

# Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 33

May 2017



## A FAIRYTALE COME TRUE

See page 14  
For our Feature  
On  
The Pirate and The  
Mermaid



## POLLING DAY

### County Council Elections

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Remember to vote for your chosen candidate from

7 am - 10 pm in the Village Hall.

Keith Rippington - Conservative

Alan Mossman - Green Party

Alex Findlay - Liberal Democrats



*One small corner of our beautiful village showing the daffodils in all their splendour and a rather beautiful berberis bearing orange blooms*



This edition of USL Life and all previous editions can be seen on line at [usllife.org.uk](http://usllife.org.uk)

# Letters to the Editor



Some of you will remember living in the village pre M5 days in 1967, but for the vast majority of us the motorway is part of our everyday life and whilst we readily acknowledge its convenience, it comes at a price - NOISE!



However, since the noise reduction work has been completed, favourable comments have been received about the reduction in the noise so a very big thank you to the Parish Council which has made this possible.



A disabled villager who uses a ride-on buggy asks car drivers not to park across the dropped kerbs which disabled buggy and wheelchair users need when they cross the road.

A "dropped kerb" is the small ramp, usually found near road junctions so that the wheelchair users or adults with pushchairs can move from the pavement onto the road surface and back from the road to the pavement. If the ramp is blocked by a parked car, it becomes unusable and the disabled person is stuck or the people with pushchairs have to step into the road thus endangering themselves and the children they are pushing.



Another villager asks motorists not to park with one wheel on the pavement. The roads in the Village, where there is a pavement, are wide enough to mean that parking on the pavement is completely unnecessary. It doesn't make it any easier for other cars to pass. When cars are driven onto the pavement, they cause an obstruction and can block the pavement, particularly for wheelchair users, disabled buggies, adults with pushchairs and even for regular pedestrians.



"There has been reported rowdiness and garden vandalism in the Village in the last couple of weeks. Homes in the Bondend Road area by the primary school on the weekend of 9th April, have had plants and shrubs stolen from their front gardens. Youth rowdiness was reported in Whornes Orchard, water thrown at windows in Churchfield Road, and youths urinating in the alleyway by the shops. It was also reported that youths were playing football in the Church grounds. If you see or suffer any of these instances please report it to the Police by calling 101 or by emailing [101@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk) and reporting the incident. The more people report these instances, the more the Police will respond."

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# What's been happening in Upton?

Too late for inclusion date in the April issue, we are happy to print a review of

## The UpStagers and their Murder Mystery Nights

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March the UpStagers presented three evenings of Murder Mystery. This was a real departure for the group as although they had performed one evening once before with a snack supper, they decided to hold the event this time to include a cooked two course meal. As the play was set in the fifties the meal chosen was Cottage Pie with either Lemon Meringue or Trifle followed by coffee. It was quite a challenge but in the fullness of time we realised that cooking it all ourselves was not really an option, so the main course was supplied and group members and helpers provided all the sweets. We catered for a total of 135 people over the 3 nights. All those who attended seemed to have a great time and we have had a good number of really positive comments back.



The Saturday after, the Group went on tour. We agreed to perform once again in Kempley near Newent. The village is raising funds to refurbish its hall. This time however we did not do any of the catering and were indeed fed ourselves. The event was brilliant; being in a small hall without a stage it was almost "in the round", so there was a great deal of audience interaction. Both audience and cast had a really enjoyable evening

We will be doing something later on in the summer and then we'll be going straight into rehearsals for the February Pantomime, which will be Aladdin.

We are still needing more people to join the group either as actors, directors or behind the scenes; could it be you? Club night is Wednesday every week at 7-30 pm in the Hall, so perhaps think about coming along to join us; you would be made most welcome!

**Keith Pearson**

## Spring Quiz @ the BMI

The Spring quiz was held at the BMI on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April, and was well attended with 18 teams participating. As always, it was an enjoyable evening with Eric our quizmaster challenging us once again.

The winners this time were "The Newcomers" with a score of 183; congratulations go to them.

A total of £170.75 was raised on the night which included the raffle. This will be added to the BMI charity for 2016-2017 which is for Longfield in memory of our very good friend Jenny Long.

There will be a race night on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May and the proceeds of that will also be for Longfield, after which a cheque will be forwarded to the charity.

  
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# What's been happening in Upton cont'd?

The Get Together Club welcomed The Gloucester Ukulele Group to their March meeting.



This was their second visit to the club and they were welcomed back due to popular demand.

Led by Mike Harrison, a former resident of USL, they did not disappoint and performed a lively and varied set. We had lots of audience participation with shakers given out. Clapping and singing were the order of the day!

The Club had invited the BMI Coffee Club members to join them for this jolly afternoon. Everyone then enjoyed a full afternoon tea and an extra special raffle was drawn.

*Jackie Clouting*

## USL LIFE AGM REPORT

At the AGM of the USL Life, Chairman Peter Wilson reported that the company had had another positive year keeping in the black. There was an overall net profit of £110 on a turnover of £4749. Though we have continued to stay in profit since we started in September 2014, we haven't generated enough advertising income to build a reserve, which we will need to do things like replace our laptop and software when the time comes. We also have team members who are spending their own money and not claiming expenses which has effectively hidden the true cost of running things (although not large amounts, we wish to cover everyone's expenses as they are incurred). In 2016 we did not take up the offer of a grant from the Parish Council.

Feedback received about our newsletter has continued to be positive from village residents. Two examples of our contribution are: firstly, helping Marilyn and Millie in August 2016 to establish the excellent Coffee Club held each Monday at the BMI, with attendance of 40 or so people every week. Secondly we have been told by people who run events in the village that attendance has grown since the start of USL Life.

We have taken a grant from the Parish Council for 2017, and this will cover, among other things, the additional cost of printing colour pages on the front and back every month. Feedback has already come back after the April issue that this is a very welcome improvement.

We will have a couple of fund-raising activities to build up the capital. The first is a bring-and-buy in May

(advertised elsewhere) and we are planning another event for the autumn.

The chairman and directors wish to give hearty thanks to all in the USL Life Team for their continued support and efforts. The distribution system seems to go smoothly every month, and the editorial and features teams have made great efforts to keep the quality of the newsletter really high. Ian Crowe had to resign his post as Treasurer in 2016, and we are so grateful that Janine Black took on this role temporarily. Owen Stinchcombe has now taken up the Treasurer's role, and has become a director of the company. The other directors are: Peter Wilson (Chairman), Cliff Alderman (Company Secretary), Andy Russell and Paul Rosewell.

## USCAN AGM REPORT

Though USCAN itself, as an organisation, is not really running, it is still the vehicle for some Village activities, mainly the footpath maintenance group at the moment.

We continue to need it so that funds for footpaths etc can be properly budgeted, received, held and spent and the activities can be covered by insurance. To that end Cliff Alderman continues to take the role of USCAN secretary and Owen Stinchcombe manages the banking and accounts. Andy Russell leads the footpaths group.

There was a report in the January 2017 USL Life on the work of the footpaths group. For 2017 we shall be asking the Parish Council for funds to cover the proposed expenditure on equipment and materials for the footpath maintenance, insurance and training.

USCAN holds a small reserve, being slowly built up to cover replacement of equipment.

# What's been happening in Upton cont'd?

## Twyver WI

April's speaker was Phil Collins - not *the* Phil Collins of international Rock stardom - but our very own local Professor Colleywobbles, an accomplished and amusing puppeteer, born in Cheltenham.

Phil told us of his lifelong fascination with Punch and Judy and how after 40 years, he finally decided to buy some props from Ebay and set up his own business in which he performs at children's parties and public events.

We learned much of the history associated with Punch and Judy and how much of a tradition the show has been in this country for over 350 years, despite its Italian origins, where Mr Punch was called Punchinello.



Mr. Punch made his first recorded appearance in England on 9 May 1662 when the diarist Samuel Pepys observed a marionette show featuring an early version of the Punch character in Covent Garden in London.

Over time, the string puppet became a hand puppet and shows could be seen in all major cities across Britain in Victorian and Edwardian times, usually mocking the politicians of the day. Performers relied on donations from those watching the show to earn a living and the money was often collected in a bottle. Collecting the money was, and still is, known as "Bottling".

WI member, Janine Black, Professor Colleywobbles' assistant for the night, can be seen here with her 'Collection Bottle' as she cajoled the audience to part with their pennies! It has to be said that she did a sterling job and much laughter ensued from her antics cavorting around the Village Hall banging a drum and blowing a penny whistle!

Our thanks to Phil for bringing us so much enjoyment; laughter was never far from our lips!  
**Andrea Dawson**



*Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm when the speaker, Sandra Ashenford will talk to us about 'Objects of Interest'. Visitors always welcome.*

## Upton St. Leonards WI

We enjoyed our lunch at The Barge Restaurant on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Cream Tea at Horton's, Painswick Golf Club on 25<sup>th</sup> April. More news to follow in the June issue about our Fashion Show held late April.

GFWI are running a trip to Harvington Hall and Webbs of Wychbold and there is a Bowls Taster afternoon at Gloucester Spa Bowling Club. In addition there is a walk at Winstone, a talk entitled "Prehistoric Astronomy and Ritual" at Churchdown and we can Model a stoneware Green Man Mask!

Our speaker Liz was then introduced, who told us about Maggie's Centre. This was started in Scotland by "Maggie" to help people who are terminally ill or in remission and can meet others in the same position. There are many staff there they can talk to and also things they can join in. There is always a cup of tea and biscuits or cake available. She brought 2 ladies with her who told us about how good it was. Next month we have the Resolutions followed by a Social Evening. You can see from above we have a variety of things going on so please come along and see for yourselves, visitors are always welcome!

**Diane Thomas**

# What's coming up in Upton

BIRCHALL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE  
 ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT  
 IN THE LOUNGE  
 TO CELEBRATE JAN'S 30 YEARS  
 WORKING AT THE BMI

**SATURDAY 13th MAY**

(Members only - tickets £10)

David Holder  
 The Music of  
**IAN OLIVER**

8.30 - LATE



This Event is fully booked!

BIRCHALL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

## Race Night

**Saturday 20th May**

All proceeds on the night will be donated to the 2016-2017 BMI Charity "Longfield" in memory of Jenny Long.

There will be 8 screened races. First race 8.00 pm.

Would you like to sponsor any of the first 7 races and have the race named after you or your company? The cost of this will be just £20.

You may if you wish purchase and name any of the horses for just £2.00 - Where else can you own a racehorse for such a low price!

(Please confirm horse or race sponsorship by email to Paula Quinn)



Friday 19th May 2017

BMI AGM

8.00p.m. @ the BMI



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# What's coming up in Upton cont'd

## USL Life Newsletter Fundraiser at the BMI Coffee Morning Monday 15 May – 1000-1200

We are being supported by Alec and the members of the BMI Coffee Morning where we hope to raise some money to build up a contingency fund which we will use to continue the colour printing started in April and eventually replace our laptop and upgrade our software etc.

We hope to see as many of you as possible on the day to support your village Newsletter.



**Bring, Buy or just Browse  
Books, Cakes**



**Raffle (with some rather nice bottles!)**

We would be grateful for help on the day and any donations of unwanted items for the bring and buy, book stall and/or raffle. We also hope some of our talented village bakers can find the time to bake us a cake or two!

**If you would like to volunteer to help on the day or have anything you are willing to donate please contact Peter Wilson**

**If you are willing to bake a cake for us please contact Andrea Dawson**

### Join the Gloucester Urban Community Walking Club

**Get fit and learn more about the  
fascinating history of Gloucester**

The friendly and knowledgeable guides of the Gloucester Civic Trust and Gloucester City Council will be pleased to take you on the following walking tours:

**Roman Times Tour** - Thursday 25th May 2017, 1pm

**Llanthony Secunda Priory Tour** - Thursday 29th June 2017,  
1pm

**Spa Tour** - Thursday 27th July 2017, 1pm

**Museum of Gloucester Tour** - Thursday 24th August 2017,  
1pm

**Life Museum Tour** - Thursday 28th September 2017, 1pm

Please contact [getupandgogloucester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:getupandgogloucester@yahoo.co.uk) for  
more details

### TALL SHIPS

**Gloucester Tall Ships Festival  
(27 May 2017 - 29 May 2017)**

Day



Times

**Saturday 10:00 18:00**

**Sunday 10:00 18:00**

**Monday 10:00 17:00**

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### AGM

8TH MAY THE PAVILION - 7.30 PM

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11TH MAY THE PAVILION 2PM - 7PM

# What's coming up cont'd

## Dragonboat Regatta

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May



Sees the twentieth running of the popular annual Dragonboat Regatta, held in Gloucester Docks.

Thirty teams from all over the County will battle it out to see who is crowned this year's winner, but, as with most things, it's the taking part that counts!

Teams can be mixed and many arrive in colourful fancy dress, be it as pirates, German beer wenches (and that was a male team!) or, one year, all as the Queen!

In addition to the actual races there are lots of additional attractions to keep all of the family happy – numerous stalls, a funfair, and live entertainment featuring local bands and solo acts, and, of course, entry to the Docks is absolutely free!

The Dragonboat Regatta is organised by the Rotary Club of Gloucester Severn, and raises thousands of pounds each year to support many worthy causes both at home and overseas so do pop along to the Docks on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> and give this tremendous event your support.



The first race is scheduled for 10 am and there will then be races every 10-15 minutes right through until roughly 5.30pm. We hope to see you there!

## Upun Cud Hill

This is a true story (apart from the bits that aren't) about a fine body of volunteers who turn up every Tuesday throughout the year except when it is too cold, too hot or too wet. They are the USCAN footpath gang (the "Path-ologists?") who keep the paths in the Village in good order.

It was a fine spring morning and the group was working on Cud Hill, clearing brambles and litter picking. One of the group came across an abandoned bicycle. "What shall we do with this", he asked. "Re-cycle it, of course", was the inevitable answer. "Give me a *brake*. Your name's in the *frame*, you can be the *spokesperson* to give the council a *bell* for them to come and collect it, otherwise we'll be *saddled* with it."

So if you are out and about on a Tuesday morning you may just come across this happy band, singing of course: "Wheel meet again".

Alan Gresswell

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## *New beginnings*

By the time you read this we will have welcomed Revd Clodagh Ingram, our new Priest-in-Charge at St Leonards. We are looking forward with excitement and enthusiasm to increasing our church community both in numbers but most importantly growing spiritually and bringing the gospel message closer to our hearts.

We have just celebrated Easter and the reason why our Lord was crucified, so that our sins would be forgiven and 'the slate wiped clean' to start again, sin free as God originally intended.

This is the ideal time for us to think and plan for our mission as Christians here at St Leonards. We reflect on the past and the things we have done well and the things we have not done so well, but I hope we continue to learn and grow spiritually.

During our period of interregnum I believe we have worked hard to keep our church functioning. Our churchwarden Keith Robbins has been instrumental in leading a team of people who have come together and helped in all aspects of church life e.g. maintaining the building, arranging priests and services, the churchyard and finance - an incredible effort by everyone.

We are building a good foundation to move forward and, set up, as the title suggests, 'New Beginnings'. We will hope and pray to continue to grow and develop links with the local community, with new friends and with folks in Cooper's Edge, part of which is within this parish.

God Bless

**Dave Knight**

**Parochial Church Council Chairman**

## *Welcome to our new Priest-in-Charge!*

The printing schedule of this newsletter means we have no pictures of the Bishop and Revd Clodagh and the Licensing and welcoming ceremonies. We'll put that right in next month's edition!

## **CHURCH CALENDAR - MAY**

Tuesday 2nd 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat  
7.30pm PCC Meeting

### **Sunday 7th**

8.00am Communion (BCP) (Revd Clodagh)

10.00am Family Service led by Sheila Thomas

Tuesday 9th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

### **Sunday 14th**

10.00am Communion (Revd Clodagh)

2.30pm Gloucester Brass on the Green, with Christian Aid Bring & Buy

Tuesday 16th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

Thursday 18th 2.00pm Mothers' Union meeting  
at 13 Perry Orchard. Helen Barton speaks  
on "The M.U. Story so far . . ."

### **Sunday 21st**

10.00am Communion (Revd Clodagh)

6.00pm Evening service led by Rachel Hall

Tuesday 23rd 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

### **Sunday 28th**

10.00am Communion

Tuesday 30th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

## **Who's Who at the Parish Church**

### **Priest-in-Charge:**

Revd Clodagh Ingram

### **Churchwardens:**

1 Keith Robbins

2 Vacancy

### **PCC Secretary:**

Roy Roberts

### **Church Treasurer:**

Vacancy

### **Deanery Synod Representative:**

Dorothy Cox

### **Bell Tower Captain:**

Charlie Burnett

### **Mothers' Union:**

Rachel Hall

### **Church Cleaning Rota:**

Claire Appleyard

### **Church Flower Rota:**

Evelyn Rumsey

### **Electoral Roll Officer:**

Naomi Gunn-Stanley

**To book baptisms and weddings, please call  
Or email Jenny Cunningham or call Rachel Hall**

## CHURCH NEWS

As it happens, there are no special dedications for the tower lights this month. 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 Jenny Cunningham 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.

### TOWER FLOODLIGHTS



# 500 Club

Recent winners in the 500 Club draw were, for March: Neil & Penny Owen and Clive Winstanley, and for April: Trevor & Rachel Hall and Colin

Easter photographs courtesy of Jenny Cunningham and on page 11.



## Band on the Green . . . . . and Christian Aid

Gloucester Brass will be with us once again, performing on the Village Green on Sunday 14 May from 2.30pm. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon listening to a wide selection of music.

Admission - Free!

Refreshments will be available

There will be a cake stall and raffle

Proceeds will go to Church funds

Our thanks to the Parish Council for permission to use the Green

At the same time, also on the Village Green, there will be a Bring & Buy stall to raise funds for Christian Aid, and there will be a collecting bucket for this wonderful charity. This is the only organised collection for Christian Aid week in the Village this year.



Should the weather not be on our side, the event will be held in the Church

## Looking forward to seeing you there

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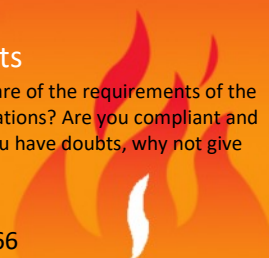
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## CHURCH NEWS

Great works have been going on in the church to replace the uneven and dangerous floor at the front of the church. Thanks to the hard and dedicated work of Mike Blanch and Alan Gresswell (chief layer) with help from Richard Stephenson, Keith Robbins, Eddie Spence and Andy Russell the south aisle section was completed in March, and by the time you read this the north section by the pulpit will have been done. Ordering the slabs, unloading them into the church, moving the pews, measuring and cutting the stone slabs, mixing the cement not to mention all the clearing and dusting afterwards are just some of the tasks involved but what a difference it makes. Take a look next time you're in the church.



Alan checks the sizes for the last few stones on the south side, while the rest of the team look on

### ORGAN REPAIRS - an update

It has been a great start to the fund to repair the organ. We were delighted to receive a grant of £2,000 from the Cecil Adams Organ Fund. The Cecil Adams Organ Fund exists through the generosity of the late Cecil Adams, who for many years was organist of Dursley. He stipulated in his will that the money in the fund is to be used to fund organ repairs in Gloucestershire. It is fantastic news to hear that we have been given a grant from this source. Of course we still have to raise £7,000 more to reach the estimated £9,000 repair cost. Many thanks to some who took a Smarties tube during Lent to "put in" (coins) rather than "give up". A great start, but a long way still to go.



*More Church photographs from Easter, courtesy of Jenny Cunningham*



# Poetry Page

## The Pirates of the Twyver (by Ted Gardner, of course!)



When I walk along by the Twyver stream,  
I see the waters ripple and gleam;  
I think back to a time when, ten years old,  
I sailed with the Twyver Pirates bold!

Our boat – two oil drums and an old plank,  
Whatever was in them smelt really rank.  
One day we'd be pirates, bad and bold,  
Or we could be Vikings from days of old.

We would launch our boat out from the bank,  
But with four on board it promptly sank,  
Wet socks slapped soundly round a tree,  
But we didn't care – bold were we.

An old cloth for a sail and a stick for a mast,  
We sailed the Twyver at last,  
But however hard we shoved off it would not go,  
Our hull was stuck fast on the stream bed below.

We plundered the Twyver and the Spanish Main,  
But now it is dusk so it's back home again.

## The Betty Boop Clock

The other day in a magazine  
My Chris did spy a clock  
I like that clock said she to me  
I like that clock a lot.

Now I liked it too and with that in view  
I said the clock I would buy her  
It would come by post, a week at the most  
Was the promise of the supplier.

It duly arrived and we were surprised  
It was all that it said it would be.  
Now it hangs in the hall in the middle of the wall  
A wondrous sight for all to see

So the moral of this poem is if you're going  
To buy something out of a book  
Go on, take a chance, pay in advance  
And it can be as good as it looks.

Ted Gardner



## My Wife the Gardener

She dug the plot on Monday – the soil was rich and fine,  
*She forgot to thaw out dinner – so we went out to dine...*

She planted roses Tuesday – she says they are a must,  
*They really are quite lovely – but she quite forgot to dust...*

On Wednesday, it was daisies – they opened up with sun,  
*All whites and pinks and yellows – but the laundry wasn't done...*

The poppies came on Thursday – a bright and cherry red,  
*I guess she really was engrossed – she'd never made the bed...*

It was violets on Friday – in colours she adores,  
*It never bothered her at all – the crumbs upon the floor...*

I hired a maid on Saturday – my week is now complete,  
*My wife can garden all she wants – the house will still be neat!*

It's nearly lunchtime Sunday – and I cannot find the maid,  
*Oh no! I don't believe it! – she's out there WITH A SPADE!*

Author Unknown



## News from Abbeydale Gardening Club

The speaker for April's meeting was Davina Wynne Jones talking about her late mother, Rosemary Verey, OBE, VMH (Victoria Medal of Honour), who was an internationally known English garden designer, lecturer and prolific garden writer who designed the famous garden at Barnsley House, near Cirencester.

Below you can see the Mini Show Schedule for the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August giving you plenty of time to grow, paint, stitch and photograph.....In each class of fruit/vegetables, the variety must be the same.

### **MINI SHOW SCHEDULE** **2017**

Flowering Pot Plant max dia of pot 8"  
Foliage Pot Plant max dia of pot 8"  
Single Stem Rose  
Multi Headed Rose  
5 Fuchsia Heads pinned on a board  
5 Different Flowering Stems in Water  
3 Hosta Leaves - any variety - in container  
Tied Bunch of fresh herbs - not in water  
3 Potatoes  
3 Onions  
3 Carrots  
3 Parsnips  
3 Beetroot  
3 Courgettes  
6 Runner Beans  
2 Cucumbers  
5 Cherry Tomatoes  
3 Tomatoes  
3 Rhubarb Sticks  
Club Entry : A Dutch Iris Bulb

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

Judged by the Members  
Colour Theme : RED  
Glorious Gloucestershire  
Maximum size 7" x 5"

### **HANDICRAFTS**

Judged by Members  
  
embroidery - knitting -  
painting - drawing -  
woodwork - metal work  
  
ANYTHING YOU HAVE  
MADE YOURSELF and not  
entered before !

### **Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies**

#### **Notice of AGM**

Saturday, 27th May 2017

2.00 pm for 2.30 pm

#### **HIGHNAM COURT**

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## This month we are featuring:- The Pirate and the Mermaid

as told to 'landlubber' Linda Munnoch

"I'm always in awe of the talented people who live in and around our community, and this young couple have 'it' in spades."

Ian Black grew up in the village from a 1 year old to his now 30 years, with parents Paul and Janine and brother Stuart.

After completing his secondary education with 'A' levels at Ribston Hall High School, with plenty of performance opportunities for theatre and dance, he was offered a place at the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts College in Epsom, Surrey, where he began a three-year course encompassing drama, dance and singing. His aspirations were diverted before the end of the first year due to a health glitch, and his dreams had to move on to a BA (Hons) in Community Theatre at the, again prestigious, E15 Acting School, under the banner of the University of Essex. He is particularly grateful for the support of the Lady Downe Trust (available to young people from the Village) during this time.



As we know, getting a break in the entertainment industry can be fraught with disappointment, with 'overnight sensations' usually coming after many years of hard slog doing any job to put bread on the table, and Ian is no exception. He has worked continuously doing pantomime, children's parties, promotions work, and in the early days worked as a temp for Cheltenham Borough Council and many local factories. He has worked in theatres and venues in the UK and around Europe, even doing a stint as a Teddy Bear on one occasion!

Ian has added many strings to his bow to survive in the competitive industry to which he has committed, with driving, horse-riding, stage fighting, karate, first aid and scuba diving all appearing on his CV, together with a high-profile position within Equity, the actors' union, as the elected representative of the South West sitting on the National Council, with a particular emphasis on fair pay and diversity issues, and a focus on work for local actors.

Ian met Michelle Roberts while visiting a friend in Mallorca in 2013, when she was performing in a production of 'Mamma Mia'. They struck up an instant rapport which endured even though she lived in London and he was in Gloucester. After Ian tragically lost his best friend early in 2016, they decided life was too short to procrastinate, and took the decision to join forces both personally and professionally, and that's when this double act came into focus, and within 6 months, Michelle had moved to Gloucester.



Michelle is a professional 'Mermaid', who grew up in Blackpool with her parents Carol and Vic and 3 sisters, and has performed from an early age.

She studied at the Blackpool Fylde Drama College where she completed a BTEC in Musical Theatre. She has a wealth of experience already in her portfolio having entertained on stage, film theatre, cruise ships and tours, refining her skills in acting, singing and dancing and as an illusionist, but her childhood dream was to become a Mermaid!

Whilst working at The Golden Hind in London, Michelle found it difficult getting around when wearing her tail - especially as it weighs 3½ stones - so whilst she could heave herself out of the water, getting off the floor was impossible without help and there's never a Merman around when you need one!

So to assist her, 'Pirate Pete' was created and the innovative couple, 'Mermaid Merchelle and Pirate Pete' are now a popular party booking, along with personas of Princesses and Super Heroes in their repertoire. Michelle has also appeared at Corporate events as a mermaid and is available as a (dry) singer for a variety of functions!

On 5 February this year, whilst in Blackpool, Ian organised a visit to the first theatre in which Michelle had ever performed. He got down on one knee and proposed while they were on the stage together, and Michelle says, 'It was the perfect moment'. The two are now making plans for their wedding in January 2018, and working hard to pay for it with the Pirate and Mermaid work going from strength to strength – not just a fairytale start, but the beginning of a life together.

<https://www.mermaidmerchelle.co.uk/about>

**Footnote:-**

The road to success can lead down many different paths – so never give up on your dreams.



## Shock headline “Bowden Hall destroyed in an air raid”

No, you might say, Bowden Hall Hotel is still there and open in Upton.

It is a headline you would not have seen in Gloucester because it actually happened in Plymouth. On 30th April 1941 the Great Western Railway locomotive number 4911 “Bowden Hall” was destroyed in an air raid. The locomotive, heading a freight train, had stopped at a signal box during the air raid, as was the rule. It was destroyed by a direct hit but the crew survived by sheltering under the steps of the signal box. The locomotive was so badly damaged it was never repaired.

GWR “Hall” class locomotives were designed by Charles Collett and built at Swindon between 1928 and 1950. They were general purpose work-horse engines and used on freight and passenger trains. Over 300 were built and they

were all named after halls in the GWR region. Withdrawal of the Halls started in 1959 and by 1965 all were out of service.



Eleven examples were rescued from scrap yards for preservation, including 5972 Olton Hall which has appeared in the Harry Potter films.

To see a Hall class loco close up, why not visit the Gloucester Warwickshire Railway where you can see 7903 Foremarke Hall, built in 1947, in all its glory? The picture is of this locomotive. We can't find a picture of Bowden Hall!

By the way if you know where the name plates of Bowden Hall are, they are worth £10,000's now!

Mike Stratford



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Grove Court is 100 yards past the Kings Head Pub on the  
right hand side. Collection service available.*

## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

This month marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deaths of two more men from our Village in WWI.

### Frederick John Chorley

Frederick was born in Bath, in 1884, son of James and Ellen Chorley. James Chorley was a tailor and Frederick followed his father into the same trade. His parents moved to Gloucester (Barton Street area) and Frederick then married a Gloucester girl, Alice Charles. They had two children, Frederick and Doris. At some point they moved further out of the city to USL.

He enlisted on 8th September 1914 into the 1st/5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. He was promoted to Corporal; his number was 240851. He sailed to France on 25th June 1915 and died of wounds on 17th May 1917 aged 34. He is buried in Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

In 1919 his widow Alice was remarried in USL Church to William Caswell, and lived in Kimberley, Bondend Road. Many readers will know the Caswells and their relations.

### Arthur Edwin Barnard

Arthur was the son of Thomas Henry and Caroline Barnard of Bowden Villa, Matson. He was born on 13th May 1896 and attended Upton School on 12th June 1900. He served in the 1st Division Ammunition Column Royal Field Artillery. He was a driver and his number was 832077. He died on Monday 28th May 1917 aged 21 and is buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Nord, in France near the Belgian border, 16kms south west of Ypres.

Bailleul was a base HQ and field hospital. In a letter to his sweetheart in Quedgeley on 24th February 1917 he says, "I have been in hospital for the last month but pleased to say I am well again. I am still at the base and having a good time and a rest. We are having top hole weather for instance it is like a summers day." It cannot be confirmed if he was wounded or suffering from illness when he died three months later.

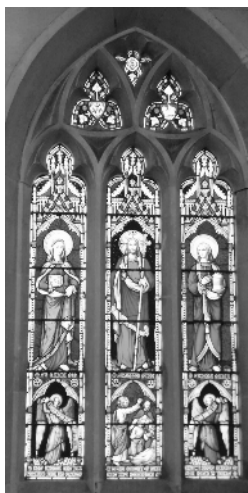
In other letters he says, "When I go back I am going to a different lot. How is Gloucester looking now as quiet as ever I suppose? Well dear it seems a treat to be back from the line from all the wet and all the mud."

Some of Arthur's relatives still live in and around the Village.



## The mistake in the window

The large stained glass window on the North side of the church, which you see as you come down the main path, has an intriguing mistake!



The window was made in about 1850. The dedication at the base states: "This window was put up to the memory of Mary, wife of James Ackers of Prinknash Park, who departed this life December 17th 1848 aged 37 years".

There are three large figures in the window. In the centre is a depiction of Christ. Looking at the window from inside the church, to the right, is a woman dressed mostly in green, and she is carrying a white jar. To the right is another woman dressed mostly in blue, carrying a book. This woman also has a much more ornate halo

than the other woman. Below each figure one can read who is portrayed. Below Christ are the words "Salvator Mundi" (Saviour of the world). The woman on the left in blue is described as "S<sup>ta</sup> Maria Mag", i.e. Saint Mary Magdalen. The woman on the right in green is, as it appears, "Sancta Maria", i.e. Mary, the mother of Jesus. The women's names are clearly the wrong way round. Mary Magdalen is often shown dressed in green and even more often carrying a jar (of ointment). Mary, the mother of Jesus, is nearly always shown as dressed in blue, and the more ornate halo is another sign of who she is.

It is a very beautiful window, dedicated to a wife who died too young. And note of course that her name was also Mary.

I wonder when the mistake was first spotted! I was told about it by Peter Jackson when I first moved into the Village.

Andy Russell



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

# VILLAGE DIARY

## MAY

1	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m
2	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
2	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.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	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
3	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.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	County Council Elections.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00a.m.-10.00p.m
8	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
8	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
8	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
8	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
8	Mon	Parish Council Annual Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
9	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week (and garden waste for those with brown bins)		
9	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
9	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
9	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for June issue of USL Life		
10	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
10	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
10	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
10	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
10	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
11	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
11	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
11	Thu	View the Parish Council's Village Improvement Proposals.....	Pavilion.....	3.00-7.00p.m.
13	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
14	Sun	Band on the Green.....	Village Green.....	2.30-4.00p.m.
15	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
15	Mon	Coffee Club including Bring & Buy in aid of USL Life.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
15	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
15	Mon	Fitness Training.....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
15	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
16	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
16	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
16	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
17	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
17	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
17	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
17	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.0-4.00p.m.
17	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm.
17	Wed	Bingo.....	Village Hall.....	8.00p.m.
17	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30pm.
18	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
18	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
18	Thu	History Group –Mortuary Monuments inside a Church.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
19	Fri	AGM for BMI.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
20	Sat	Race Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
22	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.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	Lady Downe Charity Trust Meeting		
22	Mon	Fitness Training.....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
22	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
23	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week (and Garden Waste for those with brown bins)		
23	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
23	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
23	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
24	Wed	Ladies Probus followed by lunch.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
24	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.



24	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30a.m.
24	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
24	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
24	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.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 Summer Lunch.....	Village Hall.....	12.30/1.00p.m.
29	Mon	Bank Holiday		
30	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
30	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
30	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
31	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
31	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
31	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
31	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
31	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
31	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.

**JUNE**

5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy date for July issue of USL Life		
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Haa.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
21	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
26	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
29	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

**JULY**

1	Sat	Summer Quiz Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for August issue of USL Life		
17	Mon	Abbeyle Gardening Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
19	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
20	Thu	History Group – AGM / “Railways of Gloucestershire”.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
21	Fri	Lords Taverners Cricket Match.....	Recreation Ground.....	2.00-6.30p.m.
24	Mon	Lady Downe Charity Meeting		
24	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
27	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

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



**HAPPY'S CIRCUS  
COMES TO  
Upton School  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

The school has **SOLD OUT** of tickets for their Circus planned for Friday 5th May. This will be their major fundraising event this year; the PTA will not be planning a summer fayre. The school will be open for refreshments at the end of the school day on the 5th May, prior to the event, when the Big Top show will open its doors at 5.30pm and run through until 8pm.

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**LORD'S  
TAVERNERS**

## The Lord's Taverners are coming to Upton St Leonards

The Lord's Taverners is the UK's leading youth cricket and disability sports charity dedicated to giving disadvantaged and disabled young people a sporting chance.

As was stated in last month's newsletter, on Friday 21 July, The Lord's Taverners will be coming here and there will be two events in the Village.

The first is a Cricket match at the recreation ground, 2.00-6.00pm, between USLCC and a Lord's Taverners team consisting of an array of celebrities from stage and screen and ex professional cricket players. There may be opportunities for Villagers to play in the match (details later). Villagers can purchase VIP tickets to the event which includes lunch and afternoon tea with the LT celebrities. VIP tickets will be £40 each, limited to 30 people. Other spectators will be asked to make a donation to watch the event. Refreshments will be on sale all afternoon.

In the evening, 7.30 – 11.30pm, there will be a Black Tie Charity Dinner at USL School. There will be a celebrity guest speaker (TBC) and an exceptional Master of Ceremonies (Jon Desborough – Sky Sports presenter). Limited to 150 people. Tickets £50 each.

Further details will be published next month but if you would like further information or to purchase tickets please contact the organiser, Paul Mount, who is our local Lord's Taverner.

This is one of only 12 such events in the UK this year and we are privileged to be selected as a venue to such a prestigious organisation which does so much good for young people.

A specially adapted Lord's Taverners Minibus will be presented on the day, to a local school in real need of such transport, by an LT celebrity.

## Gloucestershire Writers' Network and Cheltenham Literature Festival Writing Competition

Want to read your poetry or prose at the Cheltenham Literature Festival this October?  
The Gloucestershire Writers' Network Competition is open to all living or working in Gloucestershire.

We want poems of up to 50 lines (single spaced with a line dividing stanzas)  
and prose of up to 750 words (double spaced) on the theme of:

**'Who Do We Think We Are?'**

This can be interpreted however you wish but please give your work a title of your own.

**PRIZES** - £200 for category winners and 10 runners-up receive £10 book tokens.

All are invited to read at the festival and be published in an anthology on sale at the event and Graffiti Magazine.  
**N.B.** Please don't name your work, as entries are judged blind. Send a separate sheet with your name and contact details and a list of titles that you've submitted.

### **Entries:**

via email to: gillgwn@gmail.com OR via post: c/o 3 Chancel Way, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 7RR

**FEES** - £2.50 for each piece

***Please note*** - Email and postal entrants need to send a cheque or postal order payable to:  
**'Gloucestershire Writes' Network- to the postal address above.**

Further queries to: kathryngwn@gmail.com – Good Luck!

## FOOTBALL SUCCESS

The football team finished the season in style, with comprehensive wins over Tredworth Tigers (4-0) and Longford (7-0), to clinch the Stroud Division 1 title. With that comes promotion to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, the next step up the pyramid. This is higher than the team has ever reached before, at least for the many years since the Stroud & District League was formed, and comes after a few years finishing among the top few teams in Division 1, not until now actually winning the Division.

The second team has also had a very good season and has an outside chance of winning its Division. Whether that happens or not the team will be promoted from Stroud Division 4 to Division 3.

Well done to all our footballers.



## CRICKET NEWS



**LORD'S  
TAVERNERS**

Did you see the article on the previous page?

## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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