

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 17

January 2016



To all our readers we wish you a

HAPPY NEW YEAR !



BMI Pensioners Xmas Lunch

The pictures are a montage of happy snaps taken at the BMI Senior Members Christmas Lunch. The "magical" afternoon began with a performance by a sleight of hand magician, Andy Field, who mingled with the eighty guests. During lunch he visited every table and amazed with his magic. After the meal there was much merriment in the form of singing and dancing, with music provided by Kenny.

Members of the BMI committee served a traditional three course Christmas lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by the diners. Our huge thanks go to the BMI steward Alec and his wife Mary, who worked extremely hard, for the catering, and to the committee who served the food.

The Get Together Club Xmas Lunch

... And let's not forget there was another event in the same vein - see the report and pictures on page 5 inside.

You can see all past issues of USL Life on our website: <http://usllife.co.uk>

GETTING INVOLVED in 2016 ?

If you feel you could spare some time to donate to your community, why not consider getting involved as part of the many New Year's Resolutions we all think about as we approach the start of another year?

I hope you will agree that we live in a lovely village and it is very easy to take it for granted until you chat to someone like I did recently who lives in an area where no-one speaks to each other and there is not much going on around them. That really is a different quality of life!

When I was still working, I never got involved in village life due to pressures of long days and commuting to my work etc. Since retirement I have changed my approach, given I have more time to do things and have enjoyed in recent years giving something back and importantly meeting new people in and outside the village and making new friends. I would therefore highly recommend giving it a go, based on how much time you can spare and what you may be able to contribute - most things in my experience do not require you to be rocket scientists (I am a good example!).

I do appreciate that if you are working and maybe have younger families it will be more difficult to make a significant commitment to community activities but everyone's circumstances are different and it is therefore a personal choice whether to make that first step - I would thoroughly recommend doing so.

There are many opportunities and it is about deciding what to take on. Some people are happy to participate in simple tasks whilst others may be interested in helping to organise events. One of many possible examples is our September Flower Show where we have a dedicated group of people working on a committee throughout the year to make it all happen. But they also need help with the erection and dismantling of tables and small marquees on the day of the show, so it can be as simple as one day a year!!


I know that the people currently working on behalf of Upton in clubs, committees and event groups would really appreciate some additional help or in some cases maybe a break from a role they have performed over many years ! Most of our clubs are shown on page 19 so you will appreciate just how many things are going on in our village.

On behalf of the USL Life Team I would like to express our thanks to all the people who work hard every year behind the scenes to make USL such a nice and interesting place to live.

We will over coming months liaise with different groups and aim to identify any specific support needed together with a realistic estimate of time commitment required, and share the information via this newsletter.

See Page 13 for Speedwatch and Page 20 for Newsletter Team as examples of different types of support required.

Peter Wilson, Editor



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What's been happening in USL ?

Ladies Probus Group 10th Anniversary, December 2015

by Teresa Clarke

The Upton St Leonards Ladies Probus Group met on the 9th of December to celebrate its 10th Anniversary. Nine of the past ten presidents attended and much reminiscing was enjoyed.

The Upton Ladies Probus Club first met on the 31st of March 2006. The first president, Jacquie Clouting remembers that a group of ladies got together following the Tuesday Men's Probus Christmas lunch in 2005 to see if there was any interest among the ladies in forming their own club. After a good response, the B.M.I. was selected as the chosen venue. Unfortunately at that time the B.M.I. restricted membership to the wives of the Men's Probus Club and the women were not allowed to become members in their own right (a policy now thankfully scrapped, of course).

The original group comprised President Jacquie Clouting, Vice President Jackie Hunt, Secretary Genevieve Dancey, Treasurer Glynis Wright and Social Secretary Ruth Simm. In all there were twenty-eight ladies. They met every other month. Meetings at the B.M.I. were very informal usually with a guest speaker. In the alternate months, a lunch or trip was organised for the group. The first trip was to the Malvern Theatre to see The Naked Gardener. Jacquie recalls much excitement on the coach.

Jacquie remembers that the size of the original group allowed her to visit each table for a chat. She said she was delighted to see how the club had developed and grown. The membership now stands at 60 with a waiting list.

After group photographs, the anniversary was toasted with prosecco accompanied by mince pies and stollen. Then Diana Rosewell, a member of the Gloucester Beaders, gave an insight into jewellery making and knitting with silver.

Finally the meeting was treated to seasonal Carols and festive songs by The Twyver Ladies Choir.



Past Presidents:

On the left, L-R: 2006 Jacquie Clouting, 2007 Jackie Hunt, 2008 Dorothy Cox, 2009 Julie Threlfall, 2010 Tricia Hales.

On the right, L-R: 2012 Pat Jenkinson, 2013 Maureen Harris, 2014 Sue Merigold, 2015 Myra Williams.

(The 2011 President Judy Jackson was unable to attend.)



USL School Writing Competition

The children at Upton School were recently invited to take part in a writing competition which has now concluded. The results, winners and the winning stories will feature in February's edition of USL Life



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What's been happening in USL ?

UPTON ST LEONARDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - December meeting

Mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed at our December meeting while we listened, enthralled, to traditional and seasonal tales from our speaker and storyteller, Fiona Eadie.

New president Diane welcomed four visitors and invited us to sign up for workshops in Aromatherapy in February and Beading in April. She asked for volunteers to model our fashion show in April for which tickets will be on sale in the New Year.

Our programme for next year was given to members. There are some very interesting speakers for us to look forward to . We shall learn about the history of Gloucester, Knitting, Flowers in healing, Tracing your Family History, Dylan Thomas's Reminiscences of childhood, the Land Girls and the history of Gloucester Prison.

The speaker at our first meeting in 2016 is Trish Tenn with a talk entitled "Strength in Life". Visitors are very welcome to any of our meetings.

We meet at 7.30pm on the first Monday of every month.



TWYVER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - December meeting

The president welcomed everyone to the Christmas meeting including 5 new guests. There was a special welcome for the return of Joan Ashton following her illness and members were delighted to see her.



The speaker this month was Stephen Rowley from the Gloucester Mummers, who gave a potted history of how mumming developed from its origins in the mid 1400's, its decline around the 1st World War, its revival in the 1950's and 1970's and through to the present day. Stephen then put on a mummers play with the help of his wife, and 6 volunteer WI members. This proved to be hysterically funny and put everyone in the Christmas spirit. A



thoroughly enjoyable evening was rounded off with warm mulled wine and mince pies.

Our next meeting will be our Resolutions meeting on 11th January. Our speaker for the evening will be Margaret Daniels, the Bard of Barnwood.



St Leonards Singers and Twyver Ladies Choir

On Sunday evening, 13th December, our Village Hall was packed, in anticipation of a wonderful evening full of music, singing and entertainment! The occasion was the singing together, for the very first time, of both village choirs and what a magical evening they provided!

The two choirs, both led and accompanied by Sylvia Ardron, sang a diverse array of songs, ranging from traditional Christmas songs and carols to a very spirited version of the Rhythm of Life sung by TLC and a very modern setting of the Coventry Carol sung by SLS. Every now and again the audience too, had the opportunity to join in, and the programme was interspersed with some deliciously satirical and lyrical interludes from Andy Russell and Keith Ardron.

For further amusement there was a quiz and a raffle, the proceeds of which went to Mindsong, a local charity administered from Tewkesbury, reaching people with dementia through music and song. As a result of the concert the performers are delighted to be able to contribute the sum of £500 to Mindsong.



Sylvia Ardron and her singers would like to thank all those who attended for their generous support and appreciation.



Well done everybody!! Great Performances from you all.

What's Been happening in USL - cont'd



The Get Together Club Xmas Lunch

The Get Together Club had a very successful Christmas lunch at Bowden Hall Hotel on Monday 13 December. All 51 members and committee took pleasure from the lovely surroundings including a beautifully decked out restaurant. The excellent meal was enjoyed by all and, along with the attentive staff, made this a memorable occasion. Our Grand Xmas raffle was drawn with many members winning prizes. We thank everyone who supported this fund raising initiative by buying tickets and we are pleased to say that our funds have increased by £160.



We now look forward to our meeting on 28th January 2016 when Nick Rowles will travel up from Cornwall specially to entertain us. Nick is a true friend of our club and has been to our January meeting for several years. Our programme for 2016 will also be circulated at the January meeting. It looks full of fun !

The Club would like to wish all readers of our lovely village magazine a Happy New Year.

Getting your notices, news, etc into Upton St Leonards Life.

In last month's issue we recommended that you sent any e-mails with material to all the editors so nothing is missed:

Getting material to us via the website or the Village Hall postbox should be ok as well. We haven't received much content historically this way but will endeavour to check on a regular weekly basis for any contributions so they can be considered for inclusion in the next available edition.

Remember we don't promise to publish everything sent in. We have got a responsibility to ensure that, as far as possible, the Newsletter remains interesting and readable and looks good (in our "style").

Here's another problem we face: For your upcoming event you eagerly create an eye-catching poster with lots of colours, pictures, logos, borders, weird fonts and other effects. You probably create it in A4 or A5 "portrait" layout, so you can print it as a flyer to go through doors and on notice boards. We are unlikely to be able to allocate a whole page (A4), and when we put something of A5 size on our A4 pages, that leaves a very awkward space around. And it won't be in colour. So you may want to think instead about something that will work better in here, or give our editors the freedom to alter your layout to make it work better in here. We can do this more easily if you send the item in as a Word document or PowerPoint, rather than as a pdf. Thanks for your help.

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What's Coming Up in USL ?

Saturday 6th February 2016

Entertainment at the B.M.I.
with
Sam Austin (Guitar/Vocalist)
from 8.00p.m.

Open to members and signed-in guests



Quiz

Saturday 9th January 2016
Members and Guests
Post Christmas/New Year
Quiz@ the B.M.I

£5.00 per team of 4
Start 8.00pm

Please enter your team on the
booking sheet in the B.M.I.
foyer before Friday 8th January
2016

The UpStagers present a Pantomime



"Snow White"

(by Carol Vye)

At the Upton St Leonards Village Hall

**Thursday 18th, Friday 19th & Saturday 20th
February 2016**

@ 7-30pm

(Doors open at 7-00pm)

Matinee Sat 20th @ 2-30pm

(DOORS OPEN AT 2-00PM)

Tickets £7-50 (£6-50 concessions)

Available from Jackie Lord

Refreshments available

Do You Need Support ?

Lady Downe Trust

As I write, winter has started to sharpen its claws and for some people the time is coming when difficult decisions have to be made. Limited resources often have to cover both keeping warm and keeping fed. Sometimes essential pieces of household equipment begin to show their age and with an increased workload fail at what always seems to be the worst moment. At other times a close relative may fall ill and as we know the costs of regular visits to the hospital can be difficult to find. There can be many times when it is hard to meet the challenges which face us. In Upton the Dowager Lady Downe all those years ago realized that this was something she could help with and so part of her legacy through the trust named after her was allocated to providing support to those in need and suffering hardship.

Any application to the Trust for help in these circumstances is always dealt with in strictest confidence. Quite often however, possible beneficiaries are either not aware of the help the Charity can give or feel very reluctant to apply. Neighbours and friends can help by quietly supporting someone they know to approach us. A leaflet is distributed twice a year which gives our contact details and full information and an application form is available on our website www.Ladydowne.org. Alternatively contact can be made with our Clerk who will be very helpful.

I think it is important to say again that any application made to the Trust is treated in absolute confidence.

Colin Freshney, Chairman of Trustees

Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs L McGrory, The Coach House, Well Close, Coopers Hill, Glos GL3 4RZ

Fancy a Drink / making new friends ?

In case you hadn't noticed !

Only a few weeks ago I had the pleasure of signing the application forms for a couple of Upton residents, who had after very many years living in the village, realised that the BMI existed. What's the BMI you may ask yourself, well not the Body Mass Index, although there just might be a connection, no the BMI (Birchall Memorial Institute) Club, situated in Bondend Road next to the Village Hall.

The club is the village club, your club, kindly built and given to the people of Upton in trust in 1898 by the Birchall family of Bowden Hall. It is not a working men's club; it is a club for all. Over the past 6 years or so a considerable amount of money, in excess of £50k has been spent making it a really comfortable place to come with your friends and family, whether in our Lounge Bar or the Long Room which has a large screen TV with Sky Sports/BT Sport, a snooker and pool room.

We take bookings from members for birthday parties, weddings etc. The membership fees are very low, £10 per annum (half price for Senior Citizens) and the bar prices are very reasonable compared to the average pub. So if you are like my new-found friends who just didn't realise we were here, please come and see us, you will like what you see..

Keith Pearson
Chairman



Tania Walters
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Get your brown wheelie bin!

No doubt you will have seen and read about changes in rubbish collection coming up in the Stroud District soon. The first of the changes to be activated involves garden waste. From the end of January, the green waste sack collection will stop.

In its place you can subscribe to a fortnightly collection service at a cost of £36 per year, plus an initial £20 for the purchase and delivery of a brown wheelie bin. The service will operate from February to November each year.

See the poster about this on the notice board by the Village Hall.



You can already apply to join the scheme and get your bin, online at www.stroud.gov.uk/gardenwaste or by contacting the Council's Customer Services Team on 01453 754424.

Subscribers to the service will receive a brown wheelie-bin for grass clippings, twigs, leaves, bark, hedge cuttings, flowers, plants, weeds, fallen fruit and small branches, which will be collected fortnightly over the 10-month period from February to November.

USL News / Information

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the Parish Council meeting on 7 December, Keith Pearson reported that a question was recently raised in Parliament regarding the noise from the M5 motorway, and in response the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport advised that work to reduce the noise problem was in the works programme and an assessment was due to be conducted shortly. The Parish Council will confirm in writing their wish to be involved in the consultation and works programme.

The budget for 2015/16 will be set at the January meeting. It is proposed to include a very small rise in Council Tax amounting to an average £3 per household pa.

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th January, in the Pavilion. As usual it will start with consideration of planning applications, at 7pm. Villagers are invited to attend the meeting, and may put questions to the Council.

Editor: Last month's USL Life published a letter asking whether the agenda can be published before the meeting. The answer is that the agenda is displayed on the notice board in Bondend Road a week or so in advance, but that misses the deadline for USL Life, and it tends to be in the form of the list of routine reports expected from officers. The actual agenda is more dynamic, and tends to be set by reaction to current events. For example, the council considers planning applications, so the agenda merely states "Consideration of Planning Applications", but usually the council only knows details about applications up to three weeks in advance. Therefore it is not possible less than a week or so in advance to say which proposals will be discussed.

You can see above that an item for the January meeting is to set the Council Tax and budget.

The scheduled Parish Council meetings are shown in the diary pages of our newsletter (usually the first Monday in the month).



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CHURCH NEWS

From Keith Robbins,
Churchwarden

Dear Friends,

You probably know by now that Rev Christine is unwell. We hope and pray that she will be back to lead our worship soon.

I am very pleased to be able to say that we have been very well supported, even at the very busy time of Christmas, by several retired priests who have taken most of the services in Christine's absence. So our grateful thanks go to David Eady, Martin Riley, Ian Calder and Marilyn Sharland. And it is also wonderful to note that our own Rachel Hall has led our worship on a couple of occasions, notably the Remembrance service back in November, and the Carol Service before Christmas.

At the start of the New Year we naturally are looking forward and planning the church activities in the months ahead. The first special event is on "Plough Sunday". In an evening service we celebrate the gift of God's love as shown in our beautiful land, and the dedication of our local farming community -- please come and join us for this on 10th January at 6pm.

Other events being planned can be seen on the next pages. There is some hard work to be done on raising money for the fabric of the building - please read a report on progress in the following pages.

I hope you have had a refreshing break over the Christmas and New Year period, and can keep in mind the joy of Immanuel, "God with us". I hope you also have happy memories of gifts given and received, of friends and family reunions.

We are working hard to keep "Your Church" alive and at the heart of the community and I pass my best wishes to you all, whether church members or not.

Keith

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR REQUIRED

A vacancy has arisen for a Foundation Governor for Upton St Leonards Church of England Primary School

If you feel that God is calling you to minister in a Church School then this may be for you? Foundation Governors have a vital role in supporting and developing the Christian foundation of the school. Such governors must be regular church attenders as well as having an interest in schools.

To find out more, please have a look at
<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1410262343.pdf>

If you want to take on this very rewarding role, please complete the application form from that website and contact Roy Roberts by 31 January

January Church Diary

(Correct at time of printing but subject to change - please check details in pew sheets)

SUN 3rd	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8.00am Holy Communion BCP 10.00am All Age Worship
SUN 10th	FIRST SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY PLOUGH SUNDAY 10.00am Communion4All 6.00pm Plough Sunday Service
Thu 14th	2.00pm Mothers' Union meeting and AGM
SUN 17th	EPIPHANY 2 10.00am Communion4All 6.00pm Evensong
SUN 24th	EPIPHANY 3 10.00am Communion4All
SUN 31st	EPIPHANY 4 8.00am Communion4All

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge:

Reverend Christine Birkett
The Rectory, 12 Bondend Road, GL4 8AG.
rev.christine@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk
Usual parish working days are Tuesdays and Fridays

Churchwardens:

- 1 Keith Robbins
- 2 Vacancy

PCC Secretary:

Roy Roberts

Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Roger Fry

Mothers' Union:

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

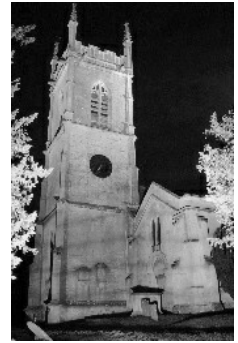
Church Flower Rota:

Evelyn Rumsey

Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Stanley-Gunn

Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship Details



On Sunday 13th December the Tower Lights were lit in memory of Steven Ralph and Tony Woods. Kindly sponsored by Marilyn Woods.

On Wednesday 26th January the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the birthday of Zoe Gibbs. Kindly being sponsored by her daughter Megan and her husband Matthew.

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 Gibbs on 618127 or email matthewgibbs@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk 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.



A message from the Dean of Women Clergy, the Revd Canon Robbin Clark

"Happy Christmas" may have given way to "Happy New Year", but the season of celebration of Christ's coming among us continues. So does the theme of light in darkness Bishop Rachel explored in her message last month. But there's a difference. In December we were

watching the days grow shorter and the nights close in. Now, slowly but surely we see the light returning a little more each day. And that ties right in with the emphasis of the Epiphany season: manifestation or showing forth.

The light that the darkness can never overcome has dawned upon us in the birth of Jesus and now it is our responsibility as his followers to show that Light in the world. That's why we give all new disciples a candle at Baptism and tell them to: "Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

Each and every one of us can add a bit of light to the troubled world we inhabit through acts of attention and kindness, and each time we do so, we bring a glimpse of God's glory to people hungry for hope and belonging. Just as Jesus is our best Christmas gift, sharing his love in the world is our best New Year's resolution and one well worth keeping.

Gloucester Cathedral is Going Green ->

Gloucester Cathedral has launched an appeal to fund the placement of up to 200 solar panels on the South Nave roof of the Cathedral. The project has captured the imaginations of lots of generous donors, who have given over £35,000 since the appeal began in October.

The development of Project Pilgrim is well underway and an integral part of the proposal is the installation of approximately 200 solar panels. As part of our commitment to a greener and more sustainable future, it is anticipated that this will reduce the Cathedral's annual energy costs by 25 percent.

Find out more at www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/projectpilgrim

Bishop Rachel writes: Welcoming Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Diocese of Gloucester is exploring a number of options which will enable us to offer real and practical support to Syrian refugees when they arrive in our area. The local councils are planning to house families in population centres across Gloucestershire, with some refugees expected to arrive each year for the next five years. I very much hope that the Christians of the Diocese can play a key role in enabling refugees to be housed effectively and in a way that helps them to integrate well with local communities.

Our partners in these conversations are GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and Chapter 1. GARAS is a significant project, born out of diocesan social responsibility work, that has been supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Gloucester since 1999.

Chapter 1 is a charity with a Christian foundation that works in our region to enable more properties to become available to families that might be deemed high risk for a private landlord.

There are a number of ways in which we might be able to get involved. Firstly, there may be clergy or church members who are currently private landlords and who might consider making their property available to a refugee family. Housing is being sought in significant areas of population (especially Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Cirencester and the towns of the Forest) so that families without cars are not isolated; that is in good condition with 2-3 bedrooms; and that is available for a minimum contract of 12 months. Chapter 1 offers a package of support including the

continued on next page



the messenger

From the Diocese of Gloucester

CHURCH NEWS

As you know, the Church requires significant repairs to the fabric, particularly the roof. To gain access to various grants it is essential that we can demonstrate that we have raised money ourselves. We have a separate fund so that monies raised specifically for church repairs don't get used for any other general purposes. This effort started in 2014 with the Gift Day and Flower Festival which raised well over £6,000. Add to that last year's Village Day and Gnome Hunt, and you can see we are well up and running.

The picture shows Churchwarden Keith Robbins with a new appeal board, which has been put up in the Sunday School Field opposite Chipmunks Nursery. *(Thanks to local artists David Hoare (design) and Sue Aristide (painting) for making the board)*



Events for 2016

Here is a list of some potential fund-raising events. Please look out for them, volunteer to organise or help at them! More ideas will be very welcome.

Spring

- Mothering Sunday special service
- Pancake Races
- Easter events (Mar 27th is Easter Day)
- Name a roof tile for £10

Summer

- June 11th - add to the Village Day celebrations with something based at the Church
- Teddy Bears Picnic and Parachute Jump (by the Teddy Bears!!)
- Gnome Hunt

Autumn / Winter

- 24 hour music marathon - sponsor a hymn or song
- Celebration of arts and crafts in the Village
- St Leonards Day celebration (Nov 6th)
- Gloucester Brass Band Concert

Welcoming refugees - continued

underwriting of any damage in lieu of a deposit, guaranteed rental income and interpersonal support of the tenants. This means that landlords who might otherwise have sought to use a traditional letting agency can be confident in offering their property to a more vulnerable family.

Secondly, there is also a need for foster carers for unaccompanied children. Accommodation with families in spare bedrooms is not currently being sought.

To find out more about offering help in the form of housing or foster care, please contact the diocesan Mission and Evangelism Officer, the Revd Cate Williams, on 01452 835543 or at cate.williams@glosdioc.org.uk.

To find out about other ways in which to help, please see the GARAS website which is regularly updated to reflect current needs.

You might like to know that we have also been exploring the possibility of diocesan housing stock being used to provide homes for refugees, as well as discussing options that involve the resources of the national church.

All of us will have been moved by the situation unfolding in recent months across the Middle East and in Europe. Please continue to hold refugees and asylum seekers in your prayers as you consider the help you might be able to offer them.

Websites: www.garas.org.uk
www.chapter1.org.uk/gloucestershire

After the great success of the special Plough Sunday services in 2014 and 2015 ...



PLOUGH SUNDAY 2016

6pm, Sunday 10th January

FARMING MATTERS!

This is a very special service that reminds us all of the wonders of God's world as shown in the land as it is used for food production.

"God speed the plough"

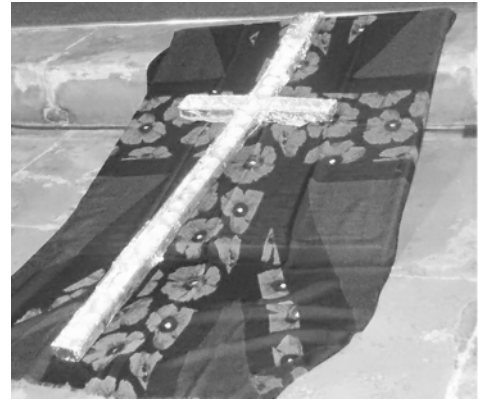
Meet representatives of the farming community in the Village. We hope to have some traditional Morris dancing, and a "ploughman's" supper, with local cider, after the service

CHURCH NEWS

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The picture on the right shows a cross of candles on a cloth decorated with poppies, placed on the chancel step. This was the centre-piece at the service of Remembrance which was held in mid-November. Those at the service were able to name loved ones and light a candle in their memory.

The service created a wonderful "space" for memories and sharing. Many thanks to Rachel Hall, who led the service, and to those who served refreshments and supported this event in any way.



A warm church!

So successful has been the Churchwarden's Heating Appeal, that visitors to the building can expect a toasty-warm feeling inside all through the winter. Something like £900 was contributed - this appeal obviously struck a chord with previously cold worshippers!

The money raised was more than adequate to cover this winter, so the surplus may be used towards a replacement of the oil-fired system that is many, many years old now.

Gloucester Brass

It was a great night out for those who came to the Gloucester Brass Christmas concert in the Church. It was a delight to see the church nave almost full, and the church heating (see above) was working so well that those who had come wrapped up against a cold night were very quickly shedding gloves, scarves and coats!

Gloucester Brass did us proud. They seemed to have a bigger than usual band for us - Mark Knight, the conductor, told us that he doesn't often get such a big turn-out from his musicians! And that warm brass band sound filled the air, so it seemed to be coming from all around, with the seats seeming to vibrate with the bass tuba's loudest notes.



Mark's tempos tended to be on the slow side, though the band really came to life when they played a few less traditional and more jazzy Christmas numbers, such as "All I want for Christmas is you".

There was warm punch and mince pies in the interval, and the inevitable

raffle. Huge thanks to Rachel, Trevor, Sheila, Dorothy, Carol and no doubt others who provided the refreshments.

Admission tickets and the raffle raised over £500. A great success. Mark this event down in your diaries for a year's time when I'm sure the band will be back!



A church is a group of people, not a building. As the New year starts, now is a very good time to say THANK YOU to all who make up this group of people. Some give up amazing amounts of time to do the hundreds of jobs needed to keep an organisation (and its building) going. Even though the congregation is small nowadays, within the wider group that we call the church are many (over 60 at last count) who give support in the form of regular donations. The Parochial Church Council made it its business to ensure letters of thanks went out recently to regular givers, as many as we could identify. (And if you are a regular giver and didn't get a letter, please accept our apologies and thanks - we hope we got to all but we could have missed a few)

USL News / Information - cont'd



Leave a light on & keep burglars out

This is the message of a leaflet put out by the charity Crimestoppers recently. They say -
Before you go out:

- Switch on a light or a light timer device
- Put expensive items out of view
- Set your burglar alarm
- Lock all your windows and doors
- Ensure tools and ladders are locked away
- Don't post your whereabouts on social media

If you have noticed anything strange in the neighbourhood you can call the police on 101, or you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

If you suspect a burglary is in progress, call 999.



Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service

Working together for a safer Gloucestershire

Home Fire Safety Check

The Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service will carry out a Home Safety Check to ensure that your household is as safe as possible from the dangers of fire. A Community Safety Advisor will visit your home to offer safety advice as necessary and also install smoke alarms.

If you feel you need a Home Safety Check, then contact the Fire & Rescue Service on 0800 180 41 40 to arrange a visit, or fill in a request form online at <http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/>

The visit and any smoke alarms required are offered FREE OF CHARGE.

Speedwatch - would you like to help ?

I am sure you have noticed how fast some vehicles travel when they come through the village.

Our Police colleagues have offered to provide training and equipment if we can identify some volunteers to take part in monitoring the speed of traffic and feeding back results.

If anyone is interested in helping with this activity (which will be during the day) please let Roy Balgobin have your details. Arrangements will be agreed with the Police in the early part of next year once we have some names to give them.

Roy can be contacted on 621688 or by e-mail to uslclerk@btinternet.com

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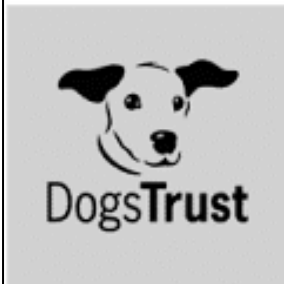
Telephone

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Looking After Our Village Environment

Become a Scooperhero!

Dogs have always had a great name as being wonderful companions for both young and old alike. However along with the great joys that dogs bring, they also bring responsibility, so it is great to see such a positive and simple campaign as the one run by Dogs Trust in order to help keep our streets clean.



As we say goodbye to the 2015, "Big Scoop Campaign", Dogs Trust has raised a much-needed awareness about the importance of picking up after your dog and informing everyone to **"bag it and bin it!"**

To make life easier, dog owners should be aware of the fact, that any public bin can be used to dispose of dog poo and not just the designated red ones sited throughout our village.

Did you know that the UK's 9 million dogs produce over 1,000 tonnes of waste each day?!

That's as much as...

	200 Elephants
	3 airplanes
	100 double decker buses
	Over 8.5m mobile phones
	Over 2m footballs!

The Big Scoop That's a lot of waste to clear up but we can each do our bit to help. Just BAG IT and BIN IT and become a SCOOOPERHERO! It's that simple!

Unfortunately, dog fouling is still one of the most complained about public nuisances to councils because it affects everyone, whether you are a dog owner or not.



The Big Scoop has been all about supporting councils in keeping their areas pleasant, safe and dog poo free, to educate children - the dog owners of tomorrow – on responsible dog ownership, and to remind everyone to always **"bag it and bin it!"**

A thousand tonnes of dog waste produced every day and not enough resources to clean up or clamp down are worrying statistics. However, all this may soon change with the introduction of Dog DNA registration.



Ever since the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham became the first council to publicly announce their adoption of the PooPrints UK DNA registration programme, to clean up the acts of irresponsible dog owners, the nation has sat up and pricked its ears at this revolutionary new idea.

PooPrints is an effective waste management programme, matching un-scooped waste to the canine offender through DNA.

This surely has to be the way forward and infinitely better than an incentive offered to residents in Taipei City a few years ago who were offered a lottery ticket for every bag of dog poo they handed in to city officials!

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OUR "VILLAGE AGENT"

In many issues of USL Life we have published articles written by Lou Kemp, Village Agent. Lou has now moved on and her replacement is **GILL KEMP**. Gill can be contacted on the same number: 07776 245767. The role of the Village Agent is unchanged: to pass on information about services for the elderly and give advice. In due course we'll expect to publish articles written by Gill.

The Local Planning Process

This article was written by Andy Russell in response to the query in last month's newsletter asking how the planning process worked.

The process changes from time to time, often as a result of Acts of Parliament. This is the current system, as I have understood it by reading various documents on the web. Probably the most useful source for me has been the "Plain English Guide to the Planning System" published by the Government in January 2015, and available on-line.

Most planning decisions are taken at District Council level, Stroud in our case. The Parish Council has an important role in commenting on planning applications, but it has no power to make planning decisions.

Minor and non-controversial planning decisions, which account for something like 90% of applications, are made by a delegated Council Officer. Larger and more controversial decisions are made by the Development Control Committee (DCC) of the District Council.

When a planning application is received, the District Council must publicise the proposal, using methods such as site notices and letters to neighbours, so that people have a chance to express their views. The Parish Council clerk receives notice of all applications. You can sign up, at no cost, to receive an e-mail notification from Stroud District Council of every planning application affecting the Village.

Once the plan has been publicised, there is a mandatory 21 day consultation period. Anyone may comment by writing to the District Council or using the on-line system. All the documents relating to an application can be seen on-line, including comments already sent in. Unfortunately, for those not internet connected, it means a visit to Ebley Mill. Or ask your computer-savvy neighbour to look it up for you?



The Parish Council considers its responses at its monthly meetings. The meeting dates are shown in this newsletter, and planning applications are usually first on the agenda at 7pm.

What about pre-application consultation? In the interests of openness and good governance, those making applications that affect many people or make big changes are urged to consult locally before sending in an application. But there is no mandatory requirement to do so.

In a follow-up article I will describe "The Protocol", and "Neighbourhood Development Plans". Did you know that Stroud District Council have very recently (in November) adopted a new Local Plan, which replaces the 2005 plan, for the Stroud District? This provides a framework for planning policy for the next 15 years.

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Upton St Leonards in 1973

This is reproduced, with permission, from Angela Marks' publication "Upton St Leonards Remembered", which contains memories from USL residents as collected by USL Guides. This particular article was written by Angela herself, in 1973.

The character of the village began to change when new suburban estates were built from the early sixties onwards until the present day. First came Six Acres, then Perry Orchard and Woodland Green. Building is now taking place behind Whornes Cottage, between Bondend Road and Churchfield Road. The new houses are mainly in the middle to expensive range with practically all families owning at least one car. Employment is provided in both Gloucester and Cheltenham.

In spite of this development, the local people have worked hard to preserve village life, so that there is still a strong community spirit. Newcomers join with older residents in the various activities offered.

The Birchall Memorial Institute (BMI) still provides a gathering place for the men of the village and also offers billiards and skittles. There are various opportunities for sport, most of which use the recreation ground which was altered, flattened and re-seeded as a result of the Motorway works in 1970. There are Cricket and Football Clubs and since the opening of the new courts in 1972/3, a Netball and a Tennis Club. The Tug of War Team meets at the Village Hall and distinguished themselves in 1973 by winning several competitions.

The Church is important both as a spiritual and social centre for village life. The Church Choir meets on Friday evenings and the Bell Ringers practise on Wednesdays. After some morning services, coffee is provided in the school building so that parishioners can meet together and chat. A monthly Church Parade service is attended by Brownies and Guides. The Mothers' Union meets monthly in the village hall for a short service, followed by a talk. A Communion service takes place on the second Tuesday in each month, attended by the Mothers' Union.

A Playgroup for children from 3-5 years was started in the village hall by Mrs Gledhill of the Mothers' Union. It meets on four days of the week from 0930 - 1130 and is run by mothers on a rota basis when they are willing and able to help. The children have various activities and a project planned by a regular helper for each session.

A Youth Club was started in 1973 for a younger and an older age group. It meets weekly in the village hall. Much of the meeting takes the form of a disco. Parents volunteer to help on a rota basis.

A large and flourishing Cub Pack meets in the village hall on Wednesdays and Scouts meet on Fridays, although at the time of writing, the Scouts have had to disband through lack of a leader. The village Brownie Pack grew so large in 1973 that it split into two, one pack meeting on Thursdays, the other on Fridays. The Guides meet after the Brownies on Friday evenings.

A keen Drama Group, the St Leonards Players, has performed plays produced by Miss Daisy Bell in the village hall. Two plays are produced each winter season and are performed on three

nights. A high standard is reached in spite of the difficulties of using a small stage.

There are two Women's Institutes in the village. The Upton WI was founded in February 1923 and meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the village hall. There are at present 106 members. Twyver WI was founded in January 1966 because of the growth of the village. It has 54 members and meets on the second Monday of each month.

The Village Hall Committee seeks to promote entertainment in the village as well as supervising the letting and management of the hall. A fete was held in November 1973 to provide money for new chairs. A Spring Flower Show is planned for 1974.

The Flower Show Committee organises a village show on the first Saturday of September each year. In recent years, the Show and Gymkhana have been held at Pooles' Farm, the Stanley by courtesy of Mr and Mrs Stanbury. The Flower Show includes classes for fruit, flowers and vegetables, floral arrangement, handicrafts and special children's classes.

The village is served by seven shops. In 1972, the Post Office on Painswick Road lost its licence in favour of Mr Most's shop in Churchfield Road. This brought the Post Office into the village centre where it is conveniently placed for more people. The old Post Office, now Crooke's Family Store, remains as a grocery and general stores. The new Post Office is also a newsagent, confectioner and general store. Milk is delivered daily by Brian Warner. Next door to the Post Office is a Spar grocery shop. It is a self service shop and has a good choice of products.

Four new shops were opened in 1970 in Perry Orchard. Most of them have changed hands once or twice since first opening as trade can be rather quiet. There is a Butcher, Hardware / DIY / Gardening shop, a Wool and Drapery shop and a 'Wavy Line' grocery shop.

The move to grow vegetables is evident in Upton for all of the allotment plots at Perry Orchard are taken and gardening provides an important pastime for many.

Upton St Leonards is a pleasant place to live in 1973. The community life of the village is very much alive and the position of the village, nestling between the Cotswold hills remains as attractive as it always must have been.

Editor: it is interesting to compare things that have and have not changed over the last 42 years! I am sure some of our more mature residents will recognise this description of Upton and some of the people mentioned. What I think is pleasing is that many of the positive aspects of village life have been left intact.

"Upton St Leonards Remembered" was published by Angela Marks in 2014, to ensure there was a permanent record of all those Guide interviews recorded in 1973.

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

VILLAGE DIARY

JANUARY

4	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
4	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
4	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
5	Tues	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
5	Tues	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
5	Tues	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
6	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
6	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
6	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
6	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
6	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
6	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
7	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
7	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
7	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
9	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for February issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
11	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
11	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
11	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
11	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
12	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
12	Tue	Painting Class.....	Village Hall Annex.....	2.15-4.45p.m.
12	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
13	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
13	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
13	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
13	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
13	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
13	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
13	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
14	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
14	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
14	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
18	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
18	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
18	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
18	Mon	Abbydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
19	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
19	Tue	Painting Class.....	Village Hall Annex.....	2.15-4.45p.m.
19	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
19	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
20	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
20	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
20	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
20	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
20	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
20	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
21	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
21	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
21	Thu	History Group -Gloucestershire's Industrial Heritage.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
25	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
25	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
25	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
26	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
26	Tue	Painting Class.....	Village Hall Annex.....	2.15-4.45p.m.
26	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
27	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
27	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
27	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
27	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
27	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
27	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
27	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
28	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
28	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.

28	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
28	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

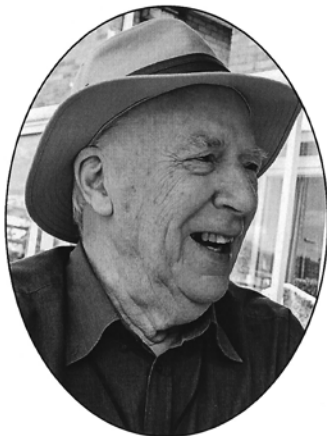
FEBRUARY

1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
6	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Wed	Copy Date for March issue of USL Life		
18	Thu	Upstagers - Pantomime.....	Village Hall	
19	Fri	Upstagers - Pantomime.....	Village Hall	
20	Sat	Upstagers - Pantomime.....	Village Hall	
22	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
25	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.00-4.30p.m.
29	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.

MARCH

7	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
10	Thu	Copy Date for April issue of USL Life		
14	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00
17	Thu	History Group - Gloucester Cathedral's Royal Connections.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
19	Sat	Spring Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
27	Sun	Easter Sunday		
28	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
31	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.00-4.30p.m.

To get your event included in the diary, contact Paula Quinn



In Memoriam - Reverend Peter Jackson (1927-2015)

Peter was appointed to be Rector of Upton St Leonards in 1972. A truly remarkable character, anyone meeting him for the first time would, within 30 seconds, have worked out (a) that he was from Wales, (b) that he was very easy to get on with and (c) he was a great showman and extrovert. He loved spending time with children at the Village School and visited there often; many children he met there remember his visits with great joy. Judy, his widow, has had a number of letters from those children since Peter died. Church services, particularly the once-a-month family services, could be like a stage comedy performance. An occasional worshipper, used only to Catholic services from when she was a child, told me "I never knew church could be fun".

The showman side came out again and again. When Radio Severnside started up in the 80's, Peter was a natural to look after their "God slot" on Sunday mornings, and he revelled in it. One morning he told his listeners that the church in Upton had been sold to a rich American and was to be dismantled brick by brick and rebuilt as a tourist attraction in the USA. Coincidentally, or not, this was when the organ was being re-built. An anxious parishioner dashed down to see what was happening, and the sight of dismantled organ pipes in the churchyard obviously confirmed the story. The date of the broadcast – April 1st. To publicise the Church fete one year, Peter had printed "lucky programmes" that looked very like oversize £5 notes. But of course the design of currency is copyright and he got a stiff letter from the Bank of England – more publicity! Few who were there could forget his performances at the harvest supper auctions, or as compère at the occasional "soirée" put on in the Village Hall.

But of course his calling was to be the Rector of the Parish. I'm sure many wondered if it was all acting – was there another Peter Jackson behind the mask? No, there wasn't. What you saw and heard was the real Peter Jackson, and he considered that part of his calling was to bring fun and light to the people of the Village. He loved listening to people talking about themselves, and would often start a conversation with a leading question, for example: "What have you done so far today?".

Peter retired in 1992, and moved to a house in Abbeydale, so he was never far away. Right up to a few weeks before his death, he was still joking, having a meal and a drink with friends at the King's Head and ribbing the manager there, being very Welsh and proud of it.

Andy Russell

Judy Jackson, and Peter's daughters Liz and Megan would like us to pass on their sincere thanks to the very large number of people who have contacted them with messages of sympathy and goodwill since Peter's death.

USL Club / Society / Class Contact Details

Listed below are the latest contact details we hold for the clubs and societies, etc. If you notice that any details need updating or you are not shown on the list please contact Catherine McLean and she will add you to our list. We will aim to share this information several times a year to reflect any changes taking place so the right person / details are available to readers.

Contact details have been removed from the online web version. To make contact with a USL organisation you can use the "Contact Us" link on this website.

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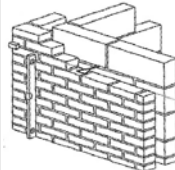
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To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

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Would you like to Join the Newsletter Team ?

We would currently benefit from one or two people to join our Feature Writers sub-group.

This group assembles articles which form a bank of material which editors can draw on each month. Examples would be pieces on local people / businesses, reporting on the many events which take place in the village or, on a wider basis, interesting articles on history, etc.

You would be joining an existing team, and therefore support would be available if needed.

If you feel this would be of interest to you please contact Teresa Clarke



Help to feed local people who do not have the money to buy food

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Contact Diana Way 372212 for information
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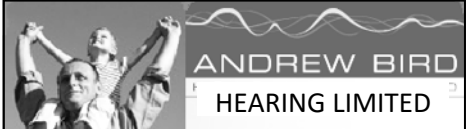
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