

*Upton St Leonards Life*  
*incorporating Church News*

**Issue 125**

**January 2025**



**UPS**  
UPStagers present  
A pantomime by  
Carol Vye

**Ali & Baba**  
**the Four Tea Thieves**  
Upton St Leonards Village Hall

Thurs 20 • Fri 21 • Sat 22\* February 2025  
Doors 6.45pm, curtain 7.30pm -  
\*Sat matinee: Doors 2pm, curtain 2.30pm -

Admission £11 • Concession (U16) £8  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/upstagersusl](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/upstagersusl)  
Limited availability at the door



As we embark upon the new year ahead of us, full of opportunities and possibilities, it's reassuring to reflect on the year just past and to thank those that make our village a better place for us all. With Christmas already long gone, can we thank Rahul and Seeta and their staff for their unstinting help in the Post Office, not just in the hectic run up to the festive season but throughout the year. Their patience and kindness, especially in supporting our more elderly shoppers and those making financial transactions are to be much admired. So many villages have lost this 'lifeline' facility, so we are fortunate indeed to have these hard-working members of our community assisting so many of our residents.

Thank you too, to Upton Builders, who have provided the village, not only with a new coffee shop but with the best Christmas lights we've ever had! You really did a splendid job for us all to enjoy. Your efforts were very much appreciated as all the shops looked wonderful!

Huge thanks also go to all those running and organising the BMI and all the varied entertainments that are hosted there, week in, week out, and for all their fund raising events helping local charities.

With the opening of Monica Sims Close in December, may we extend a warm welcome to our newest of neighbours and also to those that have moved into the village in recent months.

As 2025 is now upon us, the USL Life team would like to wish each and every one of you all a healthy and happy New Year. Life will always bring us a mixture of joy and challenges, some on a daily basis, but there are two quotes that I read recently which seemed to portray these sentiments exactly.

The first is from Martin Luther King, "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step," and the second is from Edith Lovejoy Pierce, "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves." The book is called 'Opportunity' and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

**Andrea Dawson**



### ***Letter from a concerned reader:***

For the first and so far, only time I recently decided to catch the No. 66 bus back down Upton Hill from Castle End at the junction that goes across to Edge.

Having looked up the timetable online, in particular, the full list of stops, I waited there for the bus. A double decker duly arrived at the scheduled time and as there is no actual bus stop sign, I hailed it and it pulled in for me. As I got on, the driver gave me a very angry reception, telling me that this was not a bus stop and that I shouldn't be hailing the bus as if it were a taxi service. It was a very unpleasant experience and left me quite shaken.

On my return home, I put in a complaint to Stagecoach, who did reply confirming that Castle End is definitely a scheduled stop. If you look at the timetable, you will see that there are numerous scheduled stops between Cemetery Road on the outskirts of Painswick and the King's Head in Upton. However, none of them has any sign at the roadside at all. This really is unacceptable and a great pity for the few of us who might find the 66 bus a very useful connection at the end of a walk up the hill from home. I was very disappointed. It has now been reported to the Parish Council and the necessary action has been taken.



**Barbara Swindin**

# What's Been Happening in Upton?

As an active member of both Upton's men's Probus Clubs, I am frequently asked, what exactly is a 'Probus' Club?



Could it be a group supporting sustainable transport? - 'bus' travel - rather than using the car? No such thing! The local Probus Clubs are social get-

togethers, for retired professional (pro) and business (bus) people.

Upton has two such clubs for men. Upton Probus meets every other Wednesday and Upton Twyver Probus meets every other Tuesday.

'Probus' was born in the U.K. in the early 1960s and now we have over 2,000 clubs in Britain. We are very informal - every club makes its own rules. In Upton, the get-togethers consist of a morning meeting at our local BMI.

After a coffee starter, there follows a talk from a 'paid-for' speaker or occasionally from a member himself. (You'd be surprised how many of your neighbours have led interesting lives and visited fascinating places).

Subjects vary enormously and offer interesting topics on a wide range of subjects. Talks have included the

history of our once very local aircraft industry, how GCHQ cracked codes during the Cold War, and a detailed study of ancient Egyptian music - which turned out to be a rather risqué belly dance session!

After the talks – and questions - have finished, the bar is open for a lunchtime drink, snack and chat. Finally, both clubs arrange occasional visits out, to interesting venues (museums, visitor centres etc).

So, if you are retired and would like to hear a range of talks in a friendly setting why not come along? You can make a free visit before deciding.

Both clubs are actively seeking new members. Membership is only £35 per year (plus BMI membership). You will be very welcome.

Like to give us a try? - For further details please contact:

## **Upton Probus Club (Wednesday):**

Club Secretary: Jeremy Dancey

## **Upton Twyver Probus Club (Tuesday):**

Club Secretary: John Lovell

*David Hunt*

## **Ladies Probus Club News**

For our November meeting, Mike Stratford gave us an often emotional talk, entitled the Forgotten Army. It was personal because it was about Mike's uncle who was in the Norfolk Regiment in WW1. He was despatched with his regiment to India in 1914 but the regiment was quickly recalled to Mesopotamia, which equates to modern day Iraq. Britain needed to secure the Basra oil terminals from the Turkish Ottomans, now at war but on the German side. Mike had needed to investigate all the sources available since practically all WW1 records were destroyed during the Blitz enemy bombing in WW2. It was very sad to hear that Mike's uncle died in 1916 after dreadful hardships endured as one of the many prisoners of war of the Turks.

Afterwards, most of us adjourned to Bowden Hall for our annual and very enjoyable lunch.

There was no meeting in December, but for our first 2025 meeting on 15 January we will be holding our annual Bring & Buy Sale with all proceeds going to The James Hopkins Trust.



This is a very worthwhile local children's charity supporting children with life limiting conditions, as well as supporting family respite care. Unfortunately, there is no Government funding support for children's charities such as these, making fundraising vital. So please save those unwanted Christmas gifts for this worthy event!

**Please come and join us on 15th January at 10am  
in the BMI for coffee before the meeting**

# What's Been Happening in Upton?

## Entertainment at the BMI



On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, a fun "Fun Casino" night with a "James Bond" theme was held at the BMI.

It was a black tie event, so a good excuse to get dressed up! Approximately 50 members enjoyed the challenges of poker, blackjack and pontoon. No money was won on the night of course; however there was a profit of £363 which was added to the two BMI Charities, "Charlies" and "Gloucester City Mission". There were also prizes of a bottle of Prosecco for the man and woman who held the most chips at the end of the evening.

The BMI pensioners' lunch took place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Sixty members enjoyed a three course Christmas Lunch followed by coffee and mince pies prepared by Lorraine. A complimentary drink was given on arrival and wine served with lunch.

Once lunch was over, entertainment was once again provided by Kenny, who kept everyone dancing for two hours.

This lunch is always the start of the Christmas festivities at the BMI, and once again was enjoyed by everyone who attended.



*Paula Quinn*

Colour photographs can be seen on page 20, courtesy of Jim Browne.

## Twyver WI



Our last meeting of the year; how time has flown by! We began by introducing our new committee members: Monica Gray, Val George, Nicola Isaacs, Christine Simpson, Val McGarr, Sarah Pearse, Marilyn Woods and Liz Skelton.

The evening's theme was Christmas Party Time and we were very excited to welcome Ian Oliver, well known entertainer in the village. He started off with T Rex and an hour later after much dancing and frivolity by ladies whooping it up on the dance floor to much appreciated favourites, Slade ended the party with 'Merry Christmas'.

Prior to the meeting some of our members had been busy baking mince pies which had been set out on tables for judging while the merriment was going on. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all those who took part. A big thank you to our committee who supplied us with mulled wine and mince pies to keep us going.

Our next meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> January when we will discuss the Resolutions for 2025 and share food together. Make a date in your diaries for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June when we shall be having a Ladies Day – more information to come.

We wish all our members past and present a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Future has Begun.

*Linda Munnoch*

## Upton WI

Festive cheer greeted Upton W.I. Ladies at our December meeting. With twinkling lights, glowing lanterns, and crackers on the tables, we were ready to welcome our speaker, Mr Bill Church, a story teller of folk lore and legends. His first tale was entitled 'A Mistaken Identity' from Tudor times and the second was about a Phantom Inn. The audience were spellbound as Bill recounted these fascinating stories.



Our next meeting is at the Pavilion on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm for a talk on Health and Wellbeing by Millie Barnes.

We would like to wish everyone a peaceful New Year from all of us at Upton W.I.

*Kathy Quant*

# What's Coming up in Upton?

## Entertainment at the BMI

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Post Christmas/New Year Quiz @ 8.00p.m.

*Please add your name to the booking sheet by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January*

£2.00 per person for teams of up to 6  
(Minimum of £8 for a team of up to 4 people)



Profit on the night will be added to the BMI Charities for 2024/25 – “Charlies” and “Gloucester City Mission”

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January

It's that time of the year again when Mike Long's "Wooden Horses" are set loose in the skittle alley

Come and join us for this fun race night from 8.00p.m.



Profit on the night for the BMI Charities 2024/25  
Charlies and Gloucester City Mission

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Sunday Lunchtime Jazz**  
**from 1.00p.m.**



We welcome Gilly Leeper once again to the BMI with her band “Los Grilos”

## Upton St Leonards Village History Group



Edward Wyatt will give a talk on his father Dennis Wyatt (1912 - 1999).

Dennis moved to Gloucester from Somerset as a handicraft teacher in 1940, and built his own family house in the village in 1952; a local entrepreneur and founder of New Horizons the therapeutic centre, Dennis lead a fascinating life and never ceased working for the benefit of others.

Do join us for the first meeting of 2025!

**Thursday 16th January 2025, 7.45 at the Village Hall.**  
**New members and visitors welcome.**

*Julie Winstanley*

## Craft Club



Craft Club enjoyed their first Christmas lunch in December and thereafter it was decided to make it an annual event. During the meeting itself mini Christmas wreaths were made and also beads to make jewellery.

The picture on the left shows the ladies busy making Christmas bunting and Gonks.

In the New Year colourful sewn bags will be made. We look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January in the Old School Room.

**Anita Owen**

## Health Improvement 2025



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What is real food and what is fake food?  
Am I feeding my family healthy foods?

**Living Well: Jan 13th and 27th, Feb 10th & March 10th**

**7.00 pm - 9pm Upton Sports Pavilion**

Contact Millie Barnes to register

**This is a Lifestyle Course - Not Medical Advice**

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# Update on Abbeydale Gardening Club

## *A short history of how the Gardening Club was born.*



The Abbeydale Garden Club was the brainchild of a canny Scotsman, the late David Hay of Six Acres. He was a patient of mine who subsequently became a good friend. He realized that the surgery waiting room would be a good venue for committee meetings and he persuaded me to join him as a founder member of the Abbeydale Gardening Club in 1985, enabling him to use the office facilities for printing and distribution; and so began my long association with the club. I have served on the committee since then until moving away from Gloucestershire three years ago.

In the early days the club meetings were held in Abbeydale Community Centre before moving to a more suitable venue in Upton Saint Leonards. David was a regular at the King's Head in Upton and it was on one of his visits that he spotted an outbuilding that was not being used and he persuaded the landlord to let us use this. We were then able to purchase garden supplies and seeds etc. which were then sold at a discount to members on Saturday mornings. There was no shortage of willing volunteers to help and it soon became a great place to meet and socialise before retiring to the bar.

The Club thrived and it was very satisfying to see the numbers increase. Sadly, the King's Head was taken over and refurbished and we lost our building. As the older members passed away it became more difficult to recruit younger members and the Covid epidemic contributed to a further decline.

However, at a time when many garden clubs are folding, our Club has continued and will, I sincerely hope, continue to develop in the future. I wish you every success.

***Andrew Nichol  
Past President and founder member***

The main news at this time, therefore, is that our longtime president and founder of the club, Andrew Nicol, is retiring. He and his wife Helen have moved to a small hamlet in Worcestershire where they are in the process of creating a beautiful new garden. To inform the club's members and any readers who may be interested Andrew has kindly put together the brief history of the gardening club above.

As the current Vice President I have been nominated to take over Andrew's position and I will endeavour to follow in his footsteps as the new Club President.

The 2025 programme will be on the noticeboard in Upton St Leonards Village Hall. Our meetings are held there every third Monday of the month commencing at 7.30pm. We are a friendly social group welcoming any new members and visitors. Please come along and join us, you might learn something or maybe teach us something. In the meantime our club members wish all readers a very happy new year.

***Doug Monkman  
President Elect***

## **Meetings coming up (No meeting in January)**

**February 17th – AGM**

**March 17th – Nathalie Mignott – Seasonal Colours in the Garden**







Rev Helen Champion

# Saint Leonard's Church

Churchfield Road  
Upton St Leonards  
Gloucester  
GL4 8AT

Rev Helen is available Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday



Dear Friends

As we step into a new year, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of both a new calendar and a new season in the life of our church community. The arrival of January brings with it the promise of fresh starts, new opportunities, and renewed faith. It is a time when we reflect on the year gone by, while looking forward with hope and anticipation to what lies ahead. This is also a time to consider how we can live out our faith more fully in the coming year, and what resolutions we might make that will help us grow closer to God and to one another.

In the church calendar, January marks the season of Epiphany, which begins on January 6th. The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "revelation," and it commemorates the moment when the wise men, or Magi, arrived in Bethlehem to worship the newborn King. This visit is a powerful symbol of the Gospel reaching beyond the Jewish community to all the nations, as represented by the wise men who came from afar. The light of Christ is revealed not only to the shepherds in the fields but to all people, no matter their background or nationality.

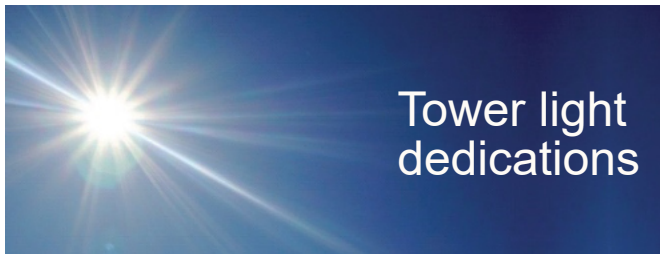
As we think about the year ahead, many of us may set New Year's resolutions. These resolutions often revolve around self-improvement—whether that's getting healthier, learning something new, or managing our time more wisely. They are not always easy to keep, but they offer us a chance to focus on what truly matters. As we set goals for the year, let us remember that God's grace is always available to help us along the way.

In this season of Epiphany, let us reflect on the light of Christ that has come into the world and consider how we can reflect that light in our own lives. May our resolutions this year be ones that deepen our love for others, and help us become more like the people God intended us to be.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful New Year!

Rev Helen Champion

Who's who in the church		
<b>Parish Priest:</b> Rev Helen Champion	<b>Churchwarden:</b> Gill Howell	<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b> Sue Downey
		<b>PCC Secretary</b> Kay Hutton
For wedding & baptism enquiries please contact Rev Helen.	For Interment and burial of ashes Enquiries please contact Gill	



*If you or your family wish to sponsor the lights in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or for any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.*

The Tower Lighting is being sponsored on the 18<sup>th</sup> January in loving memory of Janet Johnson who passed away seven years ago. A much-loved Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother. Never forgotten and always in our hearts

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the Church Tower Lights are being sponsored by the family of Ruth Edgington to commemorate two years since she passed away. Always in our thoughts



### *Explore Advent*

At the beginning of December the pupils of Upton St Leonard's Primary school were invited to Explore Advent.

For three days a group of volunteers helped the children around the church with various points of interest, such as Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Mystery boxes with models of Mary, angels, shepherds and wise men for them to sort into the right order of events. There was also a gazebo with floor cushions and sensory lights where the children could either write a prayer of their own, say one that they knew or just sit in the peaceful atmosphere and take a quiet moment for themselves.

Sand, stones, ribbon and moss were there to make a river, road and wilderness.

There was an opportunity to make angels which, when completed, were placed on the altar to make a large heavenly choir.

At the end all of the children went off with a bag of bits and pieces to make their own Advent wreaths.



It was a pleasure to welcome the children and staff into church.



The Ukulele concert was a great success once more and £1040 was raised for the Roof Fund.

Twyver Ladies Choir were there again to lead the singing and we were pleased to welcome the choir from Upton St Leonards Primary School to join in.

A fun evening was had by everyone and got Christmas off to an early start with the decorated trees adding to the atmosphere.

Thank you to the Ukulele Band and the choirs for entertaining us at the same time raising funds for the roof.



The Christmas trees decorated by various groups at the end of November gave the church a lift during the dark and often miserable (weather) days in December. Their bright twinkling lights were a welcome sight.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.





## Mother's Union

The November meeting proved to be both enjoyable and fascinating. To start members tried to guess who belonged to the "Early Years" photographs and the younger members had even printed theirs in black and white so not to be so obvious. Then we listened to everyone in turn sharing their childhood reminiscences, some were amusing, some very moving especially those appertaining to the years during WWII. Images of Upton and the surrounding districts before the advent of urban sprawl and the motorway were shared. Farms abounded and milk being delivered to people's doors was particularly called to mind. An afternoon hopefully to be repeated, perhaps about school days next time.

January with "Men in Sheds" as highlighted in this publication last year. The Mothers' Union theme for 2025 is "JOIN US & JOIN IN." We have welcomed plenty of visitors to our meetings during the past year, so please do consider membership of what is the largest missionary society in the Anglican Communion. We have been providing support to families since 1876 and our 4 million members are active in 84 countries, building a future where everyone can thrive. We meet in the Old School Room on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2pm and meetings are always advertised in this magazine. We have a lively programme planned for 2025 including celebrating 110 years of Mothers' Union in this parish.

Our new year programme starts on Thursday 16

## Christingle

Our team of volunteers headed off to Upton Primary School on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, armed with scissors, sweets, raisins, candles and red ribbon all prepared for the annual making of Christingles.

It takes all day to get around every class to begin the sticky process of constructing a Christingle but saying that, it is an enjoyable, if tiring day, for all concerned.

In the afternoon a service is held in the main hall and the older children have their candles lit.

It has been a pleasure this year to have been able to host Explore Advent and the carol services in church, so nice to have the children and parents visit us also to be welcomed to take part at the school.



## Tuesday Morning Prayer

9.30 am

In the Rectory

Bondend Road

Everyone is welcome

## 500 Club Winners for December



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No. 82

Second Prize

No. 77



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# Arts Page

We start this year with a miscellany of short poems – some with memorable lines. See whether you can select your own memorable line and use it in conversation.

## From SING SONG by Christina Rossetti 1830 - 1894

An emerald is as green as grass;  
A ruby red as blood;  
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;  
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,  
To catch the world's desire;  
An opal holds a fiery spark;  
But a flint holds fire.

## “And the days are not full enough” by Ezra Pound 1885 – 1972

And the days are not full enough  
And the nights are not full enough  
And life slips by like a field mouse  
    Not shaking the grass.

## “Love is like a dizziness” by James Hogg 1770 – 1835

O, love, love, love!  
Love is like a dizziness;  
It winna let a puir body  
Gang about his business!

## FULL MOON by Vita Sackville West 1892 – 1962

She was wearing coral taffeta trousers  
Someone had bought her from Isfahan,  
And the little gold coat with pomegranate blossoms,  
And the coral-hafted feather fan,  
But she ran down a Kentish lane in the moonlight,  
And skipped in the pool of moon as she ran.

She cared not a rap for all the big planets,  
For Betelgeuse or Aldebaran,  
And all the big planets cared nothing for her,  
That small impertinent charlatan,  
As she climbed on a Kentish stile in the moonlight,  
And laughed at the sky through the sticks of her fan.

## The Birth Night by Walter de la Mare 1873 – 1956

Dearest, it was a night  
That in its darkness rocked Orion's stars;  
A sighing wind ran faintly white  
Along the willows, and the cedar boughs  
Laid their wide hands in stealthy peace across  
The starry silence of their antique moss:  
No sound save rushing air  
Cold yet all sweet with Spring,  
And in thy mother's arms, couched weeping there,  
    Thou, lovely thing.

## LIMERICK by Anon

There was an old man of Nantucket  
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.  
His daughter, called Nan,  
Ran away with a man,  
And as for the bucket, Nantucket.....

## THOUGHTS - Ecclesiastes Book 1 (Bible)

What has happened will happen again and what  
has been done will be done again, and there is  
nothing new under the sun.

I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself.  
A small bird will drop frozen from a bough  
Without ever having felt sorry for itself.

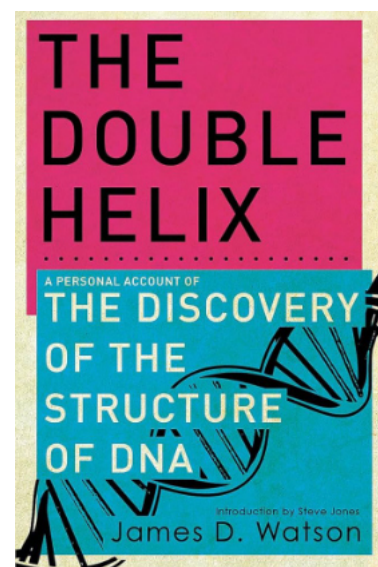
D.H. Lawrence

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Double Helix by James D Watson

This book was published in 1968 and recounts the discovery in 1953 of the structure of DNA for which James D Watson received the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with his collaborator, Francis Crick, and another scientist, Maurice Wilkins.

Crick and Watson worked together at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University in 1951 – 1953. Wilkins was based at Kings College, London. A challenging read about something which plays an important part in all our lives.



# The National Lottery is 30 Years Old



Where were you on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 1995 at 6.15 pm, when, on BBC1, Upton St Leonards appeared on live TV?

It is now 30 years since the start of the National Lottery and so much good has come from it for so many good causes. For the first ten draws Camelot wanted to broadcast live. The BBC decided to tour the country with outside broadcasts for these draws and Programme number five was to be from The Cotswolds. The BBC were planning on using Painswick until visits proved that all their vehicles would not fit into the centre of the village.

Researchers found their way down Portway to Upton and the Village Hall. The Parish Council was approached about using the hall which they would require for at least two days. During the week before the broadcast, a crew filmed various groups using the hall including art classes, keep fit, Guides and a shot of the late Brian Warner delivering milk for the play group. These shots were used as an introduction to the show. Permission to facilitate the hall had been given by the Chairman of the Parish Council, the late Mr Colin Freshney, and the BBC arranged an initial payment of £250. Tickets for the night were limited to 150 people for safety reasons. The tickets (limited to two per family) were printed by the Parish Council and given out on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. They were vastly over-subscribed.

Thirty five members of the BBC and Camelot arrived in Upton, staying at either Bowden Hall or Matson Country Club, including the three presenters on the left of the photograph – Gordon Kennedy, Anthea Turner and Keith Floyd. The fourth person on the right is our very own Mike Stratford. Preparations included the installation of two telephone lines into the hall, one for the phone and one for the fax machine. The annex was used as a communication room, a dressing room and room to store a stand by the lottery machine. A rehearsal was held on the Saturday morning and the machine named Guinevere was chose for the broadcast. A large generator arrived to provide the power for lights and cameras. The old wiring in the Village Hall would not have taken the strain.



On the Wednesday I, as the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, was filmed giving a short history of the hall. I was asked to press the button to start the draw for which I was given an “I pressed the button” trophy. Everything was timed to the second and every word spoken had been prepared on ‘cue cards’. These cards were held up by the floor manager and had to be in large print as Anthea is dyslexic.

There was one change of plan late in the day on the Saturday; the Director didn’t like the way the Set Designer had arranged the stage and he asked me who used the hall? As an assistant Cub Scout Leader at the time, I told him of the uniformed groups that used the hall, and that they each had their own flag. That is why if you ever see a recording of the programme you will the Scout, Cub, Brownie and Guide flags on the stage.

Keith Floyd was based in the BMI behind the bar in the lounge which he enjoyed greatly, therefore the lounge bar also appeared on the BBC. Previous millionaire winners were also presented with their cheques at the BMI.

The numbers for that night were 6, 16, 20, 30, 31, 47 and bonus 4. You could always try these now? After the event the Hall Committee received a cheque for £770. After the broadcast I received several begging letters addressed to ‘Good Causes, National Lottery, Upton St Leonards’ – the postman knew where to deliver them!

On the Sunday, the ‘circus’ left Upton and I had to clear up all the rubbish left inside and out, including bags of unused food which included bags of prawns from the BBC catering lorry – the crew certainly ate well on outside broadcasts! Taking the bags to the dump made my car smell nice... I guess that is the price of 15 minutes of fame.

**Words by Mike Stratford, reproduced by Linda Munnoch. Photograph from USL archive.**

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## JANUARY

1	Wed	New Year's Day		
5	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
6	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
6	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
7	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week		
7	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
7	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
8	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
8	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
8	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
12	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
13	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
14	Tue	Recycle and food waste week		
14	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
14	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
14	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
15	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
16	Thu	History Group – "My Father Dennis Wyatt" – Edward Wyatt	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
18	Sat	Fun Race Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
19	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
20	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
21	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week		
21	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
21	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
22	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
22	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
22	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
22	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
26	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning		
26	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00p.m.
27	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
28	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
28	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
28	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
28	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
29	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
29	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
30	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

## FEBRUARY

3	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for March issue of USL Life		
10	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
14	Fri	Valentine's Day		
15	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village hall	7.30p.m.
20	Thu	Upstagers – Pantomime	Village Hall	7.00p.m.
21	Fri	Upstagers - Pantomime	Village Hall	7.00p.m.
22	Sat	Upstagers - Pantomime	Village Hall	2.30p.m.
22	Sat	Upstagers - Pantomime	Village Hall	7.00p.m.
27	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	1000-12.00p.m.

## MARCH

1	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
3	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for April issue of USL Life		
10	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00p.m.
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	BMI	7.30p.m.
20	Thu	History Group – “Katherine Parr “ – Mike Bottomley	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
27	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

**Contact Paula Quinn to have an event mentioned in the diary**

### Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Contact</b>	
<b>Yoga</b>	<b>Mondays 10am</b>	<b>Village Hall Annex</b>	<b>Lara Bricknell</b>	<b>07876 764425</b>
<b>Art Class</b>	<b>Tuesdays 2pm</b>	<b>Village Hall Annex</b>	<b>Christine Hughes</b>	<b>01452 614227</b>
<b>Dance Workout</b>	<b>Tuesdays 7pm</b>	<b>Pavilion</b>	<b>Debra Law</b>	<b>07505 761420</b>
<b>Chair-based Pilates</b>	<b>Wednesdays 1.45pm</b>	<b>Pavilion</b>	<b>Angela Harris</b>	
<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Thursdays 10am</b>	<b>Village Hall Annex</b>	<b>Christina Caldwell</b>	
<b>Pilates with Sam</b>	<b>Fridays 9.30am</b>	<b>Village Hall Annex</b>	<b>Sam Slatter</b>	<b>07894 757360</b>

## Parish Council Report for December 2024

Thanks to residents who attended the meeting on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December and for the questions and issues raised (see below). The council were asked to action as appropriate.

- Several Bus Stops missing on the route from Painswick to Upton leading to passengers potentially not being picked up by drivers. Can this be rectified please?
- Dangerous junction at bottom of Nut Hill where it meets Bondend Road. Can a Stop sign be considered rather than a Give Way marking, or if not possible, erect a mirror to improve visibility for traffic?
- The path that runs next to the Village Green is unlit and therefore very dark for people walking in that direction eg customers of the BMI!! Can the path be lit using solar lighting?
- Can the white posts in the layby on the High Street leading towards Birchall Lane be removed so the verge can be properly maintained?

The Parish Council will work on solutions to the above and progress will be shared on our new website and in relevant editions of USL Life.

Recent activities/decisions are as follows: -

- A new Multi-Bin has been purchased for use at the Recreation Ground (the existing overflows on a regular basis) and will be installed soon.
- A new Basketball net at the Recreation Ground will be fitted on the court shortly.
- An increase in fees to hire The Pavilion have been agreed for 2025
- The Budget for 2025/26 was agreed at the meeting.
- As a result of expected expenditure, it was agreed to increase the current Precept by 5% (but Upton is still one of the lowest in Gloucestershire irrespective of size).

The subject of disposal of plastic wrapping was briefly discussed and currently this can be brought to a number of supermarkets including Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsburys, The Co-Op and Waitrose who will arrange for recycling.

All members of the Parish Council wish all residents of Upton St Leonards a healthy and happy New Year.

**Cllr. Peter Wilson**

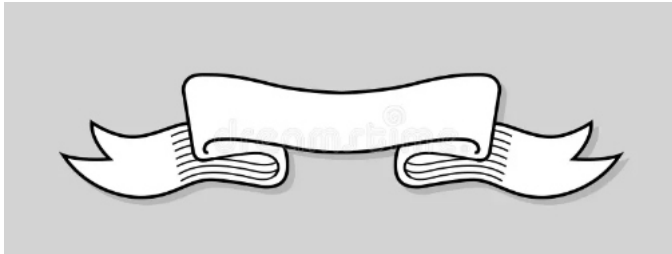
# OBITUARY



It is with deep sadness that the family of Sue Gabb wish to inform our readers of her death on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024.

Born in Gloucester in 1951, Sue moved to Upton in 2005 with her late husband Chris. Married for 50 years, they raised four children Angela, Niki, Sallie and Anton (Niki and Anton live within the village).

Sue was a very special lady who touched the lives of all who met her, with her kind, compassionate and generous nature. She will be greatly missed by her children and all her family and friends.



## ROAD CLOSURE



The work to replace the gas main in High Street and Portway will be continuing in the new year, and the section of Portway between The Stanley and Valley Lane will be affected during January, February and March. Access to properties and to the Farm Shop will be awkward, but possible. It will be much like what happened in High Street, i.e. they will try to keep a narrow roadway open, and just occasionally, if you are unlucky, there will be a brief block as they load a truck.

You can contact Gloucestershire Highways on 08000 514 514 or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk)



Dog owners, will you please act responsibly and dispose of your dog's excrement in the bins around the village.

There are many pleas from animal lovers not to feed horses, not to frighten any animals with fireworks etc but can dog owners spare a thought for adults and children who have to manoeuvre their way around these unpleasant deposits.

The biggest threat to public health is toxocariasis – an infection caused by worms commonly found in dogs intestines. This can cause serious illness and even blindness, so can we all work together to ensure that no-one is subjected to any further inconvenience.

## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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

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## Next month's Guest Editor Sarah Kent



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## Pensioners' Christmas Lunch at the BMI



## Coffee Club Christmas Lunch at the BMI



## A Selection of Advent Windows - thank you to all who took part



Twyver Walkers donned their Christmas jumpers and gathered together for mulled wine and mince pies to fortify themselves for a blustery, muddy walk up to the Abbey and back. As usual everyone was in good spirits and there was lots of chatter and laughter!