

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

Issue 65

January 2020



Wishing all our Readers a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year from everyone on the USL Life Team



## Advent Windows in Upton



A big thank you to Karen Morris for the excellent idea of Advent Windows and to everyone who did such a fantastic job which has contributed to a lovely Christmas atmosphere in Upton. See more on the back page

# What's Been happening in Upton?

## Coffee Club and their Xmas Lunch

### Comments from the Coffee Club Christmas Crowd

It is a shame that the coffee morning didn't happen many years ago. It has helped so many people to get together. The coffee club on Monday is the only time I get out to meet people thanks to the kind helpers who give me a lift there.

One of the best things that has happened in the village. It's good to see it so well attended with a good mixture of men and women.

### Comments from the Christmas lunch

We are new to the community, and we have been made to feel very welcome in this lovely friendly village. We love the Coffee Club and have just enjoyed the Christmas lunch. We are impressed with the dedicated band of helpers.

A lovely Christmas dinner beautifully served together with excellent company. Christmas pudding divine, I'm full up!

A lovely get together with great Christmas food.

All present gave many many thanks to those who had made this Christmas Lunch such a great success.



The Christmas Lunch ended once more with entertainment from the Village School Junior Choir who sang beautifully for us. Many Thanks.  
**Ann Morphew**

And belated congratulations to the Coffee Club for their excellent charity efforts. They held a coffee morning collecting for Macmillan on 21 October and managed to raise £150.

During the weeks of last July and August we collected £170 for Mary who achieved her goal of walking 1 million steps for the Diabetes charity. Congratulations! We also handed over £120 to Alec from our Spring raffle held back in March to go towards the BMI's own charities.

Thank you to all who attended these events and for your generosity.

## Upton St Leonards WI - December Report

Fun and laughter was in abundance as new president Angela opened our Christmas meeting. Tables, decorated with sparkling lights made at the recent workshop, completed the ambience. Business was brief, Diane needed names for skittles. A reminder that the coach for Highgrove leaves at 11am on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. All other news in the GFWI news sheet.

Our guest speaker was Mathew Sproston highlighting the life and loves of the late Victoria Wood. She was the youngest of four children, born in Prestwick, the type of fun loving girl next door. When young she went to the Buxton Theatre and watched a comedy with her idol, Joyce Grenfell, a very highly talented comedienne. From then on she set her heart on comedy, wit and humour, writing all her own scripts. Her great friend was Julie Walters and they teamed up as Wood and Walters in 1982. She appeared many times on TV in New Faces, Dinner Ladies, The Great British Bake Off and many more. Her songs were infectious, incorporating her love of comedy.

She was awarded the OBE in 1997 and the CBE in 2008, winning 4 BAFTAs and various other comedy awards. She was married to Geoffrey Durham, "The Great Suprendo" with whom she had two children Henry and Grace. Victoria died aged 62 on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016, a great loss to the world of comedy and TV but her songs, which Matthew sang will remain with memories of happiness, joy, fun and comedy. A warm round of applause followed a vote of thanks from Marlene.

We meet again in the New Year on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to hear Mandie Cran present a talk on Aloe Vera. All ladies are very welcome.

Later in the week a group of ladies attended the GFWI Carol Concert at Cheltenham, which was very entertaining with our own GFWI choir, also a 13 year old pupil of Dean Close School playing the piano. A special tribute from the choir to Anne Turner on her retirement for her organising and professionalism towards our concerts was a complete surprise to her.

I wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New year.

**Kathy Quant**

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# What's Been happening in Upton?

## TWYVER WI REPORT FOR DECEMBER

Our President Monica welcomed everyone to the final meeting of 2019.

It was agreed that the list of forthcoming notifications would in future be emailed to members, in an effort to cut paper usage; however, some paper copies would still be available at the meetings.

Monica referred us to the GWFI Monthly Newsletter which contained some wonderful photographs of the GWFI Centenary Exhibition held in Gloucester Cathedral in October. Christine and Penny were warmly thanked for their exceptional contributions in enabling our own exhibits to be part of the county wide exhibition.

A huge thank you was given to Irene Woodcock who has successfully organised our Skittles team for the last three years, but has now decided to stand down. Andrea Dawson offered to take on the role in 2020. Members were reminded that next year's subscriptions would be £43, payable at the January meeting. Rota boards were also handed round for volunteers to do the vote of thanks, flowers and refreshments for the forthcoming year.

Our guest for the evening was Helen Barry who began our activities with a poem entitled 'Smiling is Infectious' and how right she was. The mood in the room was buoyant and everyone joined in with a series of seated exercises which resulted in much mirth and laughter. We even engaged in some serious team building involving a parachute!!! Millie gave the vote of thanks and we were all ready for the mulled wine and mince pies that had been warming nicely in the kitchen. To conclude the evening, everyone sang a medley of Christmas Carols, ably lead by Janine, by the warm glow of candlelight.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. We look forward to welcoming existing and new members alike.



## BMI Pensioners Xmas Lunch

The BMI pensioners had a lovely afternoon at the BMI on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December for their annual Christmas lunch. Eighty guests enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch provided by Alec and Mary from the BMI, followed by a raffle and entertainment by "Kenny".

Members of the committee set up the room in the morning and served the guests and it didn't seem like twelve months since the last lunch!!

Keith Pearson thanked Alec and Mary, and everyone who helped on the day and also thanked bingo members who turn up each Wednesday. The proceeds from the weekly Bingo sessions pay for the lunch.

The BMI president, Mike Long, also thanked everyone and remarked on how lovely the lounge and skittle alley looked, with the decorations etc. when they arrived that morning.

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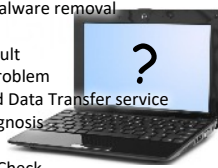
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# What's Coming Up in Upton?

**Post Christmas/New Year Quiz for BMI members and signed in guests  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020 @ 8.00p.m.  
£1.25 per person for teams of up to 6  
(MINIMUM £5 for teams of up to 4)  
Profit on the night to be donated to  
the BMI charity for 2019-20**

**GLOUCESTER YOUNG CARERS AND AIR AMBULANCE**

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TOGETHER WITH TABLES ON THE NIGHT**



**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Lunchtime Jazz at the BMI**



**With John Beckinham**

**From 1.00 - 3.00pm**



**Entertainment Night in the Lounge  
for members and signed in guests**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Dancing to the music of  
"Bak2Bak"**

**8.00p.m. - late**



**B.M.I.**

**From 8.00p.m. until late**

**Entertainment Night @ the BMI**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**8.00p.m.**

**"IAN OLIVER"**

**Open to members and signed in  
guests**



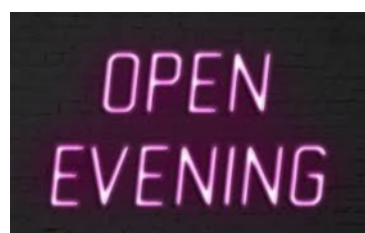
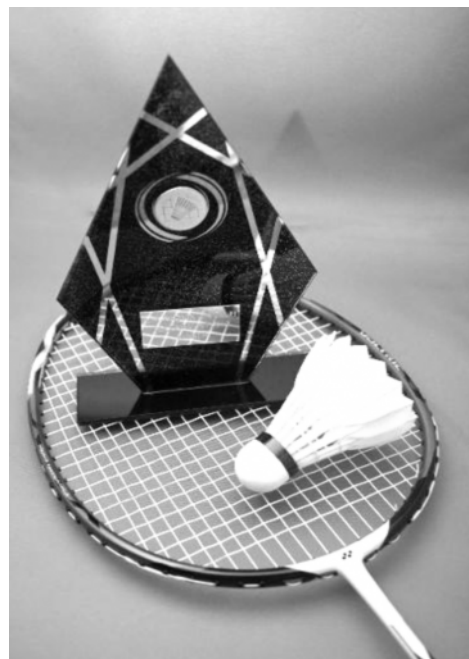
# What's Coming Up in Upton?

## UPTON ST LEONARDS BADMINTON CLUB

Since the 1930s, there has been a Badminton Club playing in the Village Hall. Visitors to the Hall may have noticed the club's embroidered banner, dating back to 1938. The Badminton Club is still going strong after all these years. A mix of ages and abilities ensures varied games, played in a competitive but fun atmosphere. The club doesn't enter teams into a league, instead focusing on providing an opportunity to play at a social level, without the pressures of league matches.

Looking forward, we need to keep encouraging new members to keep the club going and hopefully it will be around to celebrate its centenary. We always welcome new players to come along to the Village Hall on a Tuesday evening between 8:30pm and 10:30pm. There is a small charge of £2 to play but the first time you attend is always free.

As well as the Annual Tournament we also hold regular social events for members.



We will be holding an open evening on Tuesday, 14th January 2020, for new members to come along, find out more about us and have a game. Any past members are welcome to pop in and share their experiences with the latest generation of the badminton club.

*Tony Sharpe*

## Heads Up for Village Day 2020



'Oyez, Oyez' Hear Ye, Hear Ye

We here do proclaim Upton St Leonards Village Day to be **6<sup>th</sup> June 2020** starting at 1pm on the Village Green  
Fun and Games for all the family!

This is the Centenary Year of the Village Hall and so there is to be fancy dress of the 1920's and prizes to be won, so come on adults and children let's get dressed up for the era!

Please could we ask you to give thought to helping us out on the day or joining our small group of people who put this charity event together.

Please could we ask for donations of books, adults and children tombola prizes anytime. We will also need donations of homemade cakes on the day.

We will keep you all updated with the schedule of the day and also the dance in the evening in the coming months so please watch out for our notices.

**Contact anytime:**  
**Carol Evans**  
**Keith Pearson**



# Village History

With grateful thanks to Mike Stratford here are reminders of the past taken from the annals of our village history:

## The Upstagers of 1918

\*Five-shillings worth for Half a crown.

Five shillings worth of enjoyment may be had for half a crown, eight pence or nine pence (including tax) at the Entertainment in Upton School on Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup> at half past seven, when a varied and delightful programme will be offered by "Artistes" resident in the village. The proceeds will be given for the provision of uniform capes for the Upton Boy Scouts".

## From March 1919 Parish Magazine

A meeting held in the School Room to discuss the social life of the village after the war.

The meeting was called to consider what should be done to build up the life of the Parish after the war, and there was general feeling that some step forward should be made in our social life. Everyone felt the need of this but the exact way in which it should be done was not so clear.

Two proposals were made:

- The need of a central place of meeting in Upton, a Parish Hall for all kinds of gathering
- A club for women

Members of the BMI have approved of an offer to extend its premises and include women as members, thus becoming a joint club for both sexes.

Mrs Leicester, in a charming speech sketched the uses to which a Parish Hall might be put, "dances, whist drives, concerts, entertainments, lectures and cinematograph. All would help to make Upton an ideal parish to live in".

The Village Hall foundation stone was laid in July 1919 but the women would have to wait many years to become members of the BMI.

## An advertisement from 1919

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# January Arts Page

In true British fashion let us begin the New Year with thoughts on the weather.

When icicles hang by the wall,  
And Dick, the shepherd, blows his nail,  
And Tom bears logs into the hall,  
And milk comes frozen home in pail,  
When blood is nipped, and ways be foul,  
Then nightly sings the staring owl,  
To-whoo;  
To-whit, to-whoo, a merry note,  
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

From Love's Labour's Lost by William Shakespeare Act 5, Scene 2.

## **Birds at Winter Nightfall by Thomas Hardy**

Around the house the flakes fly faster,  
And all the berries now are gone  
From holly and cotoneaster  
Around the house. The flakes fly! faster  
Shutting indoors that crumb-outcaster  
We used to see upon the lawn  
Around the house. The flakes fly faster,  
And all the berries now are gone!

## **The Twelve Months by George Ellis**

Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,  
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,  
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,  
Breezy, Sneazy, Freezy.

Adhelm, Abbot of Malmesbury and Bishop of Sherborne, was the first and one of the finest Latin poets of Anglo-Saxon England (7<sup>th</sup> Century)

. He wrote many riddles.

"No one can grasp me in his hands; I quickly spread the shrill sound of my voice through the world. With my terrible sounding strength I am able to shatter oaks. I touch the lofty skies and pass through fields". What am I?

Answer: The Wind.

## **Up in the Morning Early by Robert Burns**

Up in the morning's no for me,  
Up in the morning early;  
When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Cold blows the wind frae east to west,  
The drift is driving sairly;  
Sae loud and shrill's I hear the blast,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

The birds sit chittering in the thorn,  
A'day they fare but sparely;  
And lang the night frae e'en to morn,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Up in the morning's no for me  
Up in the morning early;  
When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw  
I'm sure it's winter fairly

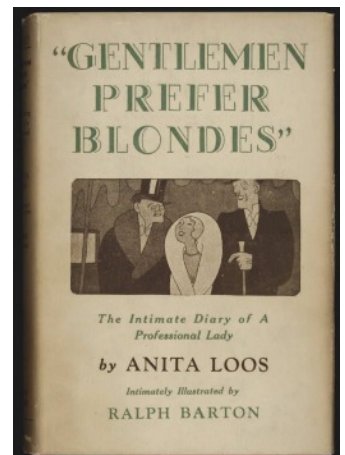
## **BOOK REVIEW**

*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes : The Intimate Diary of a Professional Lady by Anita Loos, published in 1925.*

This month we recommend a light hearted and very witty book to lighten the dark January days. It is rumoured to be a favourite book of George VI !

Originally published as a series of short sketches in Harper's Bazaar magazine, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* was dismissed by critics as 'too light in texture to be very enduring'. However, the book was an immediate best seller and was quickly translated into over thirteen languages. The story follows the escapades of a young blonde flapper in New York and Europe during the Roaring Twenties. A sequel, *But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes*, was published three years later in 1928.

Loos was a script writer and wrote many of the Douglas Fairbanks films as well as the stage adaptation of Colette's *Gigi*.



# A Poem from Ted

As many of you local folk know, there was a time in this village when most of us kept "stock" in as much as I mean, livestock.

I well remember Bill Simpson's geese, Mike Long's goats, Gremmits chickens, four or five dairy farms with cows and a few working horses. My old Gramp kept pigs, one in particular called "Titch"

And seeing as I have not graced the hallowed pages of this mag for some time, I thought you readers might like some history.

## Titch The Pig

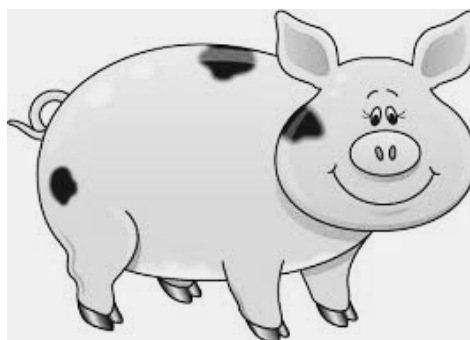
'Ee was the runt of the litter  
and Titch was to be his name  
there weren't very much of him  
and that was very plain

'Ee would squeal when e was hungry  
And grunt when e was content  
And other funny sounds e made  
We all knew what e meant  
Titch used to sleep with Gramps old dog  
In the kennel by the door  
And if anyone came knocking  
'Ee would let you know for sure

Time was when Titch got bigger  
And the kennel was too small  
'Ee used to kip on an old sack bag  
Beside the kitchen door

Our Gramp he used to curse and swear  
"For stepping over that old pig  
He'll ave to go I told you so  
'Ee's got too flipping big"

So off to the butcher old Titch went  
And I guess you know the score  
We all had pork for dinner  
And we never kept pigs no more



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# Happy New Year from all at St Leonard's Church



**Priest in charge:** Rev. Clodagh Ingram  
**Curate:** Rev. James Turk



*Rev James Turk writes*

Happy New Year! I hope you had, (and if you are reading this before January 6<sup>th</sup> continue to have) a joyful Christmas. Because of the December printing deadline for the magazine I am writing this article at the very beginning of advent. There is still the General Election to happen and Christmas is 3 weeks away, I've not even had a sniff of a mince pie yet! What I have been doing though is trying to think and plan for 2020. Yes, even though Christmas for me hasn't happened yet, I am moving on to next year already... well my mind is anyway.

When I was younger, I was never very good at resting in the moment. Once I reached a goal or achievement, I found myself thinking about the next thing that would happen in my life. This was true with journeys too and my mum will often remind me of a time when we went to Brean Sands, near Weston, for a family holiday. I was about 7 years old and obviously very excited about going on holiday, but nearly as soon as we arrived I was asking when we were going home! Now I can't remember saying this, but it does have a ring of truth about it, it is certainly something I may have said. You see, once I'd arrived, I was already thinking about the next destination. As an adult I really had to try hard to stop this tendency to constantly think about the future.

Of course, it's natural to spend moments of thought in the past or in daydreams of the future. Identifying impending dangers through associations with things that have happened in the past is important for self-preservation, but when our lives become dictated by thoughts and emotions attached to past events and potential future outcomes, standing peacefully rooted in the present becomes increasingly rare. So often our routine, our habit, is to be off in our heads somewhere mulling over negativity and struggles of the past or becoming anxious and fearful of the future. Seldom are we fully "here"; neutrally centred to see through life's lens with clarity and awareness. And being in the present moment, or the "here and now," means that we are aware and mindful of what is happening at this very moment. We are not distracted by ruminations on the past or worries about the future but centred in the here and now because all our attention is focused on the present moment. Christian thought about rest and being present in the moment has a long tradition. In the early church Benedict of Nursia taught that, like our bodies, our souls were designed for rest. The thinking is that while sleep is an important aspect of rest for us in the busyness of

balancing work and home life, there is another aspect of rest Christians need to make room for in their calendars. The kind of rest where we are setting aside our usual busyness to spend time listening, praying and being with God in the present, purposefully showing God that he is our priority.

As we begin 2020 and our minds inevitably think to what may or may not happen in the year ahead, I hope you will all find the right balance between planning for the future and resting in the moment. As the saying goes, the moment we have right now is a gift, that is why it is called the present. Happy new year to you all, and I pray that we will all find time this year to enjoy this gift.

*James*

## Church Calendar for January 2020

<b>Sun 5</b>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Epiphany Celebration</b>
Mon 6	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 7	9.30 - 9.50	Evening Prayer
	9.50 -12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 8	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
<b>Sun 12</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
Mon 13	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 14	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 -12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 15	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
<b>Sun 19</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>In Loving Memory Service</b>
Mon 20	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 21	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 -12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 22	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
<b>Sun 26</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
Mon 27	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 28	4.00 pm	Morning Prayer
	9.30 - 9.50	Coffee & Chat
Wed 29	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer

# St. Leonard's Church News

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

## Christingle at Upton St Leonard's Primary School



On 2<sup>nd</sup> December Clodagh led a group of mainly unsuspecting volunteers to help make Christingles with the children of Upton St. Leonard's Primary School. Armed with oranges, raisins and marshmallows, red tape and cocktail sticks, candles and glow sticks, we were ready.



The children all knew and understood what the Christingle was about and were eager to answer our questions telling us the orange represents the world, the red ribbon around the middle for the blood of Christ when he gave his life for us to forgive our sins, the four cocktail sticks for the four seasons of the year and the marshmallow and raisins for the fruits of the earth. The glow stick, which represent Jesus the light of the world, was by far the most exciting and most messy! It was great fun to push them into the orange until the juice ran out and that was just the adults!



At the end of the day with approximately 400 oranges decorated we went into the hall with the children ready for the service led by Rev Ingram. Then came the moment we were waiting for, curtains and blinds drawn, the lights turned out and years five and six positioned around the edge of the hall they lit their glow sticks and candles (year 6 had candles)

I know I can speak for all the helpers in saying we had a really lovely day (if sticky) with the children. Thank you, it was a pleasure to meet you all. Thank you to the staff and Mr Allen for ushering the children in and out with military precision and for allowing us to start Advent on such a positive note.

*Rachel*



*Photographs provided by the school*



*In Loving Memory*  
*A Service of Thanksgiving for the Lives of Loved Ones*  
*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 4.00 pm*

*'The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit'. - Psalm 34:18*



## Tower Floodlighting

*The Tower Lights in January are sponsored in loving memory*

Remembering my granddaughter Chantelle (11.01.2011) and my husband Pete (11.01.2012) with love and many happy memories from Jenny and all the family

The family of the late Janet Johnson are sponsoring the lighting of the Church Tower on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> January, marking the two year anniversary of her passing. Sadly missed and always in our thoughts.

*If you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday/anniversary/ Baptism or in remembrance of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will help us too. Please note that the deadline of the Church Pages of USL Life is the 10th of the preceding month.*



# St. Leonard's Church News

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



## *Affirmations of Faith - Baptism and Confirmation*

In the early months of this New Year we will welcome two families who have asked to have their babies christened and on the 16th February we will be holding a Confirmation service. We are a Christian faith community and God is adding to our number and we rejoice and thank God for that blessing. Baptism expresses the identity we have in Jesus Christ; it is a response to faith and reminds us that we are a baptised community who are called to participate in the life of God and in the mission of God to the world.

A note here about use of language and the words 'christen' and 'baptise'. The Church of England website explains the words in this way: "Babies are 'baptised' during a 'christening' service just as couples are 'married' during a 'wedding' service.

All baptisms take place within the context of our Sunday worship (on the first Sunday of the month) because we are called into relationship with God and with one another and we support and pray for those being baptised and their families as we all journey in our faith.

As an Anglican parish church we can offer: Infant Baptism/Christening; Infant Thanksgiving; Adult Baptism; Confirmation. Each in its own right is a way of marking an individual's journey of faith. It can be confusing to understand how they all fit together. So I offer a brief explanation for each of the above:

### *Infant Baptism/Christening*

When parents make a decision that they wish to raise their child as a Christian they can do so through Baptism. Parents and Godparents accept the Christian faith on behalf of the child and make promises to raise the child within the faith. There is a long tradition within the Church of England of offering infant baptism as it was a practice within the early church. Jesus welcomed and blessed little children (Mark 10:13-15). Baptism does not make a child a Christian and those baptised as infants still need to make their own decision to follow Christ when they are old enough to do so. Those baptised as infants are much more likely to choose to become Christians when they are raised within a Christian household and experience Christianity through experience and teaching.

### *Thanksgiving Service*

A Thanksgiving service allows parents to express their thanks to God for their baby without having to promise to raise the child as a Christian and affirm a faith they do not necessarily have themselves. Along with giving thanks for the child we pray God's blessing upon them and their family.

### *Adult Baptism*

For young people and adults who are not baptised as infants, Baptism is the way to acknowledge that they have come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. There is a tradition for those who are being baptised to give testimony as to why they have made the decision to be baptised and they and the community are encouraged through hearing such testimonies.

### *Confirmation*

Confirmation is the traditional follow up marker on the faith journey after infant baptism. It marks the point at which an individual accepts the faith they were baptised into. The individual confirms their faith publicly to the congregation. The Bishop confirms God's acceptance by the laying on of hands. Confirmation does not make a person a Christian. Confirmation acts as a public witness by candidate and the Bishop. Affirmation of Baptism and Confirmation are two markers of the journey of faith that do the same job. They allow a young person or an adult to own their infant baptism for themselves. There are various reasons why individuals might choose one over the other including tradition and personal preference: full immersion in a pool might feel too exposing. Traditionally Confirmation was the point at which individuals could participate in Communion but the regulations regarding the admittance of children to communion have changed in the past ten years. We welcome children who are regular members of our community to share in communion regardless of their having been confirmed or not.

### *Affirmation of Baptismal Vows*

Within the wider Anglican tradition there is another marker of faith. An individual can only be baptised once into the Christian faith but for some young people and adults who were baptised as infants it feels helpful for them to affirm that Baptism, as a public marker of their journey of faith. In these circumstances it is possible to affirm the baptismal vows that were made on their behalf by their Parents and Godparents. The symbolism of the Baptism is the same whether a person is Affirming their Baptism or being baptised for the first time. It is the wording that clearly differentiates between the two.

I hope this has helped clarify the different ways in which we welcome and help mark an individual's journey of faith within the context of our faith community. We are planning both Baptism and Confirmation services to take place in the coming months and if you would like to know more please speak to Rev James Turk or myself.

*Clodagh*

*Who's Who at the Parish Church*

**Priest in Charge:**  
Rev Clodagh Ingram

**Curate:**  
Rev James Turk

**Churchwardens:**  
Keith Robbins

**Vacancy**

**PCC Secretary**  
Sarah Kent  
pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

**Church Treasurer** **Vacancy**

**Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:**  
**Church Administrator** - Jenny Cunningham

**Deanery Synod Representative**  
Dorothy Cox

**Bell Tower Captain:**  
Charlie Burnett

**Mother's Union**  
Rachel Hall

**Church Cleaning Rota**  
Claire Appleyard

**Church Flowers**  
Jenny Cunningham

*Operation Christmas Shoe box Appeal 2019*

Gathering the boxes together in church ready for a blessing



Some of the 6547 shoe boxes generously donated starting their onward journey



The lorry all loaded with its exciting cargo and the helpers from the Gloucester depot



Finally the lorry is ready to go and the driver braces himself for the 5 day journey back to Belarus where the boxes will be distributed to the eagerly waiting children

**Mothers' UNION**

The next meeting is on  
Thursday 16th January 2020 2.00 pm  
in St Oswald's Church Hall.  
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# Information

## Feedback from Upton Show AGM

The Upton St Leonards Flower Show Committee AGM was held on Tuesday 26th November 2019. Committee members and volunteers all felt this year's show had gone well and the Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their help and support both on the day and throughout the year. The weather on the day was good, dry, fairly sunny and not too cold and visitors were entertained by the young and talented Tom Hopper Trio. The Secretary reported that, in common with other village shows across Gloucestershire, entries were down a little on last year. The difficult growing season and unpredictable weather had particularly affected entries in both fruit and vegetable classes, although entries in handicrafts and preserve classes were up. Despite the difficulties, the quality of the entries was, as always, very high.

The Secretary also acknowledged the generous support the show had received from the Lady Downe Board of Trustees, Upton St Leonard's Parish Council and Upton Life Magazine.

The Treasurer reported that overall the show had broken even, which as a non-profit making event is what the committee aim for. This was in spite of visitor numbers being slightly down and the disappointing behaviour of a few who broke through the locked gate from the BMI club or squeezed through the hedge next to the telephone box in order to avoid paying the nominal entry charge. The Secretary, Peter Macey, has stepped down after 22 years service, although he will continue to be an important member of the committee. The Chairman, on behalf of all the committee both past and present, thanked him for everything he has done over the years and for the valuable contribution he has made to the organisation of the show.

**The next show will be held on 5th September 2020** and as always we will be looking for volunteers to help and donations for the various stalls. As Peter himself said, "this show plays an important part in the life of our village", but it can only continue with your support.

If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact **Kate Brooks at [uptonshow@gmail.com](mailto:uptonshow@gmail.com)**

## Lady Downe Testimonial from a local student

I just wanted to write this email expressing my gratitude for the Uni start up grant I received from you as I started my degree of Sport and Medical Science at the University of Exeter. It has helped me greatly buying books and other resources to help get up and running at uni. I want to thank you for your generosity and support, it has helped make this first term at uni less stressful and given me a good foundation as I continue my studies. I am enjoying my course as I learn about the anatomy of the body, develop my lab skills and analyse techniques of improving sporting performance. Once again, thank you.

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# Feature article - Willie Lonie

This Month's Feature Article is by Linda Munnoch with grateful thanks to Willie

## Willie Lonie – Amazing Memories of a Seafarer

Those of us who are privileged to hear Willie recount his stories of life as a mariner will know what interesting and unusual experiences his amazing memory holds and for those of you who haven't, I hope you will enjoy this taster, and I do mean taster, as it's only a fraction of the tales he has to tell. The sheer joy in his story telling and our laughter at coffee mornings keeps us 'buoyant' for hours. Having read his self-penned autobiography, which, in itself, reads like a film script, I decided to concentrate my feeble efforts on just a few tales that have raised eyebrows and spirits at our gatherings.

Having been born and raised in Scotland, at the age of 17 Willie said goodbye to his mother and boarded a bus for Scotstoun, Glasgow, to take up an engineering apprenticeship at John Brown's ship yard with a fiver in his pocket and all his worldly possessions in a suitcase. Towards the end of serving a five year apprenticeship learning the trades in each of the engine works departments, he was approached by an engineer from the White Star Line who was a regular visitor to the drawing office where Willie was now doing design work for the Saxonia, a 14,000 ton liner. Willie was due for call up on completion of his apprenticeship but Tom McLaren offered him a position with Cunard as an Engineering Officer and pulled out an application form and scribbled across the front "Accept this boy" and his future changed in a moment at the age of 22.

So, here are a couple o' yarns – those of you who are of a nervous disposition and planning a cruise any time soon, turn over now.....

### Man the pumps!



In 1952 Willie was assigned to the RMS Ascania which had been put into service as a transatlantic passenger liner. Built to the same design as the Titanic, it had been in service since 1925, but had undergone a major overhaul and repair after surviving the war. His duties down below involved looking after the main engines and other operating systems and pumps, water-tight doors and the main electricity generating systems. During one particularly heavy storm, the waves battered the ship severely, stretching the rivets and forcing the plates of the hull apart and seawater began entering the vessel. Willie stood transfixed as this 'beautiful clear wall of water' poured in and he realised there was a 'problem'..... pumps were

working overtime but the water kept on coming.

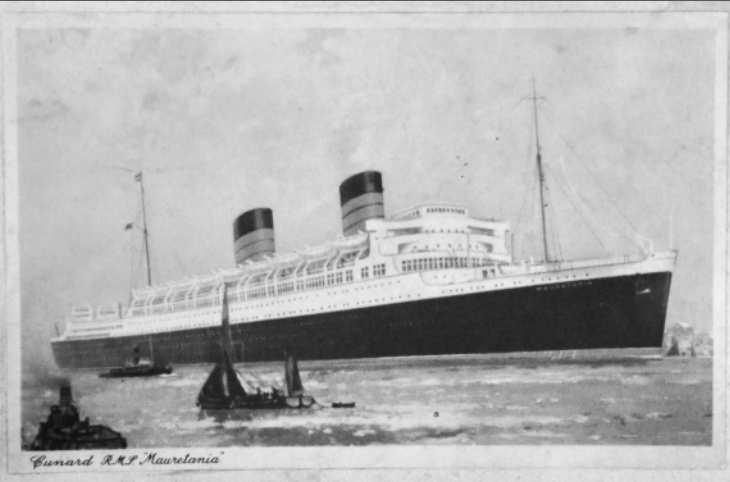
A ships' carpenter appeared with some wood and made a box over the gaping leak and plastered around it with quick setting concrete to stem the flow. It worked! and the ship sailed on for a further three months with this quick fix until it was able to get into a dry dock. Wow!

### Man (in) the lifeboat

In March 1955 Willie was asked to join RMS Mauretania giving a weekly sailing schedule to New York, in conjunction with the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth. It was twice the size of the Ascania and Willie describes it as a



# Feature Article - cont'd



'magnificent vessel' taking around 900 passengers and the same number of crew members. The Port Authorities in New York were very thorough and strict on inspections of vessels departing their waters (the ghost of the Titanic disaster still permeating their zeal). On one such inspection Willie happened to be on deck in his officer's uniform and was asked to step into the lifeboat as he was the only senior officer in the vicinity at that moment. Slowly, slowly, the boat descended – past the decks one by one, and as it touched down, a 'lovely fountain of water' started gushing up from the bottom! The Plug was missing.....!!!! YES!!! There really is one!!!!

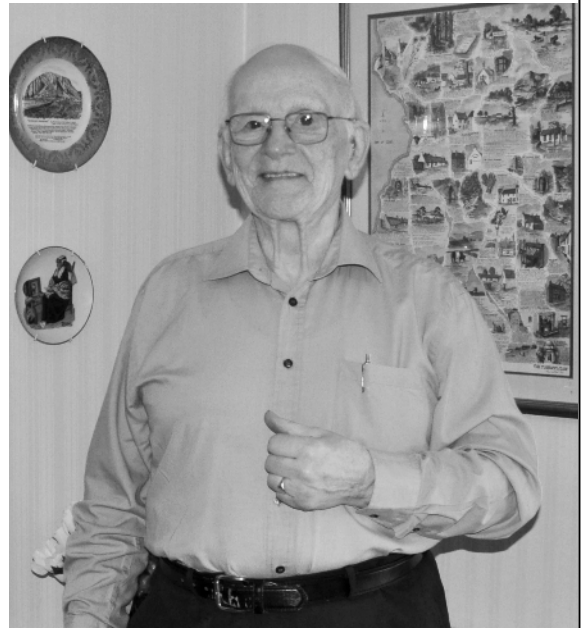
The plug is always taken out of the lifeboats when at sea in order for water to evacuate during storms and

heavy seas, but 'someone' had forgot to put it in. The look of horror on Willie's face and frantic gesticulating in a clockwise motion alerted the crew above and as fortune had it, the inspectors had momentarily turned their backs and the crew began winching them up and no-one was any the wiser.

## Water, water everywhere (recognise the song?)

On one of the Mauretania cruises a number of new crew members and stewards were recruited and one of these young lads promoted from bell-boy was no other than Tommy Steele - a name familiar to those of us of a certain age. He would strum away on his guitar during his time on board and down the streets of Havana.

I hope you have enjoyed these wonderful memories of Willie's life at sea. He left the service to be with his beloved Margaret whom he was 'courting' after meeting her at a dance whilst on leave. But that is another saga best told maybe at a future time. Margaret passed away a few years ago and they were, and still are, well known as a couple in the village. He misses her greatly but still maintains his passion and thirst for knowledge and his wit and enthusiasm for telling us his stories.



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 right hand side. Collection service available.*

# Information - cont'd

## Parish Council Report

As we approach the new year this report outlines some of the initiatives your Parish Council is currently working on. Finances have now been approved and quotations are being sought with suppliers. We are aiming for everything shown below to be in place in the first half of 2020.

### Childrens' Play Equipment

We are very grateful to the Lady Downe Trust for match funding us so we can put in place some play equipment for pre-school children. An area for this has already been fenced off on our Recreation Ground.



### Other Village Improvements

We will be carrying out a number of improvements to our Pavilion as shown below: -

- Resurfacing the Pavilion Car Park
- Providing new Chairs for users' comfort
- Renewing the carpets
- Improving shower facilities
- Providing a Defibrillator on site enabling a quicker response by not relying on the one at our village hall
- Supplying Picnic Benches for people to use whilst enjoying the Recreation area / watching sport



We have received money for the "Other" village improvements shown above through what's called S106 funding which is linked to housing developments and is part of the planning process whereby a contribution to the local community is made.

A big thank you to New Dawn Homes for releasing their contribution early (Bowden Hall Farm development).

For information, we are exploring how we can use renewable energy as part of the Pavilion improvements (ie solar power), and the Picnic Benches will be made from recycled plastic as were those purchased previously for the village, and hopefully provide wheelchair access.



My thanks also to the Parish Council Team, many of whom have worked for a good few years to support their community and to everyone who has made a contribution to Upton during 2019.

**We wish every resident of our lovely village a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2020.**

**Keith Pearson, Chairman**

## Would USL Life Accept Donations?

A number of people have asked the question whether we accept donations to help us run our village newsletter.

The answer is **yes please!!** If anyone would like to make a voluntary contribution to help us run USL Life you can pop a cheque into the postbox at our village hall addressed to "The USL Life Team".

As most of you know we fund our operation mainly through advertising together with some annual fund raising by team members. Everyone who works on USL Life does so voluntarily so any money received would contribute to monthly printing costs, accountant fees ( we have to submit annual reports to Companies House), liability insurance and a small amount on sundries like paper/printing ink.



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

6	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
6	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
6	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
6	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
7	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
7	Tue	Needles and Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
7	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
8	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00p.m
8	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
8	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.00pm
9	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
9	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
9	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
9	Thu	Art Class.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
9	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
10	Fri	Copy Date for February Issue of USL Life		
10	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30p.m
11	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
12	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion.....	10.00am
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
13	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
13	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	6.45pm
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.0pm
14	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
14	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
14	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
15	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
15	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00p.m
15	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
15	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.00pm
16	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
16	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
16	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00p.m
16	Thu	Art Class.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
16	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
16	Thu	History Group - The Stories of Some Houses in Upton.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.00pm
17	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
19	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion.....	10.00a.m
19	Sun	Entertainment - Jazz.....	BMI.....	1.00-3.00pm
20	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
20	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45pm
21	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
21	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
21	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
22	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
22	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
22	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
22	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
22	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.30pm
23	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
23	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
23	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
23	Thu	Art Class.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
23	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
24	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
25	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
26	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion.....	10.00am
27	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00p/m
27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
27	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
27	Mon	Lady Downe Trust.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	7.30pm
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00pm

28	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
28	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
28	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30pm
28	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
29	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
29	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
29	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.30pm
30	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
30	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
30	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall annex.....	1.00-2.00p.m
30	Thu	Art Class.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
30	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30pm
30	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm

Regular weekly events not listed below

### FEBRUARY

3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
8	Sat	Entertainment.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
10	Mon	Copy Date for March Issue of USL Life		
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45pm
22	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
24	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00pm
26	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
27	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30pm

### MARCH

2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
7	Sat	Entertainment.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
9	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
10	Tue	Copy Date for April issue of USL Life		
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45pm
19	Mon	History Group - Blood & Guts and a Little Bit Off the Top.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15pm
21	Sat	Spring Quiz.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
23	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00pm
25	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
26	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30pm

**Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary**

## RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES 2020

7 Jan	Recycling & food waste	6 May	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
14 Jan	Rubbish & food waste	13 May	Recycling & food waste
21 Jan	Recycling & food waste	20 May	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
28 Jan	Rubbish & food waste	27 May	Recycling & food waste
4 Feb	Recycling & food waste	3 Jun	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
11 Feb	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	10 Jun	Recycling & food waste
18 Feb	Recycling & food waste	17 Jun	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
25 Feb	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	24 Jun	Recycling & food waste
4 Mar	Recycling & food waste	1 Jul	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
11 Mar	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	8 Jul	Recycling & food waste
18 Mar	Recycling & food waste	15 Jul	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
25 Mar	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	22 Jul	Recycling & food waste
1 Apr	Recycling & food waste	29 Jul	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
8 Apr	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	5 Aug	Recycling & food waste
15 Apr	Recycling & food waste	12 Aug	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
22 Apr	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	19 Aug	Recycling & food waste
29 Apr	Recycling & food waste	26 Aug	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins

# Editorial

## Fly Tipping

I imagine that at one time or another we have all seen the result of fly tipping along our lanes so it is interesting to hear what happens when the culprit is caught.

Recently one of our residents witnessed building rubble and waste being thrown from a van and onto the grass verge. Photographs were taken and supplied, together with a statement to the Community Services Officer at Stroud District Council (01453 75440).

The District Council decided to prosecute and the offender appeared before Stroud Magistrates Court where he was fined £180, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £30, and a clear-up charge of £115.

**Please help us to keep our village in good condition by reporting any fly tipping you may see.**



Example of building waste fly tipped

## 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:

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The editor for our February issue will be **Andy Russell**

## Get Together Xmas Lunch

Members of the Get together Club had another successful Christmas Lunch at Bowden Hall on the 12th December. The tables in the Lakeside suite were beautifully dressed and the members of staff were very attentive. We were entertained by TLC our very own local village choir, in fact Bowden Hall were so impressed with the choir they may well be booking them in the future!! Members were wished a happy and healthy Christmas and reminded that their next meeting is 2.30 pm Thursday 30th January when the afternoon entertainment will be a 'Tea Dance'.

**if you would like to join us please contact**

**Jackie Clouting**



## More Advent Windows - sorry we couldn't cover everyone's efforts

