

# *Upton St Leonards Life*

*incorporating Church News*

Issue 19

March 2016



## *It's the* **SPRING SHOW!**



**SATURDAY 12TH MARCH**

**2 - 4 pm, VILLAGE HALL**

The daffs may be over by then with this crazy weather, but there will be plenty more to see!

**Read inside, page 3, for more details**

*All change at the  
Shop!* See page 4



## **MOTHER'S DAY or MOTHERING SUNDAY**

...call it what you will! This year it is on **Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>**. Are you ready for it? Bought the flowers and card?

Mothering Sunday is a very old (16<sup>th</sup> Century?) Church celebration on the fourth Sunday of Lent, when, by tradition, people would try to visit their "Mother Church", i.e. the church in the area they came from. Domestic servants and others were given the day off so they could return home. Naturally the day also became associated with family reunions, and of course, meeting one's own mother. Mother's Day was a separate and more recent tradition, but the two have become linked in this country, but not everywhere - Mother's Day in USA will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> this year.

*Rev'd Christine  
steps down* See page 7

## “OFFCUMDEN”

I expect most of you will never have heard of the word. To explain the vernacular, it simply means latecomer, or person not of the town or village born and raised. The word comes from Yorkshire, my part of the country, though it's probably now little used. One afternoon, a few months ago, as our writers' group was discussing future articles for the newsletter, the word came up during the conversation. Kaye Redman and I were familiar with it. In the present migration debate, what was an old and sometimes derogatory expression is very much a modern day topic.

It got us thinking. All in our group were migrants in one way or another. My family progressed from the Scottish borders, to Yorkshire and after a diversion overseas for a spell, settled here. My husband's family echoed this migratory pattern. Kaye, it turns out, is from my home town. In fact, we were at the same school though never met. Small world! Christina's family is from Northern Ireland and she can trace her ancestry back to Donegal and Tyrone (Seamus Heaney territory, that explains her love of words). Teresa, our history buff, is from Birmingham but has Irish grandfathers, Lancastrian grandmothers and somewhere back, a Russian ancestor.

Over the centuries people have migrated all over these islands, so what is it about where we live that feeds our

roots? What keeps us here now? On speaking to many residents, those well established and those who are recent by comparison, one conclusion is that we live in a beautiful part of the country and that we learnt to get along, mostly.

It is quite thought provoking but the fact we're here at all is a wondrous thing in itself, if you take into account all the wars, pestilences and diseases our ancestors endured. I expect if we could look back through time our forebears trudged along together, urged on by hunger and the need for shelter, just like the migrants we see today every day in the news.

Are we all offcumdens? After taking a short poll in the BMI, most of us were, and now we are all pinions in the machine of Upton Life.

As our conurbation spreads and our boundaries are extended, the old saying, "build and they will come," has never been more relevant, but we are a friendly lot, most of the time, and we have all chosen this small place in the landscape to be our future.

The old guard is disappearing and it is inevitable that precious links with the past will disappear, but we have their stories and experience preserved in the memories of those with long connections, and we thank them for letting us into the past while we, their successors hope to maintain the future of village life.

Linda Munnoch

## Apologies . . .

In last month's edition there was an article about Graham Taylor's life in F1 Racing. In the first column the starts of some words were obscured by a picture - we should have spotted that before it went to print. More importantly three sentences that were key to the whole piece were left out at the turn of the page, in error, the missing piece being the italics here: "The following year Graham joined Jackie Stewart's outfit. *Jackie Stewart taught Graham how to be World Class and he flourished under Jackie's meticulous approach. Every detail of Motor Racing was examined and checked, from racing cars to uniforms, to every photo on the promotion materials. "Jackie Stewart is one of my heroes and I stayed with him for seven years, winning three Formula Junior Championships with David Coulthard ..."*



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# The Spring Show

"The velvet red of the Amaryllis trumpets was stunning" - so said a visitor to the show last year. It is wonderful to see these magnificent blooms and other floral, cooking and handicraft exhibits all together under one roof. Though Spring should be well and truly sprung by mid-March, the annual Spring Show brings so much more colour and display of life re-awakening.

Do come and visit this year, whether you've been often before or you've never been - there is lots to see that will surprise and delight you. Whether you have entered exhibits every year, or occasionally, or never before, have a go this year. As usual, full schedules of classes are available at the Post Office. You can see a few extracts from the schedules here, to give you a taster.

The "closed" children's exhibits (e.g. for Brownies, or Playgroup etc. only), are always fascinating, but any young person can also enter the "open" classes, see the box on the right.



*Get baking, drawing, snapping!*

Saturday 12 March, 2 - 4 pm  
Village Hall

Admission is just £1, and even less (50p) for children and OAPs

## "OPEN" CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| Class | <b>age 7 years &amp; under</b>                               |
| 46    | Make a collage of an insect, any media                       |
| 47    | Make a picture frame out of a cereal box and decorate it.    |
| 48    | Draw a new species of animal and name it.                    |
|       | <b>Age 8 - 16 years</b>                                      |
| 49    | Make a model building out of recycled materials.             |
| 50    | Design & draw a new app for a mobile phone by hand, A4 size. |
|       | <b>Any age group</b>   |
| 51    | Something I have made, any media                             |
| 52    | Six decorated biscuits, homemade or bought can be used.      |
|       | <b>Up to age 16 years</b>                                    |
| 53    | A photograph I have taken - "Christmas Time"                 |

## PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

- 30 War memorials
- 31 Berries
- 32 Kick the ball!
- 33 Waterlife (plants/wildlife)
- 34 Bling!
- 35 Moonrise  
(black & white prints only for this class)

Maximum size of photographs  
12"x8" (30x20cms)

Photographs should not have been exhibited in any previous show and must be exhibitor's own work. Photographs may be reproduced digitally or conventionally.

As well as the exhibits, there is a range of craft stalls to visit, and tea and cake on sale (any donations of cakes would be most welcome) for refreshments. Yes - a raffle as well!

*Come and enjoy the show.*

Chat with your neighbours. A thoroughly pleasant Saturday afternoon!

Schedules from the Post Office or Marilyn Bannister  
To "Rent-a-Craft-Stall" call Jackie Lord

## A NEW CLASS OF "CHARITY" EXHIBITS.

In each case entries are to be donated to the charity shown.

- XA1 Knit a cat blanket in any ply, pattern or colour. Approx size 24"/60cms x18"/46cms (Teckels Animal Sanctuary)
- XA2 A box of 6 items for a cat, 1 of which should be handmade (New Start Rescue Charity). This class is sponsored by Upton St Leonards WI.
- XA3 Knit a heart, stuffed, and with a hanging loop, any yarn (James Hopkins Trust). This class is sponsored by the Christchurch Abbeydale Craft Circle; if required, a pattern is available from Val Doll 610940.

## NEWS FROM ABBEYDALE GARDENING CLUB

Every year members of the Abbeydale Gardening Club are encouraged to enter the Best Garden competition for either a large or small garden. 2015 provided the judges with plenty to think about as entries were all of a very high standard. Congratulations go to the worthy winners listed below.

*The pictures hardly do justice to the wonderful gardens, at least not at this size and in black-and-white!*



- Large Garden category**  
 1st Maggie Theakston  
 2nd: Helen and Andrew Nichol  
 3rd: Doug Monkton  
**Small Garden category**  
 1st Hilary Drinkwater  
 Joint 2nd: Anne Evans  
 and Anne Brooks  
 3rd: Pat and Cecil Mather



The pictures show: Top right – Maggie’s garden, to the right Maggie receiving her award. On the left is Hilary’s garden.

## VILLAGE SHOP CHANGES

Shreyas and Krupa Patel have decided they can no longer run the Village Shop and Post Office. In their place we welcome Rahul Odedra and his wife Seeta. We wish them the very best.

Rahul has asked us to say that the layout is being changed and that means that the *Post Office counter will be unavailable during the change: Monday 14 March until Thursday 24 March. The rest of the shop will remain open for normal hours for business.*



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### THE BEST MOTORWAY SERVICES IN THE U.K?

A couple of years ago many were protesting at the idea of a Motorway Service station in our area. Now I am sure just as many are really proud that we have an award-winning design on our doorstep, “the best in the country”, said the Daily Telegraph. I spoke to the Press Officer, Rebecca McGilvray, who works there. A few facts from her: the company has 130 suppliers located within 30 miles – it is determined to source as much locally as possible. It has created 400 new jobs on its two sites. The sites have ‘taken off’ doing much more business than first forecast. To my surprise Rebecca told me that the butcher’s shop was doing really well – maybe the business comes from commuters using the M5 regularly, who stop to take some meat home for the evening meal? Her best selling item is bread, mostly supplied by Hobbs of Chipping Sodbury. Rather than competing with local businesses, she felt the Services were actually boosting their suppliers’ sales, because M5 sales are to customers new to those supplying the goods. And the fish? Well, that’s not local, but is brought in fresh from Newlyn every day. Francis Phillips, the very same chap who used to deliver fish from a van in our Village, claims to be the world’s first fishmonger in a motorway service area!

Andy Russell

*PS Separately, and with my “footpaths” hat on, I am talking with the site manager to ensure the footpaths around the Southbound side are completed once the weather improves.*

### NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

... From the February meeting

Our **Police Community Support Officer** is now Lianne Hiscock. She reported that there were two house burglaries in the Village in December - please continue to be vigilant, lock doors and cars, leave valuables out of sight, don’t provide the opportunity.

The Police will be re-visiting the vexed question of traffic congestion and parking at the school.

#### M5 Noise reduction

Progress is painfully slow. Your Parish Council Officers are truly working hard behind the scenes, so it is frustrating to be unable to report any real steps towards improvement, despite the involvement of MPs, District and County Councillors

Elections - 5 May

On 5<sup>th</sup> May there will be elections for:

- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire
- Three District Councillors to represent the new combined Painswick and Upton St Leonards Ward.
- Ten Parish Councillors (the whole Parish Council)

**VOLUNTEER!**

How about you becoming a Parish Councillor?

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**Supporting Local Businesses – This month we have an article about a new arrival . . .**



Meet Moira Pratt. She has recently moved to the Village and runs a business that provides a wide range of high quality baby equipment and toys for hire.

Enterprising Moira set up Jolly Tots Equipment Hire to meet the needs of families in, or travelling to, Gloucestershire. She stocks a full range of equipment for getting out and about as well as all the things you need for meal times, bedtimes and play times.

She is a mother and grandmother and understands very well that for many families the thought of planning a visit with small children can be overwhelming. Travelling with small children can be challenging, trying to squeeze all the necessary equipment into the family car.

Using Jolly Tots, parents can hire the necessary equipment at their destination, leaving them to look forward to a fun-filled stay with their hosts.

Her products range from basic needs such as car seats, pushchairs, highchairs and travel cots, to those luxury items, such as activity stations and baby bouncers or musical baby swings. The range of equipment for hire also includes toy boxes which Moira carefully puts together to meet the needs and interests of your children while they are away from home.

Grandparents often use the service to cater for visiting little ones too. Car seats are extremely popular items for families flying into this country from abroad, or arriving locally by train, allowing them to meet families at the transport links with seats already fitted.

All of the items meet the highest standards for safety and hygiene. All of the equipment is thoroughly cleaned between hires and properly maintained. Moira will only provide equipment that she would be happy for her own family to use, priding herself on a personal and friendly service.

For more information, please see [www.jollytotsequimenthire.co.uk](http://www.jollytotsequimenthire.co.uk)  
Alternatively, give Moira a call on 619150 or email at [jollytotsequip@gmail.com](mailto:jollytotsequip@gmail.com)



## BMI Spring Quiz

Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 8pm

Come and join us for our jolly Spring Quiz. You don't need to be Brain of Britain, our quizzes are just for fun!

£5 for a team of 4

Start at 8pm

Just add your team to the sign-up sheet in the BMI foyer before Friday 18 March

All profit on the night, including a raffle, will go to Research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

(The BMI's charity for 2015-6)

??????????????

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## CHURCH NEWS

**CHURCHWARDEN KEITH ROBBINS writes:**

*Dear friends*

We all hope and pray that Revd Christine will find the space and time to get back to full health and take up her ministry in some form and place. In the 2½ years she has had here we have enjoyed her fresh ideas - think of Plough Sunday and Harvest service in the allotments, for example! We will miss her, and wish her all the best. There will be a farewell "do" organised soon.

I am so grateful to members of the congregation and parishioners who have supported me in leading the Church in Revd Christine's absence and especially to Revd David Eady and Revd Martin Riley for their help so far and for offering to lead our services in Holy Week.

Easter for me is a time of hope when we remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross and then his resurrection, bringing us hope that, through Him, we may know the joys of His Kingdom.

There is plenty to be hopeful about in our daily lives, too. Spring seems to have come early this year - at least for the daffodils blooming in January. The unseasonal weather has caused us challenges too, with the heavy rain in that first weekend in February depositing several inches of water into the basement of the church and shutting down the boiler - layers of coats required on that Sunday! But I'm hopeful that we will be able to make improvements to the site and drainage to ensure we don't get caught again.

More hope too in progress on repairs to the church. In particular your generosity in making donations towards our essential roof and drainage repairs is enabling us to get started on the smaller items of work, and I'm hopeful that more money will come in for the Roof Fund. Our local team of helpers have been very busy - please see the article on page 9.

I'm hopeful too that we will continue to have periods of fine weather to enable our good friends from USCAN to continue their impressive work in clearing and tidying the churchyard. Most of the self-seeded saplings, particularly those interfering with gravestones, are being removed and permission has been sought from the Diocese for trimming and felling those larger trees that are causing obstruction and damage.

My final hope is that I will see you at Church for our forthcoming special services - Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and most of all on Easter Sunday. After a shortened Communion service on Easter Sunday we invite families and especially children to join us at 11am for a brief celebration of Easter, and an Egg Hunt in the Church.

I hope to see you soon.

*Keith*

### *REVD CHRISTINE resigns*

On 14<sup>th</sup> February it was announced in St Leonards Church that Revd Christine Birkett has handed in her resignation to the Bishop, with immediate effect.

She has been unable to carry out her ministry here since November, due to ill health, and she feels she needs a complete change, for a proper recovery.

Her resignation means the Bishop and the Parochial Church Council can move on to new ideas on how to meet the Village's need for a priest.

We hope to have a farewell message from Revd Christine in our next edition.



**MOTHERING  
SUNDAY**



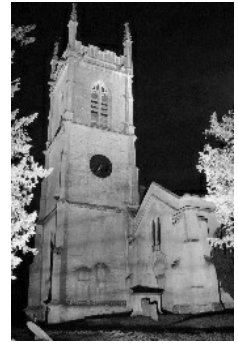
**6 MARCH - 10am**

A special Family service to think of our mothers  
Flowers to hand out!

**EASTER  
DAY in CHURCH**  
10.00-10.50 Communion4all  
Families are invited to join us  
at 11.00 for a short celebrat-  
ion of Easter and an  
Easter Egg  
Hunt!

# CHURCH NEWS

## Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship Details



In loving memory of Frank Evans who passed away on Christmas Day the lights were lit on 6th February, the day his ashes were interred in the Garden of Remembrance.

On Tuesday 16th February the Tower Lights were lit in loving memory of Mavis Bosley. Kindly sponsored by Horley, Alison, Claire and family.

The Tower lights are kindly being sponsored by Angela Lewis on Sunday 20th March in loving memory of her late husband, Ken, who passed away this day 10 years ago and also on Tuesday 29th March in memory of what would have been his 82nd birthday.

The Tower Lights are lit on the 30th March in loving memory of Viv Pirie (Dancing Queen), who passed away on this day last year. Sponsored by her loving husband Bob and her parents Gill & Max.

*If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or for a loved one's life or any other reason then please contact Matthew Gibbs for more details.. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to give to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to gift aid any donation this will help us too. Please note that the deadline to ensure a dedication gets in this newsletter is the 10th of the preceding month.*

### March Church Diary

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

Fri 4th 10.30am Women's World Day of Prayer  
At St Augustine, Matson

#### SUN 6th MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.00am Family Service  
6.00pm Joint Lent service at St Philip  
and St James, Hucclecote

Thu 10th 2.00pm Mothers' Union, in Church  
Colin and Ann Eddy will speak  
about being Cathedral Guides

#### SUN 13th PASSION SUNDAY

10.00am Communion4All  
6.00pm Joint Lent service at  
Christchurch Abbeydale

#### SUN 20th PALM SUNDAY

10.00am Communion4All  
No evening service at Upton St Leonards

#### Fri 25th GOOD FRIDAY

2 - 4 pm Church open for Meditation  
and Quiet

#### SUN 27th EASTER DAY

10.00am Communion4All  
11.00am Easter celebration and  
Easter Egg Hunt

LENTEN EVENING SERVICES (6pm) - Please support these services in our partner churches

6 March - St Philip and St James, Hucclecote - Jonathan Pye on "Study"

13 March - Christchurch, Abbeydale - Bishop David Jennings on "Repentance and Reconciliation"

### Women's World Day of Prayer

This is an annual inter-denominational service involving local churches.

Catherine McLean writes: "This year we are using a service prepared by Christian women in Cuba. Do come and join us at St Augustine's. This is one of 6,000 services taking place in the UK, and many more services in 170 countries world wide. A light Lent lunch is being served in the Church Hall after the service."

Fri 4th March 10.30am

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## CHURCH NEWS

### QUINQUENNIAL UPDATE

As a reminder, this refers to the Quinquennial Survey of the church building and churchyard that took place at the end of 2014. And as reported in USL Life, some serious problems were uncovered.

#### Churchwarden Keith Robins writes:

To accelerate work on sorting out the problems, Mike Blanch, reporting to me, has agreed to co-ordinate actions and lead a team of volunteers: Sheila Thomas, David Knight, Roy Roberts, Pam and Andrew McIntosh and Andrew Herring.

Four important areas are currently being progressed:

**Re-fix slipped or missing tiles** - this is a very urgent task to stop any further deterioration before the much more costly roof repairs are carried out.

**Roof repairs** - this is the really large, costly and urgent task. A great deal of money will be required. We have started the process of establishing the cost and applying for grants. We will be obliged to raise a proportion of the cost ourselves.

**Vestry damp** - in 2014 we completely re-decorated the vestry, but water has got in to soak one wall. Repairs are being investigated, but it will probably mean replacing the flat roof and improving the drainage from the roofs above it.

**Churchyard** - work is well in hand in maintaining the churchyard with the help of many volunteers, but we are about to lose the help from Matthew Gibbs, who has been brilliant with grass cutting for many years, and there is only a short time to replace him before the grass growth accelerates in the Spring.

Finding sufficient money to maintain the church building will always be a huge challenge for us.

We keep the money we raise for this work in a separate fund, so it cannot get diverted to other church costs, and this is where money raised at the Gift Day in 2014, donations from events such as the Village Day last year and individual donations for this work is held. If you wish to contribute to the Quinquennial remedial work, please contact me, and mark your donation for this work, so we do put it in the separate pot.

Mike Blanch will keep you up to date with our progress in future copies of USL Life.

Keith Robbins

**We are most grateful for donations received recently in memory of the late Frank Evans and the late Norman Davies, for the Quinquennial work.**

### Who's Who at the Parish Church

#### Churchwardens:

- 1 Keith Robbins
- 2 Vacancy

#### PCC Secretary:

Roy Roberts

#### Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

#### Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

#### Bell Tower Captain:

Roger Fry

#### Mothers' Union:

Rachel Hall

#### Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

#### Church Flower Rota:

Evelyn Rumsey

#### Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Stanley-Gunn

**VOLUNTEER!**

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - COLLECTION ORGANISER

#### HELP NEEDED - COULD YOU TAKE ON THIS SMALL TASK?

After organising the Christian Aid door-to-door collection in the Village for quite a few years now, Rachel Hall is taking a rest. It isn't a huge job:

- Obtaining publicity material and passing that to the Church and the Newsletter,
- assembling a list of collectors,
- putting together their packs of envelopes and other materials, getting that to the collectors
- taking in the collected envelopes,
- counting and banking the money.

Christian Aid week is in May, this year 15-21 May. Rachel will be very happy to work with a new organiser for this year. Can you contact Rachel or if you can take on this job, or want to know more.

# Kids' Page

(With material taken mostly from the school in-house newsletter, written by the children)



"Mum, the good news is that I made the football team.  
The bad news is that I need boots."

Bridie and Jess interviewed Alisha on the book *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*.

B/J: What is the book about?

A: A girl in WW2 who has been told to move out of her house.

B/J: Who is your favourite character?

A: Tips the cat.

B/J: Did you enjoy the book?

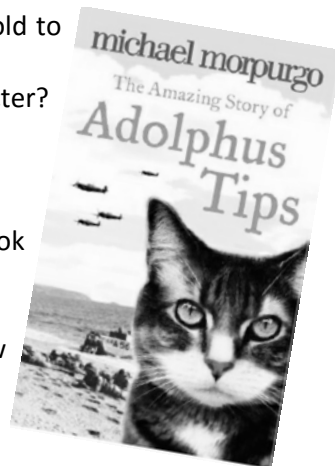
A: Yes.

B/J: What would you rate this book out of ten?

A: Ten out of ten.

B/J: Thanks for letting us interview you.

A: No problem.



HA HA!  
Why did Adele cross the road?  
To sing "Hello, from the other side!"

Wow! It will be Easter by the end of the Month. So here's an Easter Egg to colour in and look forward to!



... and here is the second of the stories written by pupils at Upton St Leonards Primary School. It's a bit long (we were hoping for 500 words max!) However our judges placed it joint first with the story that was printed last month.

## Nuke! By Finley Hitchings

It was all going so well until ... flash! Jack had destroyed the Houses of Parliament. Jack is a secret agent ... a well under-age bomb disposal secret agent; he is 15 and can defuse any bomb from a gunpowder keg to a nuke. But he had just failed to defuse this bomb in 10 seconds. Luckily it was only a simulation, so the story isn't actually over. Jack is at the MI5/MI6 training facility, learning some new techniques, such as how to defuse a bomb in a short amount of time, how to handle a gun, and he has had an advanced driving course.

Jack was called into the main briefing office. A mission briefer said, "come in and sit down, Jack," when he knocked on the door. "MI5 has a mission for you," she said, "here are the documents."

### *Briefing for Jack Oliver:*

*This is not to be taken out of this room, no notes to be taken. MI5 has discovered a radioactive activity in Dublin, Ireland. Your mission: to find the source of the radioactivity and destroy it.*

As Jack looked up, the mission briefer said, "you'll be flown to Dublin at 1000 hours by the RAF". The next day at 10 o'clock Jack was on an RAF jet ready to go when suddenly a man rushed up to him and said, "here are the gadgets for this mission." He gave Jack a T-shirt, a Harry Potter book, a 360 degree torch, a drone and a ball. The man then said, "the T-shirt has Geiger counters in it and an earphone, the book is a knock-out dart launcher, with darts inside, you press the button on the torch for 5 seconds and it stuns

people, and the drone drops knock-out gas. The ball has goo inside that can melt through anything."

"Thanks," said Jack over the noise of the jet engine, and as he closed the door the man sprinted back inside.

Jack was in Dublin airport surrounded by children, as he walked around trying not to look suspicious and trying to find somebody to collect him. He thought, "that was scary going at that speed, I thought we were going to crash into hills and mountains."

Then, out of the corner of his eye he saw somebody holding up a board bearing his name, so he ran over to it, trying to see if he recognised who was holding it, but when he got near he saw that it was just a plain clothed man and woman. Suddenly the man said, "quick, into that car," and he pointed to a white Ford Fiesta and ushered everyone into it. Once everyone was in, the man started the engine and said, "sorry Jack, it's just we wanted to be out fast. My name is William and her name is Lily, you can call us mum and dad for this mission." By then the car was out of the car park and driving down the road towards the gate. As they approached the gates Lily said, "act like a normal boy, as the other boys just came back from a school trip, and security is very tight here." At the gate the guard carefully checked everybody in the car before he let them through. When the guard knocked,

everybody looked at him. He was the kind of guy that wanted another job, but the moment was tense as he looked around the car; then he said, "pass." Once they were out of earshot they breathed a sigh of relief.

As they pulled into the drive of the house that was going to be their home temporarily, William said, "tomorrow you'll be going to the site of the nuclear activity. I am seeing a missile test there and you will hide in the boot." The next day Jack was dreading because of the mission; he tried to have a lie-in but he couldn't because William literally dragged him out of bed and brought him down to breakfast which, for once, Jack actually liked. His plate was piled high with pancakes with a small piece of butter on, and on the table there was also: Belgian waffles, fruit, tea, milk, coffee, cereals and everything else he adored for breakfast. At breakfast William told Jack how to unlock the boot from the inside, and how to pack his case so that the metal detectors didn't find his gadgets and that sort of stuff.

At the end of breakfast he packed his bags and hid in William's car. As soon as William closed the boot lid Jack was confined in blackness; suddenly he felt a rumbling and the car jerked into life. As they left the drive and trundled along the road, all Jack heard was the brrrr of the car engine. Later



on Jack felt and heard that the car had stopped. As William had instructed him he stayed in the car for about five minutes before he got out, and when he got out he saw in the distance a missile heading towards him, probably the test missile aimed to hit a field behind him. That was his cue to get

inside before it hit and everyone turned round and would see him, so he rushed inside the big building through an open fire exit.

He was in! As he looked around all he saw were rockets hanging from the ceiling. They could be nuclear but the Geiger counter in his T-shirt wasn't going so he decided to look around a bit more. As he turned a corner he saw some workers so he returned back round the corner. Delicately he got his drone out of his bag and turned it on. It almost immediately crashed as Jack had never flown a drone in his life. He tried again, this time it flew towards the ceiling quietly like he wanted it to, and at the press of a button it released a colourless gas which slowly knocked out the guards and the workers. Then, holding his nose and covering his mouth,



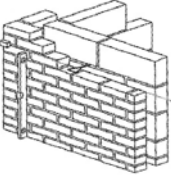
he ran past trampling all over the workers. Next he came to a heavily guarded iron door. Jack decided to use the torch. The guards might still get to their radios but at least he could get to, and through, the door, so he pressed the torch button for 4 seconds. Then with his eyes closed he ran out, with his thumb still on the button as the torch flashed. It was so bright that Jack was almost blinded even with his eyes closed but he opened his eyes and there was the door in front of him. He rushed over to it and after opening his ball and spreading the goo he was through and there it was - a nuke! He had never actually defused a real one in his life before. As he walked forward to it, he felt a pain in his side, a bullet had slammed into him. He turned round, and grabbing his book, he pressed the spine and it shot a dart into the chest of the shooter. He turned back round and looked at the bomb. There was 20 seconds on it. He broke open the lid, 18 seconds ... he tipped the contents out, 12 seconds ... he searched for the timer and detonation wires, 7 seconds ... he cut the wires, detonation first, 6 ... 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1 the screen went blank, nothing happened. He had done it - then his sight gave way. He woke up in hospital with bandages around his eyes and side. William must have found him. He then wondered what he would do next time ...



**PRICELESS ANTIQUE discovered in the Village!**

The picture shows an antique item, thought to be a wash-stand base? It could be as old as 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It is beautifully carved and in amazing condition given that it has been overlooked for so long. It could be really valuable. We'll have an update next month on this truly remarkable find!

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*From the Upton St Leonards Show  
Committee*



What are you planting in your garden or allotment this spring? Could you grow a prize-winning bunch of carrots or the heaviest marrow?

You can see a list of all the vegetable and fruit classes on the Upton St Leonards Show's new website:  
uptonstleonardsshow.com

Our new name:

In future "The Flower Show" will be called:

THE UPTON ST LEONARDS SHOW

This reflects the fact that it is much more than a "flower show" and it is a central part of Village life

*When is the show? 10<sup>th</sup> September*

It is hoped the new website will be available by the time you read this. If not, or if you're not the on-line type anyway, you can always call Carol Evans or Peter Macey



**NORMAN DAVIES (1928-2016)**

It is so sad to be reporting on the loss of another Villager who gave so much to this community. Though he was very quiet and self-effacing, Norman knew and was known by hundreds of us. For how many Village organisations did Norman carry out annual audits? Only he could have told us. And we also saw him more or less every day walking his dog since he retired, and frequently working on his immaculate allotment.

Norman lived in Staites Orchard since moving to the Village in 1973 with Beryl and their children. He was a manager at Lloyds Bank in Eastgate Street, and always rushed to greet his customers with a cheery and loud "Hello". He had a lovely voice and sang in the Church choir for over 20 years. For most of that time he was also the Church Treasurer. He was a keen and very steady opening batsman for the Cricket team for 15 years - the picture on the left shows him about to go out to umpire once he'd decided to cease playing. He had an amazing memory for names and faces - for example asking about my kids long after they had grown up and left.

Others have told me exactly the same things about Norman. We'll miss that delightful Shropshire burr as he spoke. We'll miss his politeness and kindness. May he rest in peace. "Well done, well done!" (To quote one of his catch-phrases).

Andy Russell

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

# VILLAGE DIARY

## MARCH

1	Tues	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
1	Tues	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
1	Tues	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
2	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
2	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
2	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
2	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
2	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
2	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
3	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
3	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
7	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
7	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
7	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
7	Mon	Upton Wl. Speaker Bronwen Owens: "Natural Born Knitter".....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
8	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
8	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
9	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
9	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
9	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
9	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
9	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
9	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
9	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
10	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
10	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
10	Thu	Copy Date for April issue of USL Life		
12	Sat	Upton St Leonards Spring Show.....	Village Hall.....	2.00p.m.
14	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
14	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
14	Mon	Twyver Wl.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
15	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
15	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
15	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
16	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
16	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
16	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
16	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
16	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
16	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
16	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
17	Thu	History Group - Gloucester Cathedral's Royal Connections.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
19	Sat	Rent- a Crowd.....	Village Hall.....	8.00-12.00p.m.
19	Sat	Spring Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
21	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
21	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
21	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
21	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
21	Mon	USL Life Company AGM (Members only).....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
21	Mon	USCAN AGM - All villagers are invited.....	Pavilion.....	8.15p.m.
21	Mon	Lady Downe Charity Trusees Meeting		
22	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
22	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
23	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
23	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30p.m.
23	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
23	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
23	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
23	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
24	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15p.m.
24	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
27	Sun	Summer Time Begins		
27	Sun	EASTER DAY		
28	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
29	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
29	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
29	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.

30	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
30	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion	
30	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
30	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
30	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
30	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
30	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
31	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
31	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
31	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
31	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

**APRIL**

4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for May issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
27	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
28	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

**MAY**

2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
5	Thu	District and Parish Council Elections.....	Village Hall	
9	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Tue	Copy Date for June issue of USL Life		
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
23	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
23	Mon	Lady Downe Charity (date may change)		
25	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
26	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

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

**Upton WI**

The speaker at the February meeting was Ian Hartwell who told us about the History of Gloucester Prison which was opened in 1792 and closed in 2013. Ian was a prison officer there and in many other high security prisons and retired when Gloucester prison closed. He gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the prison, the legal system and showed us artefacts including the prison key.

Various events that are taking place in the near future: We have a beading workshop on 28th April, cost £18.50 (to include Swarovski crystal beads). Also tickets (£5 to include refreshments) are now on sale for our fashion show courtesy of Bon Marche to take place on Friday 8th April at 7.00 p.m. If you would like a ticket please ring Pam on 632936.

You can see (page 3) that we are sponsoring a class in the Spring Show among the Charities classes. In our class the entries will be donated to the New Start Cat Rescue Charity.

On 7th March our speaker will be Bronwen Owens, "Natural Born Knitter". We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join us.



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# Sports Reports

## FOOTBALL

With the really soggy conditions in December and January there is a backlog of fixtures piling up. The football pitch has been unusable for 2 months. Despite that, the Upton 1<sup>st</sup> team has been having another good season, W9, D0, L4, at the time of writing and are likely to finish near the top of Stroud League Division 1, but unlikely to catch runaway team Stroud Harriers which has drawn 1 and lost none so far. Upton St Leonards Reserves are not faring so well - W3, D0, L8, and they will be amongst candidates for relegation from Stroud League Division 4. Both teams have been knocked out of their respective cup competitions.



## CRICKET

Indoor training has started, and there is much enthusiasm building on the back of the successful nets project. Speaking of which, the contractors are aiming to complete by Easter, and the

club is planning a grand opening for some time in April, hoping to get one of the Gloucestershire County players along. Watch this space!

It is great to report that, having survived for quite a few seasons with no qualified coaches at all, the club now has six coming to the end of their coach qualification courses. This is a great turn-around and, with the nets, should mean we can start to build up a much larger, and more successful youth section, leading to more adult players in the years to come.

## Tennis

No better time to get involved if you aren't already! With lighter evenings and the new warmth of Spring - spring into action on the court - get those trainers out, dust off the racket. As always, the club is eager to recruit new members, and as always there are great opportunities to play in their regular schedules, whatever your skill level. Or just go there when it suits you - that's the great thing about tennis, no need to organise lots of players.

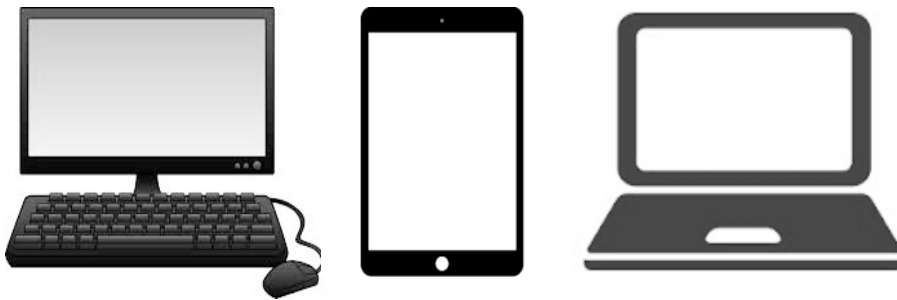
To join up (you do need to be a member to get access to the courts), please call Maureen Snell

**VOLUNTEER!**

The Tennis Club is critically short of Officers to run it. You?

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## Do you have one of these and need help?

If you are over 50 and keen to use the Internet, but are confused by the choice, not sure how to run the “apps”, or concerned about the security of your personal information, then you might like to look at a service supplied by Age UK Gloucestershire, called “Magic Mouse”. These people run a variety of courses and workshops to help the over-fifties get on-line safely and learn how to make the most of their computers, laptops, or tablets.



They offer a loan service so you can borrow a laptop or tablet. They can provide one-to-one lessons, even at your home if you can't get to them. Find out more, and the cost of this support, by calling Gloria Curtis or Lisa Dutton on 01452 420929.

*Editor: Is there enough demand for this in the Village to run sessions in the Village Hall? Contact USL Life if you are interested.*

## 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: Andrea Dawson  
 Andy Russell  
 Peter Wilson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman

Treasurer: Ian Crowe

Feature writers: Kaye Redman  
 Christina Caldwell  
 Teresa Clarke  
 Linda Munnoch

Clubs / Societies / Organisations: Catherine McLean

Diary: Paula Quinn

Advertising: Contact: Andy Russell

Admin Support: Janine Black

Distribution: Jenny Cunningham

Photography: Jim Browne

Proof Readers: Carol Hardacre  
 Christine Ellson  
 Kate Davies

USL Life is published by USL Life CIC, a Limited Company, and is printed at Leyhill Prison

**AGM(i)** The AGM of Upton St Leonards Life CIC, the Company that publishes this newsletter, is on Monday 21 March at 7.30pm, at the Pavilion. By the company's constitution, you need to be a member to attend and vote.

**AGM(ii)** The AGM of USCAN is on the same evening, starting at 8.15pm in the Pavilion. All Villagers are invited to attend

## Wanted: For Sale & Personal Announcements

We haven't got any! When we started the Newsletter, we felt there might be a call for these, and asked about it in our early editions. But if you do want to pass on something no longer used by you, or announce your grandchild's graduation from nursery, etc., etc. we'll be pleased to print these. No charge at the moment, but if it takes off we could use announcements as another income stream for us.

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