a future meeting. The main agenda for this month was to discuss and vote on this year's Resolution Shortlist as follows:

- The four resolutions put forward are :
- 1 Fit for purpose – fit for girls
  - 2 Equality in law for the menopause
  - 3 Women and girls with ASD & ADHD
  - 4 Tackling Digital Exclusion

All these proposals were discussed, first amongst each group who were allocated one Resolution to debate, and then, one member from each group summarised the content to all and the vote was taken. Voting was close but the Resolution voted for and supported by Twyver WI is – Tackling Digital Exclusion and this will go forward as our part of the national vote. Tea and biscuits were served and the meeting brought to a close.

Next meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> February. All welcome.

Linda Munnoch

**ABBEYDALE GARDEN CLUB AGM** held its AGM on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Village Hall. Fourteen keen members turned out on a freezing cold night to support the club and some volunteered their services to the committee, including two new members, Ann Roberts and Nicholas Watkiss, who were duly elected for the forthcoming year.

After eight years in the role of Chairperson, Anne Evans had advised the members at the December meeting that she would be stepping down from the role. Andrew Nicholls, a founder member of 37 years, thanked Anne, on behalf of the committee and the members alike, for her unwavering commitment and enthusiasm into making the club such a success. Anne was presented with a bouquet of flowers and garden gift vouchers to show everyone's appreciation for everything she had done.



Business closed at 8:05 and after the raffle, members enjoyed simple refreshments and became reacquainted.

Our speaker for February's meeting on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February will be Dominic Hamilton from the Rococo Gardens. A full programme for 2022 is already in place and anyone wishing to join for the modest sum of £18 for the year will be provided with a membership card listing all the dates and speakers. All meetings start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Further information can be obtained from The Secretary, Val George

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**BOOK  
NOW**

See also page 8 for our article about Dick Whittington!

# DICK WHITTINGTON

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## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



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## ANOTHER NEW INITIATIVE IN THE VILLAGE

### Friends of St Leonards

In the December magazine I wrote briefly about setting up a "Friends of St Leonards" group of people who will take interest and pride in helping to look after the church and churchyard, preserving our heritage.

Most Villagers, whether they worship there or not, will surely acknowledge that St Leonards Church is a key part of our Village and Heritage, and we all have a responsibility to ensure it is passed on to the next generation in a good state.

The aims of a Friends group would be to encourage donations and run fund-raising activities to pass money to the Parochial Church Council for looking after the building and churchyard, look for grants that support heritage, and to seek ways to use the Church for purposes other than services, e.g. concerts, talks and tours on the architecture and history of the building, inviting schoolchildren to explore their past. The group would probably be set up as a registered charity.

Lots of churches have Friends groups like this. In most cases, they are separate from the Parochial Church Council. There are plenty of examples, therefore, that can be followed and adapted.

There will be a launch event in the Church at 3pm on Sunday 20 February when there will be a short talk

about an aspect of the building and its history, an explanation on what a "Friends" group might do and how it might be constituted, followed by tea and cake in the Old School Room.

Andy Russell



An event to launch the  
Friends of St Leonards  
Sunday 20 Feb, 3pm, at the  
Church

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View from the french windows



## Upton St Leonards Investment Club (USLIC)

Did you know that USL has its very own Investment Club?

Approximately 16 years ago, the club was founded and over the years has seen members come and go but it is mainly made up of residents from the village.

On joining the group, each new member has to contribute a sum of money which goes into the overall pot. Whilst it is nice to make money and not lose it, the main focus is to have a social time with like minded individuals. Each year, funds are used for everyone and their partners to have a social event.

Being a member involves taking an interest in world affairs and how this impacts on the stock market. Awareness of the news and doing background research enables members to come to meetings with a level of general knowledge of what's happening in the UK and wider world and to make recommendations for investment. For many, this helps keep the brain ticking over!!

There is a structure to the club with formal roles such as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and a process for making investment decisions. The group meets every six weeks or so at the BMI which allows for movement in shares held and time to identify new opportunities and to have a drink or two!!

Interestingly, The Times newspaper in the past did several articles on the club, the last three being in 2011 where they compared how successful the club had been at investing in the stock market compared to people paid as professionals to achieve returns. The club in many cases were more successful!!

That success has been more of a challenge to achieve in recent years but despite the volatility experienced, there are always opportunities to invest in new and successful companies.

If anyone reading this is interested in starting up their own club, USLIC members would be happy to help, given the amount of experience that has built up over the years.

**Contact can be arranged through Peter Wilson**



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**Pauntley Court**

### **Dick Whittington comes to Upton**

What better way to start a new year than with a song and a laugh. Upton's "UpStagers" are presenting Dick Whittington, a pantomime, at the Village Hall on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> (restrictions allowing).

Dick, or rather Richard Whittington, was a real person who came from Gloucestershire. There is no record of him having a cat, although in the time Richard lived there were certainly plenty of rats.

Unlike the panto Richard Whittington was not poor, but the exact opposite. He came from a wealthy family from Pauntley. The family owned Pauntley Court adjacent to the church of St John the Evangelist in North West Gloucestershire.

Richard was born in 1354 in Pauntley, a small village, and was the third son of Sir William Whittington MP. Both Richard's brothers also became MPs. He was sent to London to learn the trade of mercer (one who deals in cloth). He became very rich importing silks and velvets which he sold to the king. In 1392 he sold goods to King Richard II worth £3,000 (today worth £1.5 million). The streets of London may not have been paved with gold but his purse certainly was. He also became a money lender even to the king. He also became a benefactor to the City of London. For instance, he paid for a ward for unmarried mothers at St Thomas' Hospital, rebuilt The Guild Hall seating 128 people and built a public toilet!

In 1397 Richard was appointed Lord Mayor of London by the king, he was elected Lord Mayor twice more in 1406 and 1419. In 1416 he became Member of Parliament for The City of London. King Henry V employed him as treasurer to complete the building of Westminster Abbey.

In 1402 aged 48 he married Alice Fitzwarren; they did not have any children. Richard died in March 1423 and was buried near St Paul's. His tomb has now been lost. In his will he left £7,000 to charity (today £3 million).

His story became a play in 1604 and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century this became a pantomime called "Dick Whittington and His Cat". In the panto things don't work out for Dick in London and he starts to return home up Highgate Hill, until he hears Bow Bells calling him back. Highgate Hill seems the wrong way back to Gloucestershire but it's a good story. There is no record of him keeping a cat: never mind, it gives someone a chance to dress up.

If someone at the panto tells you Dick Whittington was not real you can say in true panto style "OH YES HE WAS".

Sent in by our local historian, Mike Stratford

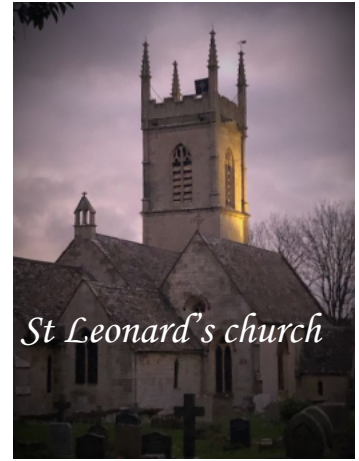


## St Leonard's Church News

**Priest in Charge**      **Vacancy**

**Interim Minister:**    **Rev Philippa Donald**

*Philippa's parish days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.  
Please feel free to leave a message for her on other days  
and she will respond when she is next in the parish*



[Website:www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

### Churchwarden

Gill Howell

### Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Jenny Cunningham

Dear friends in Upton St Leonard's,

I'm writing this on a frosty but bright January afternoon – the sun is shining and I'm preparing to take down some of my Christmas decorations – though I keep the tree up until Candlemas on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

The first couple of months of the year can feel a bit gloomy, once the festivities are over and life has gone back to the normal routine. But there are signs of life and new growth around us – snowdrops, those amazing little plants which survive harsh winters and then blossom with their beautiful delicate little white flowers. In the midst of all that cold weather they were growing quietly, in the darkness of the earth, ready to spring up when it was the right time

Snowdrops were traditionally brought to church on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the church celebrates Candlemas. This day remembers when Jesus was brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph, and two very elderly people, Simeon and Anna, met him and prayed for him. Simeon was a good man and a faithful believer and he had been told by God that he wouldn't die until he had seen the Messiah, Jesus. Anna, who was 84, and had been a widow for many years, had spent all her time in the temple, praying, worshipping and listening to the Scriptures. They both praised God, recognising that Jesus was the Son of God, and had come to save the world.

As our NHS struggles to cope with the ever present virus, and other winter crises of illness and accidents, the generation of older people can so often be seen as a burden and a drain on resources, instead of an asset. Sadly there are too many stories of older people left in hospital waiting to be seen, sometimes even without a cup of tea, or stories of elder abuse, where those in care homes are

not always treated with the respect and love that everyone deserves.

What a difference from the story of Simeon and Anna, who were respected for their godliness and listened to, for their wisdom. Our older friends in our churches and communities have much to tell us, and much we can learn, from their years of experience. But our world is fast moving and ever changing, and it can be hard to keep pace. In the church we have to change and adapt our services and our way of working all the time, in order to present the gospel of the light of Jesus Christ in a way that is accessible to the young(er) folk in our communities, and to encourage them to begin a journey of faith. But the wisdom and faith of older people is also to be treasured; it has spent many years growing and blossoming.

There was a wonderful programme on the television recently where some 4 years olds from a school visited an old people's home and the young and old had a wonderful time playing together, teaching each other, talking and laughing, and it was such fun to watch! It would be great if all our church services could be like this – young and old (and in between!) worshipping together, enjoying what is best about both the traditional and the more contemporary ways of connecting with God and with each other.

As we celebrate Candlemas at the beginning of this month, let's treasure the faithfulness of our older people in the church and the Benefice, and give thanks to God for them.

With love and prayers from  
*Rev Philippa x*



*A "letter to the editor" for the church pages . .*

On at least 6 occasions in December, at or after church events, mulled wine and mince pies were served. I partook eagerly and enjoyably. Not only was there work involved in serving and clearing up, but there was cost - and I know I didn't pay, nor was church money called upon. So some lovely people, and I can guess who some of them were, donated lots of time, effort and money. Grateful thanks to you all.

Andy Russell

### *Friends of St. Leonards*

A meeting to launch Friends of St. Leonards will be held on

20<sup>th</sup> February 2022

At 3.00 pm

To discuss subscription costs and donations

Meet at the church and the launch will be followed by refreshments served in the old schoolroom



During Lent (the weeks leading up to Easter) we will be holding 'Lent lunches' in the schoolroom.

These will take place on Wednesday lunchtimes, beginning on Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ash Wednesday, and finishing on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>, in the week leading up to Easter Day. Between 12pm and 2pm there will be soup and bread and cheese and fruit available in the schoolroom, so you can pop in whenever suits you between those times.

At 1pm there will be a short talk on the subject of 'Faith in the workplace' - a guest speaker will share a little of how following Jesus helps them in their place of work, and we will be able to talk to them and ask questions, if we so wish.

There will be a small charge for the lunch, which will go to a chosen charity ( more details to follow).



On Ash Wednesday evening there will be a service of the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7pm in the church, and all are welcome.

### *January Quiz the coming of the wise men*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What were the names of the 3 wise men?  | 1. Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar   |
| 2. Where did the wise men go, before they went to Bethlehem ?  | 2. Jerusalem  |
| 3. What gifts did the wise men bring?  | 3. Gold, frankincense, myrrh  |
| 4. What did those gifts represent ?  | 4. Gold for a King, frankincense to represent our prayers, myrrh which would be one of the oils used to embalm Jesus at the time of his death |
| 5. What is the name for the day we celebrate the coming of the Kings?                                | 5. Epiphany   |
| 6. Why did the wise men return to their countries by a different route from the one they arrived on? | 6. Because God told them to, in a dream   |



## Tower Floodlighting 2022

The Church Tower will be lit on the 4<sup>th</sup> February in memory of a very dear Dad and Grampy, John Rumsey on his birthday. With love and happy memories from all the family.

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.

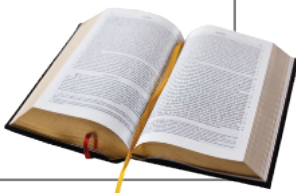
*If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or any other reason, please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details.*



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



Our church needs some more people who would be willing to read the lessons in our services, and lead our intercessions. We have a very faithful team who have taken on these roles, but we need some more people to join them! If you feel you could help with readings or intercessions please speak to Rev Philippa or Gill Howell. In particular, if you would like to offer to lead the intercessions, but are unsure how to prepare prayers, just ask Rev Philippa – she has resources for this and would be delighted to help you.



### *World Day of Prayer*

Friday 4 March  
10.30 am

St. Augustine's Church,  
Matson Lane

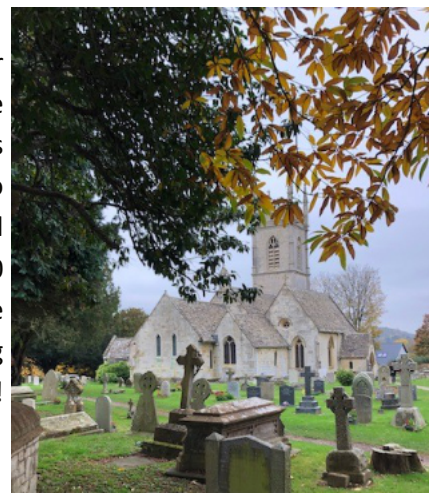
Please join us for the World Day of Prayer service which will be used throughout the world. This year the service has been planned and produced by women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

All are welcome. For further details please contact C. McLean

### *Churchyard records*

Picking up from the quote in last month's magazine "Every cloud has a Silver Lining" then I have to say that at St. Leonard's Church we are indebted to the enormous amount of time and work Jeff Dawson has spent in completing his survey of the churchyard. His work started at the beginning of the first lockdown so it has been a huge undertaking. The muddled records and list of burials we had and other records and Registers kept in Gloucester Archives dating back from 1540 have now been put onto modern spreadsheets enabling us to locate where people have been buried. Who would have thought that there are over 6500 burials dating back to 1540? He has also photographed all the headstones which is truly amazing! Thank you so much Jeff!

Sheila Thomas



**Mothers' UNION**

For the December meeting some members joined the congregation at St Oswald's, Coney Hill for a mid-week communion service especially compiled for the Mothers' Union by the Rev James Faragher. Afterwards everyone went to the back of the church (socially distanced) for seasonal refreshments served by Mrs Judy Jackson.

The next meeting is on Thursday 17th February in St Oswald's Church Hall at 2.30pm. commencing with the deferred AGM followed by our speaker, MU Trustee, Mrs Kate Thompson on "Her Experiences Through Mothers' Union and should be very entertaining!

If anyone would like to know more about Mothers' Union, please don't hesitate to contact me. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

**Church Treasurer - Vacancy**

PCC Secretary

Pam Tickner  
Tickner65@msn.com

**Safeguarding**

Sue Downey

**Bell Tower Captain**

Charlie Burnett

**Mother's Union:**

Kate Gale

**Church Flowers:**

Jenny Cunningham

**USL Life (Church pages), Pew News and Website**

Rachel Middleton

Kate Gale – Branch Leader

Kate Gale - Branch Leader

*Services for February 2022*

February 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Baptism
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Visiting preacher Rev Richard Inglesby)
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Communion
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Communion
March 2nd	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday
		Service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion



*January 500 Club Winners*

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£30.00	No.67
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£20.00	No. 71



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*Winter is here and the weather may be cold but poets provide compensation and humour to get us through to Spring.*

**NOW WINTER NIGHTS ENLARGE**  
by Thomas Campion 1567 – 1620

Now winter nights enlarge  
This number of their hours;  
And clouds their storms discharge  
Upon the airy towers.  
Let now the chimneys blaze  
And cups o'erflow with wine,  
Let well-tuned words amaze  
With harmony divine.  
Now yellow waxen lights  
Shall wait on honey love  
While youthful revels, masques, and courtly  
sights  
Sleep's leaden spells remove.

The summer hath his joys,  
And winter his delights;  
Though love and all his pleasures are but toys  
They shorten tedious nights.

**ICE ON THE HIGHWAY** by Thomas Hardy 1840 - 1928

*An enormous number of Hardy's poems demonstrate his ability to tell stories effectively, through pure observation. This brief poem captures the details of seven women's experience in icy weather by presenting the observations of a poetic watcher who does not participate in the action of the scene. Although the women are not alluded to in the poem's title, they are clearly its subject.*

Seven buxom women abreast, and arm in arm,  
Trudge down the hill, tip-toed,  
And breathing warm;  
They must perforce trudge thus, to keep upright  
On the glassy ice-bound road.

And they must get to market whether or no,  
Provisions running low  
With the nearing Saturday night,  
While the lumbering van wherein they mostly ride  
Can nowise go;  
Yet loud their laughter as they stagger and slide!

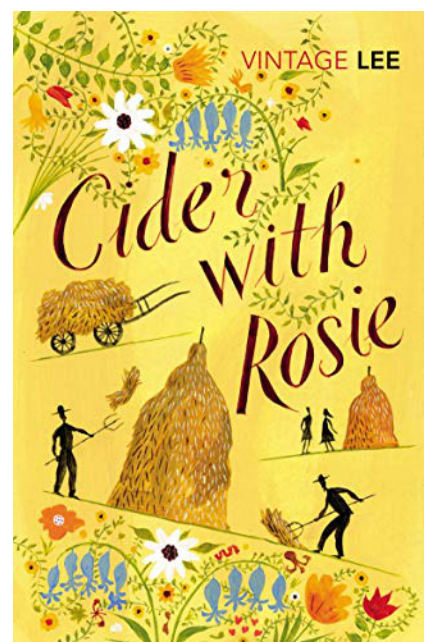
**THOUGHTS FROM FAMOUS FRENCHMEN**

To state quite simply what we learn in a time of pestilence : that there are more things to admire in men that to despise. Albert Camus, French Philosopher (1913 – 1960)

Three o'clock is always too late or too early for arranging anything you are meant to do. Jean Paul Sartre – French Philosopher and Writer (1905 – 1980)

**BOOK REVIEW**

At the request of an avid reader of USL Life Arts Page, this month we recommend that you read or re-read *CIDER WITH ROSIE* by Laurie Lee. Lee grew up in Slad near Stroud after the First World War. *Cider with Rosie* begins with the family moving from Stroud to Slad in 1917 and ends with Laurie leaving Slad for London in 1934. It was published in 1959 and was dramatised for television in 1971 and turned into a stage play. It chronicles the traditional Cotswold village life which disappeared with the coming of the motor car and other developments. We also recommend to you a biography of Laurie Lee written by Valerie Grove entitled *Laurie Lee: The Well-Loved Stranger* and published in 1999. Happy reading!



## TED GARDNER

Ted's poems appear regularly in USL Life but Ted also lives another life as a Fashion Icon – Teddy Boy – Rock and Roller.

Ted was born in USL at Pound Corner; he went to school in the village, got married in Upton Church and has spent all his life in Upton. He left school at 15 and trained as a plumber at the Gas Board. As soon as he was earning money he joined a group of boys known as "The Gloucester Teds". Ted is the last of the group left in Upton. Their aim was to dress in the latest fashion, to be the smartest and to attract girls.

Ted set aside 10% of his money to buy outfits – suits were bought mostly at the 50 Shilling Tailors. Trousers had to have 16 inch bottoms and jackets had to have a drape. One jacket which was specially ordered then, had blue velvet collar and cuffs. Ted is still wearing that jacket today. Waistcoats were often made by Ted, together with ties. Colours were carefully chosen to match or contrast. Ted remembers buying half a yard of blue satin brocade from the Bon Marche in Kings Square, Gloucester. He took the brocade to the 50 Shilling Tailors with his measurements; one week later the waistcoat was finished and cost him 17/6d.

Shirts were mostly black and worn with cufflinks; socks were matching or contrasting. Shoes were important. They had to be lace-ups with thick soles with 4 D rings for the laces. They were known as Brothel Creepers. Ted's first themed shoes were blue suede to go with the blue brocade waistcoat.

He thinks that the Teddy Boy era lasted about 10 years or so, then the fashion changed to flared trousers. Flares came and went and in came Rock and Roll. Ted's fashion continued to change with the times. He and his wife, Christine, loved dancing, especially at The Guildhall in Gloucester where there was a sprung floor. They enjoyed listening to trad jazz in pubs and dancing to the music of Chris Barber and Dave Brubeck.

Rock and Roll still plays a large part in Ted's life and he has continued to dance since Christine died. Dances are held at The Walls Club (swing jive), Tith Barn, Bishops Cleeve and St Barnabas Rooms. Ted is fit, still dancing and dressing in his own unique way.

*Feature compiled by Ann Morphew*



See page 15 for another poem by Ted and page 20 for pictures of his waistcoats.

## The Last Teddy Boy by Ted Gardner

The other month one of my old poems was mentioned. It was one of the earliest ones I wrote back in March 2012, and with August's RETRO SATURDAY in town, it reminded me of the one I have always loved: EVERY TEENAGER WAS A TEDDY BOY. Rock 'n Roll music was tops, smart dress was important and you could jive the night away. So, with those thoughts in mind, I have revamped and rewritten my poem. Here it is:

I am the last Teddy Boy in the village  
And I still wear the "Drapes" when I can  
For they are the clothes of my teenage years  
And they make me feel like a man.

A long drape jacket and drainpipes  
With a waistcoat and socks colour-matched,  
A black shirt with bright silver cufflinks  
And crêpe-soled shoes that were stacked.

The music supplied by Bill Haley, the Big Bopper and Chuck Berry too,  
With Elvis, "Hound Dog" and Guy Mitchell (singing the Blues),  
Fats Domino just kept on "Walking right up Blue Berry Hill"  
With Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman" - I guess  
That they are walking still.

It's nice to look back on teenage years  
And remember the way we were then  
And I know that we had the best times,  
But they won't be repeated again.

And when the day comes that I get my calling  
And I head for the old Pearly Gates  
I will be there Rocking and Rolling  
With all of my Teddy Boy mates.

*Ted*

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Some detailed maps of the Village have the words “traces of paving” beside the footpath which runs up towards Cud Hill on the far side of the road to Painswick. There’s a narrow field behind Hazel Grove. The path uphill here is along the right-hand hedge, and one can see that it is slightly raised above the field. Between the middle of the field and the stile at the top, if you look carefully, you can see a line of kerb stones, and paving stones over which the path passes. The stones are often hidden by grass, but clearly visible when the grass is cut or dies back. The stones are quite roughly cut.

We don’t know how old the paving is. If you walk the path you can see that it links to what appears to be a very old trackway higher up, and, looking on the map you can see that the paved part, the path below it and above it form a straight track aligning with Upton Hill from about the Hatton Court entrance almost to the top of Cud Hill. That implies that the route could be very old, maybe an original route up to Painswick, now replaced by the road we all use. Could it even be Roman?

### “Traces of Paving”



A few years ago I asked the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society to have a look. There were other features in the vicinity that could just possibly be Roman. Two society members had a good look. They were fairly certain that there was no good evidence of Roman settlement, though naturally, being in an area with so much Roman activity, no doubt people from that period would have been managing the land and passing through, e.g. to the Ifold Roman villa, just outside Painswick.

They liked the idea of, one day, doing some test digging at the “traces of paving” to try to date it, but it would not be high on their list of tasks. Their best guess was that at some time it may have been a very boggy area and the paving was put in place to make the route passable.

The map shows the path (which, incidentally, is part of the Wysis Way, a long path from the Wye near Monmouth to the Thames (or Isis) at Kemble), and the arrow indicates the area of paving.

*Andy Russell*

---

## B M I ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY

Dancing to  
The Music of  
IAN OLIVER

8.00- late

Open to members and signed in guests





## FEBRUARY

1	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
1	Tue	Health Improvement	Pavilion	7.00p.m.
1	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
2	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
2	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
2	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
3	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00p.m.
6	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
8	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
8	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
8	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15a.m.
8	Tue	Health Improvement	Pavilion	7.00p.m.
8	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
9	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
9	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Thu	Copy Date for March issue of USL Life		
10	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00p.m.
13	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
14	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
14	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
15	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15a.m.
15	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
16	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
16	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
16	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00p.m.
19	Sat	Entertainment Evening	BMI	8.00p.m.
20	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
20	Sun	Launch - Friends of St Leonards	Church	3.00p.m.
21	Mon	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15a.m.
21	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
22	Tue	Recycling and food waste week/Garden waste for those with brown bins		
22	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15a.m.
22	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
22	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
23	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
23	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Thu	Craft 'N' Chatter	Old School Room	10.00-12noon
24	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00p.m.
24	Thu	Pantomime – Dick Whittington	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
25	Fri	Pantomime – Dick Whittington	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
26	Sat	Pantomime – Dick Whittington – Matinee	Village Hall	2.30p.m.
26	Sat	Pantomime – Dick Whittington	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
27	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
28	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.

## MARCH

7	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week		
10	Thu	Copy date for April issue of USL Life		
14	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Tue	Recycling and food waste week/Garden waste for those with brown bins		
17	Thu	History Group - John Bellows Over Seas	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
23	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
26	Sat	Spring Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
30	Wed	Upton WI Committee	Pavilion	2.00p.m.

## Village Diary continued

### A P R I L

4	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for May issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
27	Wed	Upton WI Committee	Pavilion	2.00p.m.

To place an entry in the Village Diary, please contact Paula Quinn

## Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Brickhill	07876 764425
Yoga <i>NEW</i>	Wednesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Sylvia Bennett	07921 591521
Yoga	Fridays 10am	Pavilion	Sylvia Bennett	07921 591521
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays <u>1.30</u> pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

## USL Life needs more advertisements!

Do you know a business that would benefit from an advertisement in USL Life? Maybe someone who gives you good service, or a friend you know who could do with more customers.

Let them know about the magazine - show them a copy maybe, and let them know how well the magazine is regarded in the Village. It is delivered monthly to every house in the Village, that's 650 copies, and something like 200 copies are also picked up by people living nearby.

## Notice to Hadwen Health Surgery patients

We have taken the decision to permanently switch off the eConsult online consultation system. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made after several audits of eConsult have determined that overall, it is an inefficient use of our limited resources. These inefficiencies have now become more critical due to GP shortages. We recognise that for some this decision will come as a disappointment; we will strive though to ensure that a more efficient online consultation system is available as soon as one is procured by our Clinical Commissioning Group. In the meantime, we will continue to refine our systems and procedures to ensure the best possible pathways exist for all clinical and administrative issues that need the Practice's attention, and will shortly publish a FAQ sheet detailing the quickest and most efficient ways to access the most appropriate support that we are able to provide.

Thank you for your understanding

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS CENTENARIAN!



**MRS. HETI JOSEPH**

Mrs Heti Joseph achieved her 100th birthday on December 30th 2021. Her family and friends met with her to enjoy an afternoon tea at Bowden Hall to celebrate this very special occasion.

Heti and her husband David came to Upton-St-Leonards with their two sons in 1964. They bought a parcel of land from their friends Mr & Mrs Owen and employed an architect to design their new home. Heti and David dug the foundations themselves and then employed builders to construct the house - Heti helping to shovel cement into a cement mixer and wheeling loads of concrete to David working in the trench.

Heti and David were both teachers. David taught at Sir Thomas Rich's School for 36 years and Heti taught at Elmbridge Junior School for 31 years.

Heti and David were members of the Gloucester Welsh Society and sang in the choir for many years. Heti was also a member of the Ladies Committee of the League of Friends of Gloucester Royal Hospital and helped to raise funds at the many events organised by the committee.

After David died in 2010 Heti decided to stay in her home, where she continues to live today with the support of her son Alun.

*Llongyfarchiadau Heti a cariad mawr.*

Congratulations and much love.

*Welsh is Heti's first language.)*

## Another Advent Window back in December

Use it or lose it! Keep supporting our village shop and post office - they are a vital part of our community.



## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://usllife.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:

This month's editor: Barbara Swindin  
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Andy Russell  
Barbara Swindin  
Peter Wilson

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Linda Munnoch  
Ann Morphew  
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## *This and next month's editor*

Barbara Swindin



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**Ted Gardner and his waistcoats and Teddy Boy shoes**



**Some more of Upton St Leonards' senior citizens enjoying themselves - see page 2.**



**Some more pictures of Advent Windows around the village in December 2021**

