

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 10

June 2015



UPTON ST LEONARDS



VILLAGE DAY **Saturday 20th June 2015**

An afternoon of family fun.....

Starts with a PARADE at 2pm

Circus Workshop



Music



Maypole



Prize for Best Hat

Bouncy Castle



Games



Stalls



Dog Show



Children's Races



.....and then, 7:30pm to 11pm

Band



Supper

Disco



**Evening event - ticket only, £10 each,
from Carol Evans - 849350**

More details inside on the Village Day, page 5

Also in this issue:

p2 Neil Carmichael
says thanks

p11 New Foodbank
collection point

p14 Annual Report
from your Parish
Council



Road closures and parking restrictions for the Village Day:

Please note there will be
no parking at the Village
Hall, BMI, the Church
Field, or Bondend Road
on the afternoon of
20th June.

Bondend Road will be
closed from St Leonards
Close to Churchfield
Road 1.00-5.00pm.

The section between
the Stanley and St
Leonards Close will also
be shut from 1.30-
2.15pm for the
procession.

A message from Neil Carmichael...

"I am delighted to have been returned as your MP and would like to thank sincerely the people of Upton St Leonards who voted for me. I look forward to working with and for all the residents of the Parish to ensure a continued prosperous future."

You can contact Neil by calling the constituency office, 01453 751572, or via his website: <http://www.neilcarmichael.co.uk>



Letters to the Editor

We very much welcome input and feedback from our readers. Your thoughts and ideas make for a much better newsletter!

From Joy and Tim Gyles

We have been very touched by the kindness of many people in the village and wish to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughtful messages, plants and offers of help which have been greatly appreciated.

Also we are grateful to all who gave donations to charity in memory of Bill; your kind hearted generosity has been outstanding and a cheque for £155 has been sent to MIND.

After fighting cancer for eight years, Tim has been told that he is in remission. He is enjoying his retirement and making the most of every day. He too has been very encouraged by your good wishes concerning his health which is now improving slowly. It is a great comfort to him to know that his mum, Joy, is happy here in this caring and supportive village community.

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to read the excellent booklet "Upton St Leonards Remembered", produced by Mrs Angela Marks. Sadly most of the people whose memories were recorded are no longer with us.

I wonder if it is possible to find out who is the oldest person who was born in the village and is still living here? Their memories would be worth hearing. One such person could be Mrs Margaret White who lives in St Leonards Close; she is 92 years old.

Elvi

From "The Villager"

From dawn until dusk the glorious song of the blackbird fills the air, although the delightful robin is usually the first to awaken us with his serenading. Can there be anything more relaxing than birdsong and a glass of wine at the end of day whilst sitting in the garden? The sweet smell of the earth, as coolness invades the evening, is balm to gardeners.

I did a lot of heavy pruning in the garden today – and have I, at last, realized common sense? The body does not do what it is supposed to do nowadays; maybe it is time to call in the professionals. But your garden is so stamped with your own personality you are loath to let go, hence the willingness to have the aches and creaks, and at the close of the day enjoy that very welcome tonic.

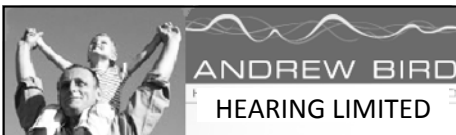
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What's been happening in Upton?

Big Band at the Village Hall!



On the anniversary of V E Day at the Village Hall you could believe that you had been taken back to the days of Glenn Miller, as the band "C A J E" put on an evening of entertainment to put us all "In the Mood". The band members were dressed with a V E day theme which added to the enjoyment of the evening. The band played from 7.30 to 10pm with just a 15 minute break, and it didn't seem a minute too long, we wanted more! Soloist Nicole Worfield sang several numbers.



The band's sound was outstanding, filling the hall with that wonderful swing that can only be obtained with the saxophone and brass mixture, a really authentic 40's sound and a treat to hear live rather than recorded or on the radio or TV.

This was a most enjoyable evening and we hope to see them here again before too long.

Upstagers

In their most recent production, 'Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb', the Upstagers captivated their audience with their portrayal of a family of murderers, renowned for their elaborate poisoning techniques! The over-the-top characters who showed a somewhat nonchalant attitude towards death, lead to the play being billed as a "comedy-thriller".

With its twists and turns, it both thrilled and delighted in equal measure with its entertaining mixture of spoof and slaying!

The cast is to be congratulated on delivering some seriously lengthy lines and it was wonderful to see audience numbers rising to near capacity 80 at Friday's performance.

Be sure to make a date in your diary for their next production from 17-19 September.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Upstagers please contact Jackie Lord for more information.



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What's been happening in Upton ... continued

The Parish Council had its annual meeting in early May. Keith Pearson was elected Chairman once again. There is a new Vice-Chairman - Chrissie Castle. The various subcommittee Chairmen were re-appointed. The Annual Report from the Parish Council has been included in this issue of USL Life, on page 14



USL Life has had a few articles about the "Friends For You" befriending scheme. On May 12th a number of potential volunteers met the scheme's coordinator, and with those already signed up there will be a fair sized group of Villagers becoming active visitors. We hope to use USL Life as a local link between volunteers from the Village and a means to encourage more volunteers.

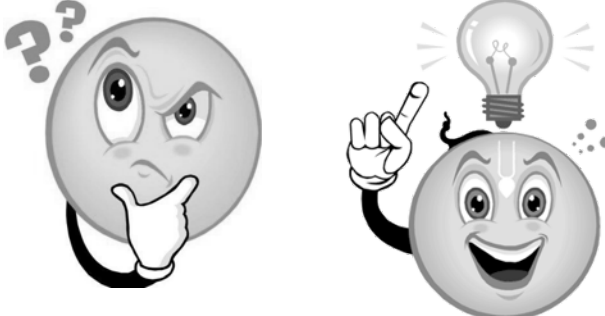
Sports Report

In the April Issue we reported that the Football Club had reached the final of the Gloucestershire County Junior Challenge Cup. This was a first time for the club at such a level. The match was played on 30th April, and, sad to say, they lost 2-1, against opponents who play at a much higher level.

The Cricket Club's Saturday teams have started the season off in style, the 1st XI leading their division by some way after three comprehensive wins. The 2nd XI lost their opener in a very tight finish, but two wins since have put them 2nd in their division. The Club has managed to recruit a few more players, but plans to run an Under 15 side have come to nothing, too few players. The Under 13 and Under 11 sides are flourishing in numbers, if slightly short on skills!

Upcoming Events

The page opposite and the front page have lots of coverage of the Village Day. Also ...



BMI Quiz

Members and Guests
SUMMER QUIZ NIGHT
ON SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2015
8.00p.m.
£5.00 per team (maximum 4 per team)

Proceeds on the night and raffle for the BMI nominated charity for 2015-2016

Add your name to the booking sheet on the notice board in the BMI foyer

Snail Trail!

Sunday 14th June



USL playgroup are inviting friends and families to join us on our Snail Trail around the village!

Follow the clues to each snail and make the word at the end.

Adults free, children £3.50

Start from the village Hall Annex from 2pm, last time to start the trail is 4pm.

Children will receive a prize at the end.

There will also be refreshments, a face painter, bouncy castle, ice creams, and craft tables, so bring the whole family for an afternoon of fun!

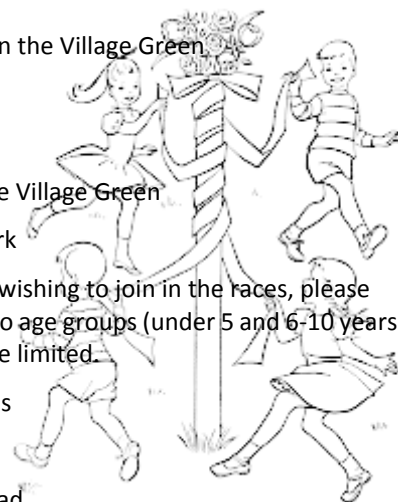
The Southbound Motorway services opened in mid-May. We'll send a reporter there to have a look. Most of the service area is in the Parish. Like the services on the other side, you will soon be able visit on foot from the Sneedham's Green road, once the landscaping work is completed.

The Village Day 2015

Saturday 20 June, 2.00 - 5.00 pm

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 1.45-2.00 Children assemble at the Perry Orchard end of Dirty Lane for procession to Village Green
- 2.00 Tai Chi demonstration, BMI Car Park
- 2.20 Rev Christine Birkett to officially open the Village Day on the Village Green
- 2.25 Children's Maypole Dancing, Village Green
- 2.30 Zumba demonstration, BMI Car Park
- 2.40 Styx of Stroud Border Morris Men to entertain us on the Village Green
- 3.00 Deb Locke Personal Trainer demonstration, BMI Car Park
- 3.15 Children's races start on Village Hall Grounds (Children wishing to join in the races, please register in the Village Hall Grounds before 3.00p.m. Two age groups (under 5 and 6-10 years) As it is a very busy afternoon, the number of entries are limited.
- 3.00 Samba Band Batida entertaining us, Village Hall Grounds
- 3.10 Circus Skills Workshop, Village Hall Grounds
- 3.15 Pantastic Steel Band Sounds all afternoon, Bondend Road
- 3.30 Dog Show by Animal Magic, BMI Car Park. Register your dogs before 3.00 p.m.
- 4.45 Prize Giving and Raffle, Village Hall Grounds



There will be a **Skittles Competition** in the BMI, and **Petanque** and a "**Beat the Goalie**" competition on the Church Field running all afternoon. In the Village Hall there will be an **Art Exhibition**. In the Village Hall grounds there will be a **Treasure Hunt, Coconut Shy, Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Steam Organ, Shuttlecock Target, Fortune Telling, Various Stalls, Tea and Cake Refreshments, Pimms Tent and Hotdogs**, lots for your whole family to enjoy.

There is a "**Decorated Hat Competition**". Be sure to wear your best decorated hat on the day. There will be a prize for the best adult's hat and the best child's.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE FUN WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL CHURCH AND VILLAGE HALL

Are you aged 12-16 - with a camera or camera phone? There is a prize in the September Flower Show for the best picture taken at the Village Day today. Get snapping!

Please note that Bondend Road will be closed during the afternoon, and there is no parking, see the front page.

Donations of cakes for the refreshments and tombola would be greatly appreciated. Cakes can be brought to the village hall on the day before, at 1.00p.m. Tombola prizes can be left with Jackie Lord and Ann Pearson.



Evening Entertainment

MUSIC AND DANCING FROM 7.30-11.00p.m. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

WITH THE BLEEDING HEARTS BAND AND DAVE T DISCO

TICKETS £10.00 INCLUDING SUPPER

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..... so put on your dancing shoes and join us!

Upcoming Events continued ...

It's happening again! They're on the Loose! Track them down!

UPTON ST LEONARDS GNOME HUNT SATURDAY 11TH July 2015

2 HUNTS to choose from LOCAL (pushchair friendly) starting at Village Hall OR CROSS COUNTRY starting at USL School Car Park, both finish at the Village Hall. MAPS ISSUED between 1.00pm & 3:30pm from starting points. £4. per map.

Refreshments in the Village Hall from 1pm - 5.30pm

All funds split between FOCUS (Funds for Oncology Centre Users & Supporters) and St Leonards Church Repairs.

If any Families or Businesses would like to sponsor £20 for a GNOME please contact Marilyn Bannister



Delicious GNOME cakes, Prizes



GNOME Selfies, ice creams, Raffle



JUNIOR GARDENING CLUB

We would like to start a Junior Gardening Club in Upton St Leonards.

We have allocated a small Allotment at the Perry Orchard Site for children to learn how to grow vegetables and flowers.

Any parents who would like their children to be a part of this interesting and educational project please contact Roy Balgobin, Parish Clerk at the Village Hall or Carol Evans 849350 for more information.

AND DON'T FORGET

THE VILLAGE FLOWER SHOW

12TH SEPTEMBER

Here are some more of the competition classes - for CHILDREN

Group 1 – Under 5 years

- 185 A drawing of a rainbow (max. size A4)
- 186 A playdough/plasticine model (max. size A4)

Group 2 – Ages 5 to 7

- 187 Decorate a witch's/wizard's hat
- 188 A potato person
- 189 A model of a car made out of a shoe box
- 190 A drawing of your favourite toy (max. size A4)
- 191 Make a collage using bits from the seaside. A4 card

Group 3 – Ages 8 to 11 years

- 192 Make a vegetable animal
- 193 Design a birthday card for a gardener
- 194 Cress Egg Man – grow cress in an empty egg shell and decorate with facial features
- 195 Draw a vase of flowers, A4
- 196 An item I have made myself from a craft kit

(Continued on the next page)

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We continue our series of articles which highlight activities. This month ...



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Thanks to the dedication and support of 100,000 amazing volunteers, we are active in every part of the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations and give them the chance to discover their full potential.

We know from research that being girl-only is one of the things our young members value most about Guiding; we give girls a space where they can really be themselves with other girls and share the experience of growing up as a girl in today's world.

There is a section for every age group

Rainbows - We have fun

Rainbows are girls aged five to seven, and they follow a programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw, through which they can take part in lots of different activities with girls their own age

Brownies - We do cool stuff

Brownies are girls aged seven to ten who become a member of a Six and follow a programme called the Brownie Adventure. Brownies opens up a world of exciting

challenges and the opportunity to try new things and to make brilliant friends.

Guides - We make things happen

Guides are girls aged 10 to 14 who are given the chance to explore their individual skills and abilities and try out new challenges as part of a team. Girls can get involved in anything from adventure sports to performing arts, travel and taking part in community action projects.

In Upton District (Upton, Abbeymead, Abbeydale) we have 2 Rainbow, 3 Brownie, and 2 Guide groups with sessions throughout the week. For more information on how to join, please contact Beth Gill

September Flower Show Children's Classes Continued from the previous page ...

- 197 Handwriting – write out the following sentence in your best handwriting:
“Five old fishermen sitting on a bridge, one caught a tiddler, one caught a fridge.”
- 198 A photograph of a holiday activity (max. size 7" x 5"/175mm x 125mm)

Group 4 – Ages 12 to 16 years

- 199 A colour photograph of the Village Day (max. size 7" x 5"/175mm x 125mm)
- 200 Design a rugby shirt
- 201 A drawing done on a computer or ipad, printed out, A4
- 202 Make an advert or poster for Road Safety, max size A4, any medium
- 203 Make a collage of a futuristic car
- 204 Write a short story, max 50 words, to include the following words:
Selfie, wheelbarrow, crash, pancake, no entry, field, lightning

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Mary (nee Rosemary Gardner) is a Clerical Support Officer at Gloucester Royal Hospital's Head and Neck Services Department. She was credited in Dr Dutta's paper in *The Lancet*, for ably assisting his research.

She has four children from her first marriage - Andrew, Nigel, Elizabeth and Michael, and one step-daughter, Sinead, from her second marriage to Lachlan McLachlan (Mac). She has seven grandchildren and one two year old great grandson, Oscar. Mary and Mac enjoy sporting their tartan to McLachlan clan gatherings in Scotland. Mac is a kit drummer in the Gloucester Excelsior Brass Band and is in the Drum Corps of West Midlands Fire Service Band.



Mary was born in 'Rest Haven' (now Rance Cottage) and since the Davis branch of her family, eight generations have lived in USL. Her mother, Rose Peace Gardner (so-called because she was born in 1918) lived in Yew Tree Cottage with mother and blacksmith father, brother Bill and sisters, Violet and May (Graham Hayes' mother - see USL Life, Issue 7). At 97 years, Rose is the oldest Uptoner.

When Mary was a child the rectory was in Pinlocks and Reverend Graham kept cows, so an interesting aroma accompanied him to 8am Holy Communion. She attended the village school and children weren't allowed to speak in class or ask for the loo. They had a ruler between shoulder blades to make them sit straight and knuckles rapped with a ruler for misbehaving. Once, a boy dipped her plaits in his inkwell and covered them in black ink. Although her mother attended Ribston Hall High School, Mary didn't fancy an all girls' school, so tried to deliberately fail the 11+. She didn't regret it and enjoyed following the trends, whether becoming 'Beatnicky', a Mod, or her favourite, jiving to Rock'n Roll in petticoats and flared skirts. She loved frothy coffee and 'gattucks' in the Cadena Café, Eastgate Street and a drink or several in the Lemon and Parker (now Waterstones).

With a characteristic twinkle of laughter, Mary remembers that Brian Wood was the first boy she 'properly kissed'. She continued to enjoy kissing as a teenager ('and still does!') and was in the Hippodrome with Basher Badhams when she felt a tap on her shoulder from the lad she was meant to be with instead. 'I'll see you tomorrow if you like' was her quick riposte. Ah, those were the days!

Family is of upmost importance to Mary. She and siblings, Teresa, Ted and Mickey felt 'very much loved'. Their father, Bill, was a Stone Maker and fired the anvil for the annual village event in the Rec. She remembers family outings to Cranham Feast with venison cooked by army cooks. The family would catch the bus to Painswick Beacon and walk down to the feast behind The Royal William then walk down Portway at night. Her father said the lights of Gloucester were Fairy Land. 'When I'm gone, pick the brightest star in the sky' he'd say 'and it's me looking down on thee'. She still feels a deep, emotional bond here and senses the family's presence everywhere.

Mary serves USL in her roles as a Parish Councillor and BMI Committee member. 'This is my village' she says and believes it's vital to keep USL a place for all. She urges us to remember to say 'hello' when passing each other and to join in events in order to keep the community spirit alive.

Little known fact: Mary owns approximately 2,000 pieces of elephant paraphernalia. She is pictured with just a few of them.

Kathryn Alderman

There's a new cinema in Gloucester -- with a difference. The Sherborne Cinema is a small local independent cinema with all the modern accoutrements required to enjoy the film, but lacks loud music, advertisements and the seemingly never-ending trailers! We've had very good reports from people who have been there. Its programme and other information about it can be seen on the web: www.sherbornecinema.co.uk

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CHURCH NEWS



Dear Friends,

As I sit at my desk, reflecting on the past year, it is a very cold May Day. But by the time you read this June will be busting out all over - look around - the song belts out full of hope and excitement. How wonderful it is to be part of the family of Upton St Leonards!

Thank you to you all for enabling me to be parish priest in such a beautiful village.

Thank you to you all for just being you as we would not be a family without each one of you.

We have lost a lot of our family as they have either passed away or moved away from the area - they are sorely missed and were much appreciated for all their support.

However, last year we had 14 Weddings; 13 Baptisms; 16 Funerals; 13 Burial of Ashes and 1 Confirmation Service.

We have enjoyed some wonderful social events and special services. Although this past year has proved to be an eventful one it has brought us challenges which we need to learn how to deal with effectively.

A part time incumbent, declining numbers and very limited finances, excessive repairs and lack of expertise have had their toll on the morale of church folk as we recognise that our church is no longer viable in the way folk are used to and would like.

Since our focus must be turned to mission and outreach we recently have been looking at our range of services and have been trying out a new format which involved changing the mid Sunday morning Communion 4All Service from 11 am to 10 am twice per month. Once a month a Non-Communion Family Service and one Holy Communion service from Common Worship using books and service sheets instead of Power Point. One 8am BCP Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and one Evening Service at 6pm on the third Sunday. Our baptism services have changed to 12 midday on the first Sunday; and the burial of Ashes on a Sunday which is mutually convenient. We have also tried out a "Messy Church" for families at 3pm in our local C of E Primary School which turned out to be very encouraging and will be repeated again soon.

I would also like to offer a mid-week service of Holy Communion once a month on a Tuesday morning together with a coffee morning. However folk are invited to just come for coffee and cake and not receive Communion if they want. This gives us a chance to raise a bit of cash for church funds and have the church open during the week.

And so as our church community is in a state of transition - which is always difficult - we pray for God's guidance in seeking the right way forward as we manage change with grace and humility.

June Church Diary

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

SUN 7th	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8.00am - Holy Communion BCP 10.00am - All Age Worship (non-Communion) 12.00pm - Baptism Service
Mon 8th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
Sat 13th	12.00pm - Wedding
SUN 14th	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 10.00am - Communion4All
Mon 15th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory
Thu 18th	2.00pm - Mothers' Union meets (in Church)
Sat 20th	12.00pm - Wedding
SUN 21st	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 10.00am - Holy Communion 6.00pm - Evening Service
Tue 23rd	10.00am - Holy Communion and Coffee Morning
Sat 27th	1.00pm - Wedding
SUN 28th	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 10.00am - Holy Communion (Common Worship) 6.00pm - Open Air service on the Green with Gloucester Brass
Mon 29th	9.00am - Morning Prayers in the Rectory

At our APCM we elected Keith Robbins as our Churchwarden and Dorothy Cox as our Deanery Representative. Our elected PCC members are David Knight, Roy Roberts, Mike Blanch, Margaret Hakim and Sheila Thomas.

The need as always is to continue to grow and develop and work to ensure that every member of our church family feels that they each have a vital part to play in participating in the work of sharing the hope of Jesus and the love of God.

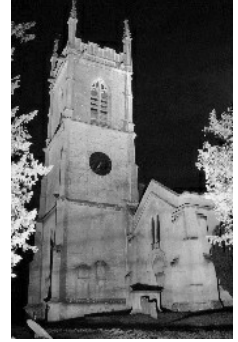
Christ leads us and here and now we find ourselves privileged to be part of the body of Christ and the community of St Leonards. And it is here that we would be enabled to see beyond ourselves as individuals and see the bigger picture and continue to share God's love by being caring in all our relationships and welcoming and open to all people.

I very much look forward to a successful year ahead as we work together in sharing that hope of Jesus. Where there is hope we can look forward to the future with God's Spirit enabling us to battle on to give glory to Him.

Every Blessing

Christine

Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship Details June



In memory of Robert Cannon of Home Farm who would have been 70 on 1st June, from David Thomas (Tom) his best friend and sister Diane Thomas, Brother and sister in law David and Jo Cannon, Sister and brother in law Jane and Ken Beck (Canada).

On Sunday 7th June the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the baptism of Joshua Thomas Sullivan that is taking place in the Church on that day. Kindly sponsored by his loving parents, Katharine and Kris.

In memory of our father Harry Cannon of Home Farm who died 25 years ago on 14th June 1990, David, Diane and Jane and their families.

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. 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 any donation this will help us too.

If you would like to sponsor the Church Tower Flood Lights then please contact Matthew Gibbs for more details. Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 10th of the preceding month.



The Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow writes:

The Church is one of the largest voluntary organisations in the country. Like a tree which only flourishes because of its hidden but vast root system, so the Church can only flourish when every root and branch is healthy.

I once attended a voluntary sector training course in which we were each given a picture of a tree and asked to decide where we would place ourselves on the tree. Am I a root who resources others and supports those in more visible places? Or am I right at the top of the tree, surveying the landscape and telling others what changes I see coming? Or am I sitting at the main junction of trunk and branches helping others to find their place in the tree?

Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God being like a tree which provides shelter and food for many people. However, finding our place on that tree is not always easy. We need to have a clear and honest understanding of our own gifts and abilities. We need to understand our preferred style of working (team or individual; task or relationship). And we need some insight into what motivates us (am I passionate about social justice or about church buildings?).



And once we have answered these questions (usually in conversation with others), we then need to know about specific roles and 'job opportunities' within our church or community, so that we find our place in the tree. Volunteering can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life. The church is truly blessed with so many faithful volunteers. But is it time you assessed your place on the tree?

Safer recruitment for volunteers

Volunteers are a huge part of church life—without your many hours of dedication, we would not be able to keep our church food banks, toddlers groups and fundraising events alive.

If your church is thinking of taking on new volunteers, make sure that you are following the Safer Recruitment processes and recommendations.

Safer Recruitment covers the areas of personnel, volunteers and safeguarding. See the safeguarding pages of the diocesan website for details.

If you need more information, contact jknight@glosdioc.org.uk or bfaal@glosdioc.org.uk

Songs of Praise on the Village Green!

News Flash! - As last year's open air service was so popular and in response to the many requests to have another Songs of Praise on the Village Green, we now have a date from Gloucester Brass - Sunday 28th June at 6pm.

Please contact Reverend Christine if you would like to be involved in this service - either planning and or taking part in the service; or on a practical level.

We shall need folk to help set up with chairs and PA system before and afterwards, and offers of refreshments and serving them after the service. Last year we had strawberry scones and lemonade.

"I look forward to hearing from you," says Christine.



Thanks!



... to the people who collected door to door, to those who gave generously, to those who provided tea and cakes at the Village Hall event, and to those who came to that. As usual there was a great response from the Village to support the work of Christian Aid, this most worthwhile aid agency.

The Village Hall tea party raised £198. The door-to-door collection raised just over £1,300.



There is a new foodbank collection point At the Shop / Post Office.

Many thanks to Shreyas Patel for agreeing to this. So next time you visit the shop, bring or buy an item or two from foodbank's "shopping List" below and pop it in the collection box there. The collection point in Church is also available.

Contact Diana Way for more information.

Items required at the moment are:

Long life milk	Long life fruit juice
Packet mash	Biscuits
Tinned cold meat	Tinned rice pudding
Tinned custard	Treats for children
Tinned sponge pudding for families	
Tinned fruit	Tinned potatoes
Packets pasta'n'sauce	Packets savoury rice
Packets savoury noodles	Sugar

Elsewhere in this issue (p.16) there is a poem written by a Gloucester resident who was a recipient of help from foodbank. He has now become a volunteer helper there.



MOTHERS' UNION

The monthly meeting is at 2pm in the Church on Thursday 18th June.

The speaker will be Mrs Barwell, and her subject is "Teddy's".

All are very welcome to this very friendly group. You don't have to be a mother, nor even female!

Upton 500 Club

What?

This is a money raising scheme for Church funds, giving it additional, regular, income. There are prize draws each month, done after one of the Sunday services. May's winners were Clive Winstanley, Pauline Sugden, Margaret Hakim and Dorothy Cox. Anyone, Church members or not, can join. Interested? Please contact Rev Christine, or Rachel Hall, their phone numbers are given on the next page.



The picture shows the South wall of the church - this is a view no-one has seen for years, obscured as it was by a line of overgrown yew trees!

UPDATE ON THE CHURCH BUILDING RESTORATION PROGRAMME.

We are beginning to see positive signs of improvement to the Church's fabric and the Churchyard so I wanted to say a "thank you" to the volunteer working party on the morning of the VE Day weekend (Saturday 9 May - it was only the morning as Gloucester were playing at home that afternoon!). And thanks to Roger our Bell Captain for joining in the nationwide peal of bells at 11 o'clock.

We spruced up the graveyard and Remembrance gardens and inside undertook an inventory of furniture and books. Over time the Church has become somewhat cluttered as we don't have dedicated storage space. So to manage an effective "Spring Clean" we need to dispose of surplus furniture and hymn books. These can be sold, go to other churches if requested, or the books could go to our overseas Missions. Disposal isn't a simple matter however, as we have to obtain approval from the Diocesan authorities, but they have been very supportive so far.

Similarly we need to get Diocesan approval to remove or prune the major trees in the churchyard - particularly those at the east end of the North Aisle which are affecting the fabric - and we are engaging a professional tree surgeon to recommend the appropriate work. Maintenance work by Andrew and Mike to remove trees has already given us improved daylight to the south aisle (see the picture above) and Sheila is winning her personal war against encroaching ivy and brambles. So we hope you agree that things are looking much better, but there's still a long way to go.

We must of course remember, as David reminded us in his April article, that the Church is not just about the building - it's the people above all. So please support Reverend Christine and our congregation by joining us at Sunday Services - you will be most welcome.

Keith Robbins
Churchwarden

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge:

Reverend Christine Birkett 627828
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:

Vacancy

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

Kids' Page

HA HA

What do you get if you cross a daffodil with a crocodile?

I don't know but I wouldn't try sniffing it!

What happened when the chicken slept under the car?

She woke up "oily" the next morning.

What starts with E, ends with E but usually has one letter?

An envelope.

Sunday 21st June is **FATHER'S DAY**, so get your dad a cup of tea!

Father's Day was "invented" in the USA about 100 years ago, to match Mother's Day. In 1972 the US President signed a proclamation making it an official National Holiday in USA. It caught on in this country only recently.



Joe: What does your father do for a living?

Jon: He's a magician. He performs tricks, like sawing people in half.

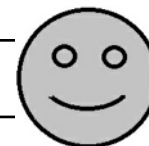
Joe: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Jon: Yep, four half-sisters and a half-brother.



V.I.K.

(Very Important Kids)



Sunday 21st June is also **MIDSUMMER DAY**, also known as the **SUMMER SOLSTICE**. It is the longest day - meaning the hours of day light are longest. To catch the sunrise you will need to be up just after 4 in the morning. The sun will set at about 9.30pm, though if it is a sunny evening it will still be light until well after 10pm.

Inhabitants of Ancient Britain worshipped the Sun and Moon, and the summer solstice was one of their great festivals.

STONEHENGE was probably built as part of this worship. It lines up perfectly with the rising sun at the solstice.



Colour the maypole and dancers

Will you be at the Village Green on 20 June to see them?



On this and the next page we have the Annual Report from the Parish Council. For some years past this has been circulated as a separate booklet, published and distributed to all houses. It makes obvious sense to publish it here instead.

Annual Report from your Parish Council for 2014-5

Chairman's Report

by Keith Pearson

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Council for their work during the past year. We lost the services of Mandy Garstang, as she and her husband Charles have moved to Painswick. Although still eligible to stay on the Council, she felt that that it would be better if a Villager replaced her. Rose McClachlan, known as Mary to us all, applied for the vacancy and we have welcomed her onto the Council. It was a busy year in terms of projects, but the highlight was the grand re-opening of the Village Green in June. After many years of publication the Church News was replaced by Upton St Leonards Life, and the Parish Council was pleased to support the new venture with a grant. The Council continues to work hard for you in order to keep Upton St Leonards a nice place to live. The various chairs of committees have outlined their highlights of the year, below. The one running sore in the village is the level of noise from the M5; please rest assured that your Council is in frequent dialogue with the Highways Agency endeavouring to get a solution. This has been backed by our local MP, Neil Carmichael.

I have once again enjoyed the privilege of chairing an excellent Parish Council. Thanks again to all.

Allotment Report

by Hilary Morris

There are two allotment sites in the village, one at Perry Orchard and the other at The Stanley, and both are very popular.

Each site has its own volunteer manager who gives support to allotment holders and also has the right to ask allotment holders to maintain their plots to the standard to which they agree when they sign their agreement, and to liaise with the Clerk to the Parish Council should problems arise.

The Manager for the Perry Orchard Site is Carol Evans. She is very enthusiastic and through her efforts a communal area with a shed has been established. BBQs are held during the summer months to enable allotment holders to meet up socially.

The Manager for the Stanley is Peter Macey, again the site is very friendly and I know afternoon tea and a biscuit takes place on a regular basis! Social events also take place during the summer months.

Anyone who visits these sites will quickly see how well the plots are cared for, which makes the efforts of those involved worthwhile. Could it be allotment holders may be able to enter for the "Best Kept Sites" competition - worth thinking about?

The Allotments are also visited regularly by the Playgroup children who are now growing pumpkins to use for Halloween.

Finally, if anyone is interested in having an allotment then please contact the Clerk, Roy Balgobin or visit the website www.uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk where you can download an application form.

Environmental Report

by Peter Wilson

The Footpath Team (USCAN) has continued to do its excellent work in maintaining and improving our network of footpaths around the village. Everyone involved is a volunteer giving up their personal time to ensure those of you who enjoy walking around USL can do so using serviceable gates and stiles, clear signposts and paths clear of nettles, brambles and other undergrowth. I would like to thank the Group again on everyone's behalf for doing an excellent job.

The Parish Council has continued its work on grass cutting and tree maintenance around the village and thanks go to our Parish Clerk who coordinates the work throughout the year.

Last year, some members of USCAN proposed a project to the Parish Council to enhance the Village Green. The dividing hedge was removed, thanks in part to the footpath team, and this simple act opened up the whole green for all to see. The Village Sign was refurbished and some hard landscaping was introduced in front of the sign, including a couple of flower beds. This project was mainly driven by Carol Evans who worked hard to pull everything together leading to a really lovely grand opening day on 29 June 2014. Almost 300 people attended including local morris dancers and children from our local school who danced around a maypole. Its success has driven the decision to run an annual Village Fete, this year's being well publicised in this newsletter.

The lovely Cud Hill Common area has continued to be maintained through our annual cattle grazing arrangements. We have also successfully bid through Natural England for funding to support our environmental project and we are now in receipt of funding until 2024 which will help keep the common in good condition. Thanks to Roy Balgobin for his hard work in pulling our bid together.

Future Projects: We have been discussing how best to repair the track between Rooksmoor and Valley Lane over the last couple of years. Due to a lack of funding, this work has been delayed but the Parish Council has made a decision to do its best to improve the condition of this track and has ring-fenced funds for the work. Our County Councillor, Jason Bullingham has also committed a sum of money to this end and we thank him for his continued support. The initial works are to commence in the summer months.

The Council also intends to resurface the footpath that runs adjacent to the Village Green and it is hoped that this can be achieved in time for the Village Fete.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Council Members, its Clerk and all of the volunteers who have ensured that the village is maintained to a very high standard.

Annual Report from your Parish Council for 2014-5 -- continued

PLANNING REPORT

by Chrissie Castle

Our workload this year was busier than last, with 52 formal applications against 46 the previous year. These were considered by us, and usually Stroud District Council agreed with our recommendations. The Bowden Hall Farm application was eventually granted outline planning permission, much to the Parish Council's dismay. The site is now up for sale; to date we have received no detailed application for building. Villagers can keep up to date on this and other planning applications by visiting the Parish website.

Changes have taken place regarding the established planning procedures and we are still waiting for government agreement regarding the Stroud District Local Plan covering the next 15 years. Hearings on the Local Plan took place in May. Let us hope that the Secretary of State will now agree the plan and that later in the year it will be in place. Up to date information can be found at: <http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/localplan/localplanexamination.asp>

Parish Planning Meetings are held prior to the Parish Council Meetings on the first Monday of each month (Tuesday if a bank holiday Monday) and all parish members are welcome.

Any queries regarding local parish planning applications, comments and decisions can be viewed on:
District Council Website www.stroud.gov.uk or
Parish Council Website www.uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk

RECREATION REPORT

by David Hunt

Spring 2015 finds the Recreation Ground generally in very good shape. The playing surface is in a good condition, having had the benefit of a relatively mild winter. Our facilities are looking excellent with our still relatively new play ground equipment and ongoing improvements at the Pavilion in the form of a recently installed kitchen make over.

Further improvements are on the way with new cricket nets to be provided by the Cricket Club as soon as fund raising permits.

In the near future (date to be announced) the telecommunications mast at the side of the pitch will be replaced by a slightly higher mast at the same location. The Parish Council has negotiated to ensure that trees screening the base are retained and that construction vehicle disruption is minimised with any turf damage restored at company cost. It may not be generally known that the Parish Council receives an annual rental for the mast which is ring-fenced to ensure that the income is reserved for expenditure only on the Recreation Ground.

Concerns about motorway noise continue to be a problem on the Recreation Ground, as elsewhere, and the Parish Council continues to press the Highways Agency to replace the outworn noise reduction surface. Replacement is overdue, but it is hoped that

lobbying will lead to reinstatement of the carriageway resurfacing programme, originally planned for 2015.

The Rec. continues to be well used for a wide variety of recreational activities. Cricket, football and tennis are the traditional sports on the site but relative newcomers, tug of war and petanque are proving very popular. In addition we now have a Coopers Edge Cricket Team using the pitch (parts of Coopers Edge are, of course, within our Parish). A mention must also be made of the Glebe Field where an off-lead dog exercising area is provided. This is a very well used facility and discourages poor dog control on other parts of the Rec (where dogs must be kept on a lead).

Informal enjoyment of the Rec has been much enhanced in recent months by the provision of a wildlife walk, designed and constructed by USCAN volunteers. The site is located near to the Tug of War track.

All the sports clubs are actively seeking new members and contact details can be found on the club websites (see below). USL Life is also carrying regular articles about the Clubs using the Rec., including details of progress in local competitions.

Finally, I would like to express a sincere thank you on behalf of all Recreation Ground users to two stalwart volunteers - Andy Russell our Pavilion Manager who takes bookings and oversees pavilion maintenance, and Richard Stephenson who ensures night time security by checking the Pavilion and locking the car park gates every evening after dark.

Cricket: www.usleonards.play-cricket.com

Football: www.uslafc.co.uk

Tug of War: www.glosacf.co.uk

Petanque: www.uptonsaintspetanque.co.uk

FINANCE REPORT

by Roy Balgobin

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 have been internally audited and are available for inspection in the Parish Office. The precept was again frozen and the final balance showed a small increase in expenditure over income, this is expected to be recovered via anticipated grant funding. The Vodafone contract has been extended and a rental increase has been negotiated. As can be read in the above reports monies have been spent on Pavilion improvement, works to the Village Green, Allotment improvements, an increase in the grants to USCAN and to the USL Life Newsletter.

The Life Line

The gov has just cut my money; I've not enough to pay my rent.
When I get my pension tomorrow, I know that it's already spent.
My utilities I pay by the meter, I've cut everything to the core.
Now I've got a letter from the bailiffs, so I wait for the knock on the door.

I'm already surviving on handouts, there isn't any food left at home.
Did I read somewhere in the Bible, "man cannot live off bread alone?"
I've lived on my own for some years now, without the need of a dog or a cat.
I've been ill, and I need looking after, and it seems I can forget about that.

Every day seems to be getting harder, as I'm writing this poem I sigh.
Is life like this really worth it? Or should I just curl up and die?
I've just been handed a life line, seems I have Age UK to thank.
They gave me a red slip of paper, now I'm off to my local foodbank.

They gave me enough food for three days; at least today I can eat.
All things for a good balanced diet, pasta, fruit, veg and meat.
During the time I was waiting, they sat me down with a drink,
And companion to talk to, and some time to calm down and think.

I was at the end of my tether; I had nowhere else left to go,
What would have happened tomorrow, well I simply don't know.
All my options had been exhausted, I was about to give up all hope,
I had contemplated with suicide, with the help of a long piece of rope.

They tell me I am one in a hundred, of people they get through the door,
Each week as their numbers are growing, does this government realise the score?
We're living in the 21st century, this shouldn't be happening today!
To all those who donate to foodbanks, THANK YOU is all I can say.

P Wood 21/05/14

This poem was written by one of Gloucester Foodbank's clients, who is now a volunteer. It is reproduced with his permission.



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7 Twyver Close

Upton St Leonards

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

VILLAGE DIARY

JUNE

1	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
1	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
1	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
2	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
3	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
3	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
3	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
3	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
3	Wed	Lady Downe Charity Trustees Meeting		
3	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
3	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
3	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
4	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
4	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
4	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
4	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
5	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45p.m.
8	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
8	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
8	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
9	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
9	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
10	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Wed	Second Wednesdays.....	Village Green.....	9.30a.m.
10	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
10	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
10	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
10	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
10	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for July issue of USL Life		
11	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
11	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
11	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
11	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
12	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45p.m.
13	Sat	Summer Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
14	Sun	Playgroup's "Snail Trail".....	Village Hall Annex.....	from 2p.m.
15	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
15	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
15	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
15	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
16	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
17	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
17	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
17	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
17	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
17	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
17	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
17	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
18	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
18	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
18	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
18	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
19	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45p.m.
20	Sat	Village Day 2015 - Family Fun Day.....	Village Hall, Village Green and BMI.....	2.00-5.00p.m.
20	Sat	Village Day 2015 - Dance.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-11.00p.m.
22	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
22	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
22	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
22	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
23	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
23	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
24	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
24	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
24	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.

24	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
24	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
24	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
24	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
25	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
25	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
25	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
25	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
26	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45p.m.
28	Sun	Songs of Praise, with Gloucester Brass.....	Village Green.....	6p.m.
29	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
29	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
29	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
29	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
30	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

JULY

6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
8	Wed	Second Wednesdays.....	Village Green.....	9.30a.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for August issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Gnome Hunt.....	Village Hall & School.....	from 1p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
16	Thu	History Group Upton Memories & AGM - Various speakers.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
20	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
22	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
25	Sat	"Music Quiz".....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
27	Mon	Lady Downe Charity		
30	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

AUGUST

3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
8	Sat	Annual Pig Roast.....	B.M.I.....	7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for September issue of USL Life		
12	Wed	Second Wednesdays.....	Village Green.....	9.30a.m.
17	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
19	Wed	Ladies Probus - Walk &/or Coffee @ Rococo Gardens		
24	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
27	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

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

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Your Newsletter



In May we held the first Annual General Meeting of the Company, USL Life CIC which publishes this newsletter. At the moment we have a team of something like 45 people involved in its production, management and distribution - a great team effort. Those in the team are all members, but we'd very much like to extend our membership to more Villagers, so they can have a say on how it is run, what it should look like. Only members are allowed to be at General meetings and vote. To become a member, simply contact us through the website or our letter box outside the Village Hall. Give us your name, address, phone number (and e-mail address if you have one)

The newsletter is not yet entirely self sufficient, but we are nearly there. We need a few more advertisements. If we fail to get those, we have other options to keep going, such as applying for grants or requesting donations. But for the moment we are working hard at trying to make it on adverts alone. So if you use a business or service, how about asking them to advertise with us! The contact is the website or the postbox or Andy Russell.

The important point is that we do want this to be your newsletter, so we are always on the lookout for feedback, suggestions and ideas on how we can improve it.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

During a Parish Council meeting in October 2013, a decision was made to set up a Working Group to carry out a feasibility study on setting up a Village Newsletter.

This idea was not new; many people had discussed it in the past, and it had also been identified as an action in a previous Parish Survey a number of years ago on how to improve communication in our village.

From a working group of 3 people the team gradually grew and I was extremely grateful for the efforts of everyone involved which has led us to where we are now with a thriving village newsletter. Our team now numbers 44 people !

Christine Birkett wanted to keep the momentum of the Church News going, and decided with her team to join us in January 2014. This is reflected in the title shown on front page "Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News " .

We decided on a monthly issue and our aim from the early days has been to fund running costs through advertising and not to charge for each copy.

Without the manpower and financial support of the Parish Council, it would have been extremely difficult to get things going. Their grant donation has helped make it happen and the Newsletter Team is very grateful for their support.

A Community Interest Company was set up in September 2014 to run the Newsletter and at the same time our first edition was printed and distributed around the village. The willingness of the existing Church News distributors to continue and support us was of huge importance and was very much appreciated. We recruited some additional people to ensure we had full coverage of USL. The efforts of everyone involved in distributing our newsletter each month through rain and shine to every home in the village have been excellent.

From the excellent feedback we have received from residents and advertisers we hope we are producing something useful, interesting and informative. We would like to thank every advertiser for their business because without it we would not have a newsletter. We hope in turn our adverts attract new and ongoing business for them.

A big thank you again from me, to everyone who has made a contribution to the success of our Newsletter. Our aim is to continue improving it and I hope it meets the needs of our community.

Peter Wilson. Chairman, Upton St Leonards Life

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History Group

The History Group is now fifteen years old and grew from the Millennium History Exhibition in 2000. This exhibition was organised by David Chave and the late Ken Herbert.

Our meetings are held six times a year in the Village Hall, usually on the third Thursday of alternate months at 7.30pm. We not only have speakers on subjects related to Upton but any subject related to history in Gloucestershire, and further away.

Membership is £5.00 per year and our programme begins in September. Our programme for 2015/2016 includes:

- July 16th AGM & Upton Memories
- September 19th Roman Gloucester
- November 19th "Those were the days - 1950's"
- January 21st 2016 Gloucestershire's Industrial Heritage

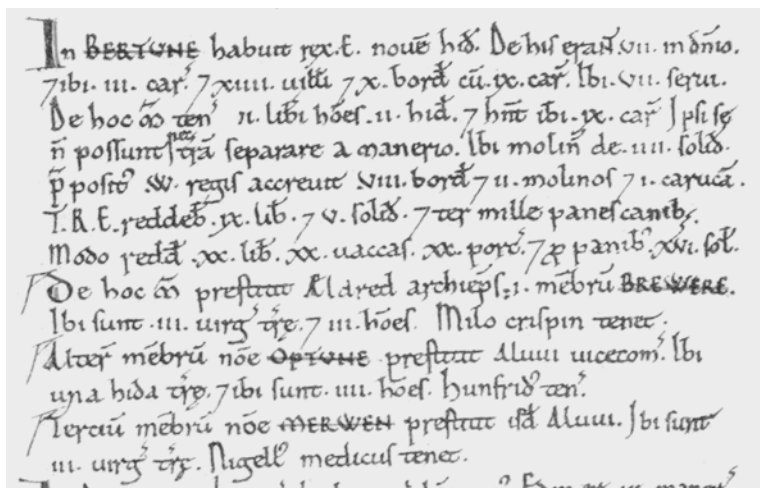
Further meetings are planned for March, May & July 2016.

A review of the year's meetings is produced which makes an excellent history reference document.

We welcome new members of all ages.

Mike Stratford, Chairman

The image below is of the Domesday Book entry for Upton - shown as OPTUNE - it didn't then have the added "St Leonard" - that dedication came later.



UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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

This month's editor: Andy Russell

Editors: Peter Wilson
Andy Russell
Andrea Dawson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman

Treasurer: Ian Crowe

Feature writers: Kathryn Alderman
Kaye Redman
Christina Caldwell
Teresa Clarke
Linda Munnoch

Clubs / Societies / Organisations: Catherine McLean

Diary: Paula Quinn
paulaquinn16@gmail.com

Advertising: Contact: Andy Russell

Admin Support: Janine Black

Distribution: Jenny Cunningham

Photography: Jim Browne

Proof Readers: Carol Hardacre
Christine Ellson
Kate Davies

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