

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News



Issue 45

May 2018

This beautiful picture was taken at Hucclecote Meadows. Wildflowers will be at their best there about now - do go and visit the meadows if you can, you will not be disappointed. You can walk there by following the Glevum Way on the bridle path that leads from Upton Lane just before the motorway bridge, or go to where Lobleys Drive crosses the motorway. The meadows are on both sides of the motorway, and are a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the variety of fauna and flora there.



Spring - at last!

Other places with fantastic displays of wildflowers are all around us! The churchyard, the Jubilee garden, Cud Hill and Painswick Beacon, the escarpment woods (especially Buckholt Road), Cranham Common, the list is endless.



These Icelandic poppies were snapped in a garden in Churchfield Road, there is a story behind the picture, on page 5.

The picture on the right is more summer than spring, but it was also taken at the Hucclecote Meadows.



SAT
16
JUNE

The Village Day
Just 6 weeks away!

See the posters and some details on page 7. **And get your tickets now for the evening dance in the Village Hall, by calling Carol Evans.**

Next month's issue will have all the information about the day.

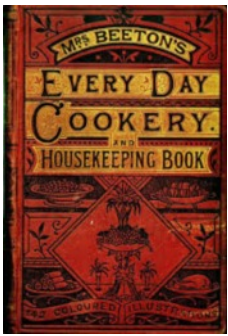
Unfortunately, the Spring Show was held just too late for this month's newsletter, we hope to have pictures and reports from it in the next issue.

What's been happening . . .

Twyver WI

A last minute change to the programme meant that Verna Boughton, a member of Severn Vale WI, came to talk to the group on Food and Facts from 1900 to 2000.

Verna began her talk by referring to Sir Alfred Bird who invented the first eggless custard powder in 1837. It seems remarkable that Coca Cola has been with us in the UK since 1900 and yet it was invented as long ago as 1886!



In 1906, Mrs Beeton's Every Day Cookery and Housekeeping book was launched, with its 2,056 pages and for many years this was the housewives' Bible.

Food rationing was introduced in 1940 and cooks had to be inventive so as not to waste anything. A good example of this was faggots, which used every part of the pig except the squeak! Rationing continued up until 1954, which for many of the members brought back numerous

childhood memories. Verna remains a highly entertaining and popular speaker, evident by the applause she received.

Next month's meeting will be held on Monday, 14th May at 7.30pm. Our speaker for the evening will be Helen Barry who will show us how to make Carnations from toilet tissue. New members are always welcome.

Upton WI

The speaker at our April meeting was Chris O'Grady who gave a talk on his walk from Pershore to Rome, as the hymn goes "To be a Pilgrim". Celebrating his 50th birthday, Chris set out from Pershore to Rome, 1200 miles, carrying a small tent, 4 pairs of underpants, 1 pair of boots and a pair of walking poles, with no accommodation booked. Having faith in God, he set forth. Crossing the English Channel he headed for Paris, staying nearby at St German en Laye, on to Fontainebleau, Prunery and Chevillon with a very special Easter at Bessey-sur-Loire. Relying on the

kindness of the French people, he met Monique and Jeanne Trivier-de-Courts for his stay at Vezelay and Col de Berthiand. Somehow he managed to get a lift through the tunnel through the French Alps with a coachload of Swedish tourists. In Italy he stayed in churches and hostels. At Pavia he took a ride on a river taxi to Parma, the tram to Sarzana on to Scama and Sienna, finally reaching his destination in Rome where he had an audience with the Pope. He was fêted and dined by friends and family before flying home. His well worn boots carried him over 1000 miles. Chris gave thanks for the kindness of strangers and friends who put their trust in him and forged new friendships for the future.

We meet again on Bank Holiday Monday, 7 May at 7.30pm in Upton Village Hall for a Quiz night and WI resolutions.

On May 23rd we are taking a trip to the Concorde Museum at Filton, leaving Upton Village Hall at 9.30am.

Cathy Quant

USL Ladies Probus

At the March meeting we held our AGM followed by the handover from President Penny Owen to Chris Ellson. Penny thanked the committee members for their support throughout the year and gifts were exchanged.

Our speaker Stella Barnes gave a compelling talk about her work among the very poor of Cambodia to improve children's education, health and welfare. Stella is an entrepreneur with many ideas - we were really struck by the simplicity of her idea to build walls for a new school from plastic bottles stuffed with plastic bags. Both bottles and bags are a real scourge in villages as they get thrown to the ground and there is no refuse collection, so this scheme solved two problems at once in the village where she was working and was also very eco friendly!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 23 May (10.15 for 10.30 a.m.) when our speaker will be Bob Skelt talking about the surprising episode in history known as the "Zimmerman Telegram".



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What's been happening . . .

USCAN AGM

USCAN still exists! But the footpath group is the only active part of it. The Jubilee Garden, the Village Green, Cud Hill and the border by the Post Office are also nominally USCAN projects, as are occasional litter-pick days and organised walks.



Apart from some very muddy stretches, the footpaths in the parish are in pretty good condition. In the past year we have checked over (nearly) all the paths and made a number of repairs. As usual we spent a lot of effort cutting back brambles and nettles to keep the paths clear. We also worked from time to time on other projects, including the churchyard, the Jubilee garden, the beds outside the post office, and cleared the area at the end of Rectory Close so it could be set to grass - that has been a very successful transformation. On Cud Hill we have continued to reduce the amount of brambles, and cut down Ash, Sycamore and Hawthorn saplings which are always threatening to take over, and we pulled up lots of ragwort. The Parish Council paid for

a few hours of contract effort to clear brambles, and that made a considerable difference. Once again the cows stationed there in October / November did a great job and we can look forward to another great summer display of orchids and other flowers, I am sure.

There are seven of us in the group at the moment. Mike Blanch "retired" but still reminds us of tasks to be done, and at the turn of the year Nigel Cox moved away from the Village - we shall miss his botanical knowledge. So we are: Andy Russell, Alan Gresswell, Nigel Murrell, Rob Knibbs, Nigel Clapton, Vic Stanley and Steve Pratt. Mike has kindly donated his trailer to the group and that has made a big difference - we can more easily get to and from our work area each week.

Thanks to the Parish Council for their continued monetary support, and to Owen Stinchcombe and Cliff Alderman for being our admin office, looking after money, insurance, AGMs etc.

Andy Russell

If you find a path blocked or a stile broken, or any problem to do with the 22 miles of footpaths in the Village, do contact Andy, or the Parish Clerk - Roy Balgobin.

Upton St Leonards Life AGM

Being a registered company, USL Life is required to hold an AGM to nominate a chairman and directors and to report to its members and allow them to fire questions at the board. The Chairman, Peter Wilson, reported on our third complete year. Having a colour front and back every month has pushed up costs by about £600, which the advertising is not covering, so it was just as well we had two fundraisers in 2017 and still have the Parish Council guarantees - they gave us a grant of £1500 in 2017. That means we are getting close to our target for reserve funds.

But, to be properly positive, the newsletter is still going strong, and we frequently are praised and thanked for its quality - we hope we can keep up the standard.

Change is important for progress, and this year with the arrival of Rachel Middleton (Church pages) and Ann Morphew (Arts page) in the team, and the colour printing, we have seen worthwhile change.

Thanks to the whole team: Distributors, proof readers, the editorial team and the business team.

See the announcement on page 5 of the next fund raiser for this newsletter!



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ABBEYDALE GARDENING CLUB

At the April meeting, Chairperson Anne Evans welcomed one new member and our speaker for the evening, Jim Teague. Jim began his training in Horticulture at Pershore College and later worked at Webbs Garden Centres. He now travels Europe buying plants for a group of garden centres, 20 in all, based across the UK. These include such prestigious venues as Chatsworth House and Trentham Gardens, whilst Chris himself is based at the Evesham Garden Centre.

Jim has spoken to us before and his talks are always relaxed and informative. Whilst he chatted about the wide ranging selection of his favourite plants which he had brought with him, questions were freely asked and answered throughout, mostly relating to feeding and pruning.

Amongst them were popular plants such as 'Pink Kisses' which he predicted would probably reach sales of over 30,000 this year and by contrast he had brought from his own garden, the American Skunk Cabbage - a beautiful yellow flower, similar to an Arum Lily.. but with a distinctively unpleasant aroma. It is now listed under the EU regulation on Invasive Alien Species. To control this species, it is now banned from sale, growing, cultivating or releasing into the wild.

Members were encouraged to visit the Open Gardens at Ashton under Hill on 9/10 June 1.00 - 6.00 pm, where 25 gardens will be open to the public, including Chris's own garden. Further details can be found at www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk

Next month our speaker will be Mervyn Rees who will be speaking about Roses. We meet on the 3rd Monday of every month and new members are always welcome.

American skunk cabbage on display at the gardening club meeting

Spring Quiz @ BMI

Once again our spring quiz was very well supported with 19 individual teams. Eric, our quizmaster provided questions on general knowledge, music, famous faces etc.

The winners on the night were Wilkies Wonders. Congratulations to them!

The total raised on the night towards the BMI charity was £210.35. Thanks to all who took part and organised another successful quiz evening.

The Spring Quiz and April's Race Night conclude our charity events for 2017-18. As soon as we know it, we will publish the total raised in the year and this year it will be split between Maggies and the Air Ambulance.

The next quiz will be held on Saturday 23rd June.

Litter Pick

Thanks to the few (there were 5 of us) who turned up on 8 April. With the small numbers we only managed to cover the lane between the Rec and the King's Head (that bit on its own was a huge task), most of High Street, the Rec itself, Churchfield Road and the shop area. That resulted in 8 black bags full!



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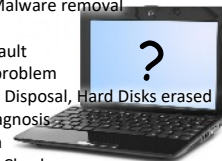


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Oriental Visitors and Poppies

Like migrating birds they visit every year, coachfuls of holidaymakers from the East to see the Cotswolds in Spring. The visitors have usually spent some time in London and Oxford and arrive at Bowden Hall for an overnight stay, before setting off for Bath on the A46 the following morning.

It was in late May seven years ago when I first encountered the holidaying orientals. Returning from an early morning walk, I was about halfway down



Churchfield Road when I caught sight of three ladies in a huddle outside my front garden. As I drew nearer I could see they were admiring the big bright red Icelandic poppies, which were in full bloom. I greeted the ladies,

who were from China, and although their English was limited and my Chinese non-existent, we managed to communicate pretty well with pointing and nodding and smiling. They asked if it was OK to take pictures. I encouraged them to go into the garden and take pics of themselves as well as the poppies, which they did with much oohing and aahing and laughter. When I invited them inside for tea, tea was declined; they were a little worried they might miss the coach for Bath, but the ladies were delighted with the opportunity to see inside an English house and take more pictures. Later, when

saying our goodbyes, one lady asked for a seed-head from the poppies; she was hoping to grow some in China. Much later that evening I realised that, unwittingly, I may have been encouraging an illegal activity!

Every year since then when I notice the poppies' heads beginning to swell, I look out for these exotic visitors. To date, I have met more Chinese people, quite a few Japanese, and last year, a family of three generations from Taiwan. Most of the visitors stay within the grounds of Bowden Hall taking photographs of the house, local wildlife and the pond with ducks and moorhens guarding their new families of ducklings and chicks. I have come across them in Bondend Lane taking pictures of the Twyver and the houses there. One year I discovered three Japanese tourists in the driveway to Upton Mill and I encouraged them to walk a little further to see the lovely gardens and the big old barns. They were doubly delighted with that suggestion because one of the group spotted two horses resting in a field of buttercups to the right of the house. Needless to say the cameras were clicking wildly.

So this year, when you feel the days getting longer and you may have noticed the swallows or swifts have already arrived from Africa; remember also that in the lanes of the village, oriental holidaymakers may be taking pictures of Upton in Spring, to show family and friends when they return home. It is also at this time of year that I wonder whether somewhere in China there are large red Icelandic poppies in bloom that came from a garden in Upton.

Christina Caldwell



Summer Skittles at the BMI

The annual summer skittles competition will take place once again during the months of June and July with the final at the beginning of August.

If you would like to enter a team, please add your name to the booking list on the notice board in the foyer of the BMI. There can only be a maximum of 16 teams in this competition.

The draw will take place after the BMI AGM on Friday 18th May, and the fixture list should be available by the following Wednesday.

COFFEE MORNING - TWYVER CLOSE (TO SUPPORT USL LIFE)

WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2018, 10.00AM

Twyver Close

BRING AND BUY! CAKES! BOOKSTALL!

£3.00 including coffee/tea and cakes to support USL LIFE

We hope to be in the garden!



BMI
 THURSDAY
 10 MAY
 10AM -12PM



BAKE A CAKE, BUY A CAKE, DONATE A CAKE
 PRIZES FOR THE BEST MADE CAKES
 COFFEE AND A CHAT
 ALL PROCEEDS TO C4 STAND UP TO CANCER
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 INFORMATION CAROL EVANS



SATURDAY 19 MAY
 IT'S HARRY AND
 MEGHAN'S WEDDING

Why not come along and watch it
 on the big screen in the lounge of
 the BMI with your friends.

From 11.00a.m.

There will be a buffet available.
 Lunch tickets may be purchased
 and paid for in advance from the
 BMI @ £7.99pp

Saturday 12 May
 It's Entertainment Night
 at the B.M.I.

With

Paul Keyse

From 8.00pm

Keyboard vocalist entertainer



Open to members and signed in guests



BMI Summer Quiz

For BMI members and signed in guests

Saturday 23 June @ 8.00p.m.

£1.25 per person for teams of up to 6

(MINIMUM £5 for teams of up to 4)

All profit on the night to be donated to the

BMI charity for 2018-2019

(Charity to be confirmed in due course)

Please add your name to the booking sheet by
 Thursday 21 June to ensure that there are
 sufficient copies of quiz sheets and tables.

Not forgetting the Village Day - Saturday 16 June!

There will be much more about this great day in the next edition of USL Life

UPTON ST LEONARDS
Village Day 2018 SATURDAY
16TH JUNE 2018
1PM-4PM

Children's Entertainment
Dog Show
Stalls & Games
Parade
Come As A Superhero
Prizes for Best Dressed
Refreshments
Surprise Celebrity Judge
Grand Prize Draw

EVENING 7:30PM-11PM . PLOUGHMAN'S . BLEEDING HEARTS BAND

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY, £10, CALL CAROL



Our 'Superheroes village day' is fast approaching.

Superhero

The schedule will be in

June's USL Life magazine so please look out for it.

Super- helpers wanted

We need more helpers on the day. Even if you can only spare an hour we will be most grateful. The party tents are to be put up on Friday 15th afternoon and we need some strong superheroes to help with them.

Donations of cakes on the day to the village hall. Books and tombola prizes would be much appreciated.

Please contact Carol Evans or Keith Pearson

Thank you

VILLAGE DAY DANCE



SATURDAY 16 JUNE - VILLAGE HALL

Come and dance the night the away with
"The Bleeding Hearts"

7.30pm - 11pm BAR

£10 Including Ploughman's Supper

ADULTS ONLY AND ENTRANCE BY TICKET ONLY
CONTACT - CAROL EVANS

Football

The wet weather has meant both a backlog of fixtures and the club having to hire pitches elsewhere because the Recreation ground has been unplayable through March and the first half of April. Unfortunately this has been very expensive for the club.

Two draws and two defeats have impeded the second team's progress towards promotion, but they bounced

back with a 6-0 thrashing of Cotswold Rangers, and are still in with a good chance of winning or coming second in their Division.

Similarly the first team has stuttered a bit recently and they lie 4th in their Division. But they have games in hand on the two teams just above them, so a top two finish is still possible.

Cricket

The youth section has been training indoors throughout the winter. The nets have been heavily used since Easter, and outdoor practice has been going on throughout April. May sees the first league games, and there is a league game scheduled every Saturday at the Rec from now until the end of August. On most Sunday mornings there is a youth game.



The Cricket Club is taking part in "All Stars" for the first time this year. This is an initiative by the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to get youngsters in the age range 5-8 out on the field having fun with a bat and ball. The ECB provides equipment, T-shirts, and a programme, and their coaches visit local schools to encourage participants. Our club provides the field and about 6 volunteers to actually run the programme. So if you go to the Rec on Thursdays between 5.15 and 6pm in May and June you will see "All Stars" happening (and from 6.15pm onwards on Thursdays the club has its normal coaching sessions for the Under 11 and Under 13 teams).

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Gloucestershire gardens open for charity, 2018

There is a lovely booklet listing the Gloucestershire gardens open for charity this year under the National Garden Scheme.

Here is a list of gardens within a few miles of Upton which are opening in May:

Sun 6 May and Mon 7 May: Eastcombe, Bussage and Brownhill Gardens - a number of gardens in these villages, plus refreshments in Eastcombe Village Hall.

Sun 6 May: Highnam Court.

Wed 16 May: Downton House, Gloucester Street, Painswick.

Sat 26 May - Sun 3 Jun: Hookshouse Pottery, Nr Tetbury.

There are plenty more slightly further away, and other gardens near and far opening at other times.

The booklet can be obtained from the library, the Gloucester Tourist Office etc.

See also the NGS web site: ngs.org.uk



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St. Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

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very
welcome
at all of
our services*

Church Calendar for May

Sun 6	8.00 am	Holy Communion service
	10.00 am	Celebration Service
	3.00 pm	Rogation Walks (Meet at the Church)
Mon 7	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 8	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 9	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Sun 13	10.00 am	Communion Service
Mon 14	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 15	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 16	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Sat 19 th	4.00 pm	Renewal of Vows
Sun 20	10.00 am	Pentecost Sunday Communion Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Mon 21	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 22	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 23	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Sat 26	12.00 noon	Wedding
Sun 27	10.00 am	Communion Service
Mon 28	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tues 29	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 30	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Sat 2 June	2.00 pm	Wedding



Village Day 16th June

Superhero themed Flower Show and Village History Exhibition in the Church.

Church open Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon finishing with a 6.00 pm Celebration Service giving thanks for our shared village life. **All are welcome.**

Who's who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge:

Rev Clodagh Ingram

Clodagh is available to be contacted Sundays through to Wednesday

Curate:

Rev James Turk

revjamesturk@gmail.com

Please note due to James's work commitments, calls, texts and emails will be answered evenings and weekends

Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Rachel Hall

PCC Secretary

Enquiries via Rev Ingram or Keith Robbins

pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

Deanery Synod Representative

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers

Jenny Cunningham

Rogation Sunday - 6th May

Traditionally a day to walk the parish boundaries and pray for the community.

Come and join us as we walk around the parish and finish with tea and cake.

We are planning a number of walks to suit all energy levels and mobility.

The shortest around the graveyard, or perhaps a flat walk around the village or further afield up to Prinknash or along the bridle path to Coopers Edge.

Dates for your diary

May 5 Taunton Bellringers 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm

May 6 Rogation Sunday Walks - Meet at Church 3.00 pm

May 17 Mother's Union, St Oswald's Church 2.00 pm- Bring and Buy

June 16 Village Day

July 14 Barn Dance

St. Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk



Rev James Turk writes

"Music was my first love"..... Possibly.

On July 14th local band Freefall will be playing a gig in the barn at Portway Farm. Freefall is a local band that I have a particular fondness for, as I have played keyboards for them for many years.

When I was 16, like many young people of that age, all I wanted was to be in a rock band, selling millions of albums and playing to packed arenas and theatres around the world. That was the life for me or so I thought. Now obviously, things didn't work out quite the way I planned, or I wouldn't be writing this article, but for a time, many years ago, being in a rock band was the height of my ambitions. I don't know if "music was my first love" (as the song goes) but it came a close second.

Music plays a big part in many people's lives. The music we listened to in our formative years can have a huge impact on us. As a teenager, my favourite band was, and still is, the British band Depeche Mode. I was 14 and I used to try and dress and look like the lead singer, and their's were the only records I seriously listened to. If they had released a version of Humpty Dumpty, I would not only have bought the record, but also the T-shirt and tickets for the concert. In a word I was obsessed with them and their music. To emulate my heroes and be in my own band was the natural next step for me. When I was 16, I did make it into a band and I have played in bands ever since. My fellow musicians and myself have never made the big time. We haven't had a hit record, and none of us could afford to give up the day jobs but we have had tremendous fun over the years and I have made lifelong friends. At the age of 23 I became a Christian and being a Christian and playing in an indie/rock band was never an issue for me. We were booked to play at many varied venues and I met people from all walks of life. I was always very open about my faith and some of the deepest conversations I ever had about God and the Christian faith have been in pub car parks after a gig, or at the bar between sets. I never went looking for those conversations but every now and then they would just happen.

Music is very much a part of my faith and how I experience God. I am not alone in that, as many people have experiences of how a piece of music or participation at a music event has moved them in ways they find difficult to articulate. This is the mystery of music and maybe behind that mystery lies something sacred; and if that is the case, then it is no surprise to find so many references to music in scripture. In the Bible we read of the early believers using trumpets, tambourines and dancing in worship. Two whole books in the Bible contain nothing but songs (Song of Songs and the book of Psalms) and there are many references to musicians throughout scripture (harp and trumpet seem to be particularly popular). Music and worship go hand in hand.

Music is a gift from God and many people will articulate how music has helped them through a difficult time in their life. It has the power to move us to tears of joy and tears of sadness. But it is only one of the ways that we can feel connected to a loving God. Music comes and goes, music can have a fragile existence. So there needs to be something else, something to hold on to. Being a Christian, being part of a Christian community like the one at St Leonard's, and having a faith means it doesn't all end when the last song is sung. It isn't over when we get tired of playing the records or looking at the posters or when that T-shirt no longer fits. It is real and it never ends. But like music, it changes us. It causes us to do wonderful things we never would have known we could do. And it puts us in touch with people we never would have thought we'd associate with, let alone serve. God, faith and music go hand in hand.

James

Christian Aid

We continue to share the profit from our Tuesday coffee mornings between Church repairs and our chosen charity Christian Aid. We are in business from 10.00 am and all are welcome to join us.

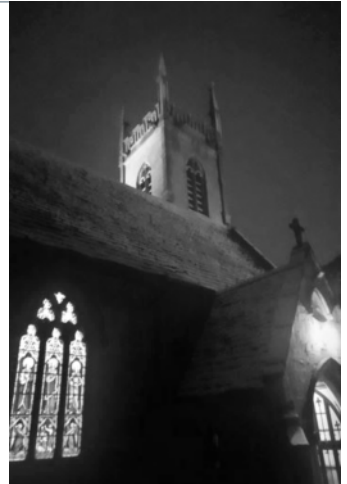
This month we have sent £60 making a total of £108 so far this year.

Tower Floodlighting

'I would like to sponsor the Church Tower Lights to remember the death of my Uncle, Richard Gaunt, who was missing, believed killed, one hundred years ago on the 21st March 1918 at the Battle of St. Quentin. He was 20 years old and served in the Worcestershire Regiment'. Kindly sponsored by his niece Diane Murrell (nee Gaunt)

The Tower Lights were lit on April 18th in remembrance of Dr Frank Hakim being the first anniversary of his death, a dear husband, father and grandfather. Kindly sponsored by his wife Margaret and the family.

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



Women's World Day of Prayer

Do you know where in the world Suriname is? (Clue...its border is on the Atlantic Ocean and is named after the Surinen tribe meaning "land of many waters"). Women from this country wrote the worship service for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer. The original arranged date was postponed due to the first visit of the "Beast from the East" but was then luckily squeezed in before its second visit. In a warm church we were delighted to welcome one of the Y5 classes from the village primary school who were old enough to be able to resonate with the theme of the service: "All God's Creation is very good."

Seven women from local churches were dressed in colourful clothes representing the different ethnic backgrounds in Suriname each bearing gifts to symbolise the different aspects of creation taken from Genesis ch1: 1-31. e.g. a candle for light and dark. As each gift was brought to the front it was unwrapped, and horror upon horrors the wrappings were just thrown at random on the floor. The children were genuinely and audibly aghast that adults were just chucking their rubbish on the floor as was Rev. Ingram seeing the church become a rubbish dump! However, it soon became clear that this is one way that God's creation is being spoiled and one way that we can take care of our world is to clear up after ourselves and where possible recycle the rubbish. The congregation and children were invited to write on the turtle on the back of the service booklet one small thing we could do in our daily lives which will make a positive difference to our world and protect the earth for future generations. I don't know what the children wrote down but one adult who was willing to share her idea was to walk more and drive less. After more singing and a blessing there were welcome drinks, biscuits and cakes. We all left with plenty to think about and act upon.

Even if you weren't at the service what might you have written down as something you could do to make a positive difference to our environment?

Sheila Thomas

Coopers Edge School – Easter Production

It's the week before Easter and I have just had a very special treat. This morning I attended the Key Stage 1 performance of 'Tattybogle – The Musical', a wonderful story of a Scarecrow who was beloved by all the animals and the crows whom he protected from the weather and the hungry foxes, until one winters day the storm 'wolves' tore off his clothes and stripped away all his stuffing until only his wooden frame was left behind. The singing was beautiful and the way the children moved around the stage was almost mesmeric. The actor playing the scarecrow really did disappear before our eyes, swept up in the movement and music which accompanied the storm.



The story ends the following spring when the stick frame begins to send out shoots and leaves and the stick becomes a 'Tattybogle Tree' which the animals crown as King. A wonderful story of life after death and a joy to see it being performed by such a young cast of 120 children. The staff and children had clearly worked together to create something uplifting and wonderful and the clever use of coloured clothes and simple cardboard headdresses added to the whole show.



Clodagh

St. Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

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0300 422 6200 Gloucestershire Hospital

Ghn-tr.spiritualcare@nhs.net

Upton St Leonard's Primary School Easter Services

The centrepiece for the school services this Easter was the story of 'The Three Trees', in which hopes and dreams turned to disappointment but through the presence of Jesus something ordinary was



turned into something beautiful, something weak was turned into something strong and something forgotten was turned into something significant. Life can leave us feeling ugly, broken, sad and useless but we were reminded that Jesus is alive and that our beauty, strength and significance can be found through his love.



In previous years the church has been filled to overflowing so Mr. Allen and I took the decision to hold three services this Easter, rather than two. The new approach worked well, allowing the older children to come and hold their services in the Church, while the younger children had the familiarity of the school hall to worship in. The new arrangement also enabled all the parents, grandparents and friends who wished to attend the services to do so in comfort.



The story and singing were uplifting and the children and staff had clearly worked together to produce three very special services. It was a privilege to participate with the children.

Clodagh

Fundraiser for Church repairs

Barn Dance

At

Portway Farm

7.00 pm Saturday 14th July

Barn dance with live music for dance

Bar, BBQ and Hog Roast

Featuring **Hetty Pegler's Tump** (until 9pm)

One of the foremost Ceilidh bands in Gloucestershire

9.00 pm onwards: Freefall

*A five piece band presenting modern covers for the young and young at heart
with band member Rev. James Turk.*

Tickets on sale
1st June 2018

Bar, BBQ,
Hog Roast

Tickets on sale 1st June 2018.



Christian Aid week is 13-19

May this year.

There isn't a house-to-house collection, but you can make a donation in church where you will find envelopes, with gift aid declarations if you wish. Some of the money raised at Tuesday Coffee also goes to Christian Aid, see the note at the foot of page 10.

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Arts page

The May Queen (verses 1,3,9 and 11)

by Alfred Lord Tennyson 1809 - 1892

You must wake and call me early, call me early, mother dear;
To-morrow 'ill be the happiest time of all the glad New-year;
Of all the glad New-year, mother, the maddest merriest day;
For I'm to be Queen o' the May, mother, I'm to be Queen o' the May.

I sleep so sound all night, mother, that I shall never wake,
If you do not call me loud when the day begins to break:
But I must gather knots of flowers, and buds and garlands gay,
For I'm to be Queen o' the May, mother, I'm to be Queen o' the May.

The night-winds come and go, mother, upon the meadow-grass,
And the happy stars above them seem to brighten as they pass;
There will not be a drop of rain the whole of the livelong day,
And I'm to be Queen o' the May, mother, I'm to be Queen o' the May.

So you must wake and call me early, call me early, mother dear,
To-morrow 'ill be the happiest time of all the glad New-year:
To-morrow 'ill be of all the year the maddest merriest day,
For I'm to be Queen of the May, mother, I'm to be Queen o' the May.

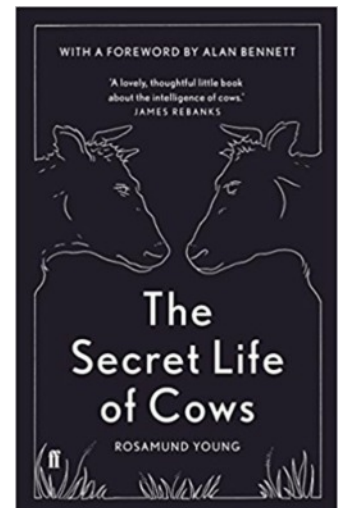
A quotation from Edward Gibbon's *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776-1789) suggests that winters in Caledonia (Scotland) in the first century AD were just as grim as the winter we have just experienced.

The Romans leave Scotland: "The masters of the fairest and the most wealthy climates of the globe turned with contempt from gloomy hills assailed by the winter tempest; from lakes concealed in a blue mist and from cold and lonely winters over which the deers of the forest were chased by a troop of naked barbarians".

Book Review

The Secret Life of Cows by Rosamund Young published by Faber and Faber ISBN 978 0 571 33677 7

This book was first published in 2003 and was reprinted in 2017 in part thanks to a mention in Alan Bennett's diary in 2006 when he said that reading *The Secret Life of Cows* "alters the way one looks at the world". The book is an affectionate record of life running Kite's Nest Farm near Broadway. The book recognises that cows, like humans, have personalities. They can be highly intelligent, aggressive, docile, dull or shy. Kite's Nest Farm provides a leading example of organic farming based on the idea that livestock treated with kindness and consideration will have happier lives - and produce better meat



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Two more poems from Ted Gardner . . .

THREE SEASONS

The silver side of the willow leaf shows,
 'Tis the autumn breeze that blows.
 Who knows when it's coming and where it is from,
 And when it's no more, where has it gone?

We speak of the calm before the storm,
 But if it comes not, will we be warned?
 And when perhaps the rain should fail
 Do we bemoan our lot if they don't prevail?

No, it's out with the hosepipe and watering can,
 Give the plants a good drink, as much as you can.
 Does the wind bring a shower or the breeze bring a squall,
 When autumn is over, will winter snow fall?

We welcome the seasons and the joys that they bring,
 And when winter is over . . .
 Thank God for the SPRING!

INNER QUIET

I stand in the meadow where an Elm tree once stood,
 The breeze brings a soft, gentle tapping.
 The silence is deafening, it makes my ears strain
 To hear the sound of just one hand clapping.

I wander the pathway down by the stream,
 I see the wind makes the dead leaves rustle,
 Far away from the madding crowd am I,
 Far away from the hustle and bustle.

When will I see the green grass again,
 When will I know the stars shining,
 If spring follows winter when autumn is gone
 Where is the bright silver lining?

I still stand in the meadow where the Elm tree once stood,
 I still hear the breeze quietly tapping,
 But no more do I hear the ear shattering sound
 Of just one single hand clapping.

There are a few archive copies of old Parish Magazines - the History Group has some, and in clearing up her mother's house, Jenny Cunningham recently found photocopies of some pages from 1891. The flower show features prominently, and there are numerous lists of cash and other donations to church and school. It is amazing to imagine all the text being typeset every month, probably by hand, to print just a hundred or so copies. Here are some extracts:

from Upton St Leonards Parish Magazine - 1891

THE FLOWER SHOW

Will be held at Bowden Hall (by kind permission of J. Dearman Birchall Esq.), On the first or second Thursday in August. The list of exhibits for which prizes will be offered will be sent to each house nearer the time. All whose houses do not exceed £8 in ratable value are invited to compete.

CRICKET

On May 30 a match was played with an eleven from St. Luke's which resulted in a victory for Upton. The scores were, Upton 42, St. Luke's 28.

On June 13 a match was played with the All Saints' team, when the visitors gained the victory, All Saints made 44 and Upton 28.

CHURCHYARD DONATIONS

	£	s	d.
Mr. J. Dearman Birchall	2	0	0
Rev. E. C. Scobell	2	0	0
Mr. Ackers	1	0	0
Dr. Ancrum	1	0	0
Mr. Percival	1	0	0
Mr. Wheeler	1	0	0
Mrs. Heberden	0	15	0
Mrs. Scobell, Sen.	0	10	0
Mrs. Venning	0	10	0
The Churchwardens	1	0	0
Clarke's Legacy	1	4	0
Sale of grass	0	12	6
	£12	11	6

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Battle of Upton St Leonards - second chapter

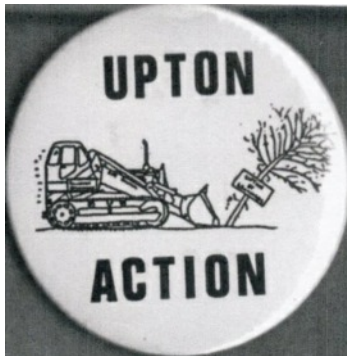
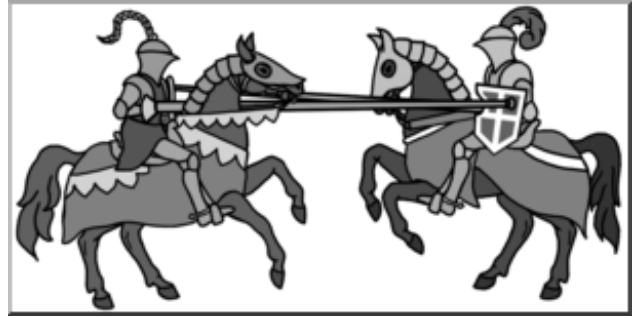
By Teresa Clarke

And so The Battle Began...

The proposal by the Boundary Commission in 1988 was to incorporate a number of Parishes in to Gloucester City, Upton St Leonards being one.

The residents of Upton, however, decided that the needs of their mainly rural and agricultural community would not be best served within the city's governance.

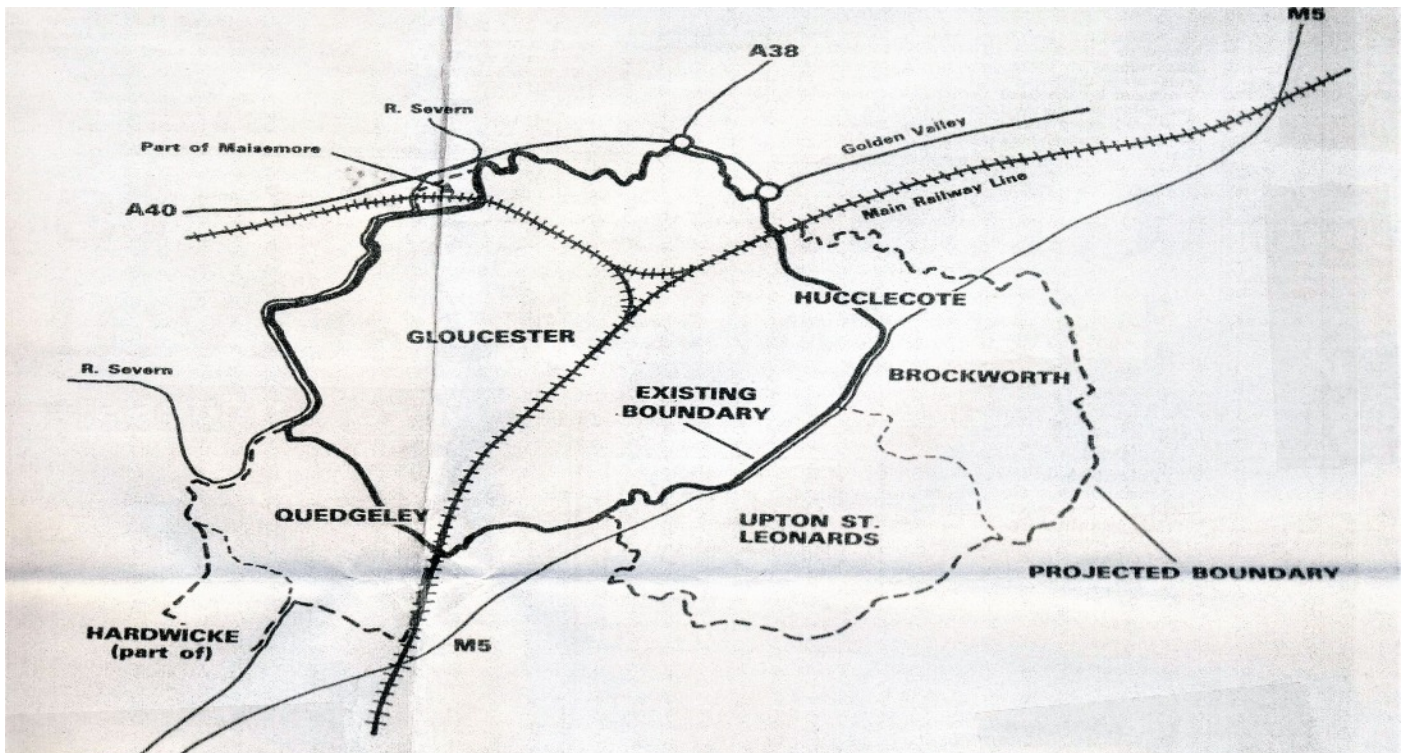
Groups were formed and meetings organised. Rachel Ball and Elaine Samuel-Gibbon remember a meeting at Commelines Farm, and Dave Chave remembers gatherings at the Village Hall. Collectively an action-plan was formulated, Richard McLean spearheading the campaign.



A logo was created and badges produced.

It was thought that petitions were ineffective so villagers put together a scrapbook indicating the boundary to be the motorway bridge. This was presented to Michael Howard, who was Minister for Local Government at the time.

The Citizen newspaper took up the cause and on 29th March 1988 published an article under the Headline "City 'Land Grab' Slated" - 'Local wishes ignored'.



PARISHES FEAR FOR THEIR FUTURES

The Citizen also published comments from the chairmen of the parish councils of Quedgeley (Ann Rumson), Hardwicke (Paul Mowatt), Hucclecote (David Mills), Upton (Edward Nurse) and Brockworth (John Prior).



Monica Sims, an Upton resident and at one time Head of Children's Programmes for BBC Television and then Controller of BBC Radio 4, suggested contacting the programme "Punters", produced in Bristol. It was designed to give people a voice about something of importance in their area. As a result Nigel Farrell, reporter, interviewed Rachel Ball in the garden of Court House (pictured on the left).

A day of action was planned which involved a Tractor vs Villagers in a Tug-of-War symbolising pulling the Tractor over the Motorway Bridge back in to Gloucester.



And the outcome?.....see next edition...

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	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
1	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
1	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
1	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	4.00p.m.
1	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30p.m.
1	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
2	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
2	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
2	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
2	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
2	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
3	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
3	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
3	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00p.m.
5	Sat	Cricket - first league game, 1 st XI v Stroud 2.....	Recreation Ground.....	1.00-7.00pm
7	Mon	Bank Holiday		
7	Mon	Upton WI - Quiz night and review of GFWI resolutions.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
8	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week/Garden Waste for those with brown bins		
8	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
8	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
8	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
8	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	4.00p.m.
8	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30p.m.
8	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
9	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00p.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	Copy date for June issue of USL Life		
10	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
10	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Thu	Stand up for Cancer - Coffee Morning.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
10	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00p.m.
10	Thu	Tennis Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
12	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
14	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
14	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
14	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
14	Mon	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	5.30p.m.
14	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.00p.m.
14	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.00p.m.
14	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
14	Mon	Twyver WI - Carnations from toilet tissue.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
15	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
15	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
15	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00pm
15	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	4.00-5.00p.m.
15	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30p.m.
15	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
16	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
16	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
16	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
16	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
16	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
17	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
17	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
17	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00p.m.
17	Thu	History Group - A History of Farming.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
18	Fri	BMI AGM.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
19	Sat	Harry and Meghan - Televised Wedding.....	B.M.I.....	From 11.00a.m.
21	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
21	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
21	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
21	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.00p.m.
21	Mon	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	6.30p.m.
21	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
21	Mon	Lady Downe Charity.....	School.....	7.30p.m.
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
22	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week/Garden Waste for those with brown bins		
22	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
22	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.

22	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m
22	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	4.00-5.00p.m.
22	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30p.m.
22	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
23	Wed	Upton WI Trip to the Concorde museum at Filton.....	leaves Village Hall.....	9.30a.m.
23	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
23	Wed	Ladies Probuss.....	B.M.I.....	10.15-12.30p.m.
23	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
23	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
24	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
24	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
24	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00p.m.
28	Mon	Bank Holiday		
28	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
29	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
29	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
29	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
30	Wed	USL Life Coffee Morning & Bring and Buy.....	Twyver Close.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
30	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
30	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
30	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
30	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
30	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
31	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
31	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
31	Thu	Get Together Club Summer Lunch.....	Painswick Golf Club.....	12.30 for 1.00p.m.
31	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00p.m.
31	Thu	Ramblers.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

JUNE

4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for July issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI - Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
16	Sat	Village Day.....	Village Hall.....	
18	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
23	Sat	Summer Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
25	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
28	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

JULY

2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI - Internet dating and writing a book at 60.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for August issue of USL Life		
16	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
19	Thu	History Group - AGM followed by a picture quiz.....	Village Hall.....	7.45 - 9.15p.m.
23	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
26	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary



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Burglaries

Nothing to celebrate under the "What's been happening" banner, but there has been a spate of burglaries in the Village and in nearby Abbeymead. At the April Parish Council meeting our PCSO Lianne Hiscock gave a report on this. There is one criminal who has been simply looking for unlocked doors on cars and houses; he quickly snatches anything he can reach in a moment. This chap has been caught! The police also think they know who was responsible for the break-ins, or some of them, because he was caught on camera in one house, but a grainy CCTV picture is unlikely to be enough evidence for a conviction, so investigations continue.

In last month's newsletter we printed some things you can do to reduce the chance of a burglary at your house. Do have a look at that list again. PCSO Lianne added that you really should make sure your car, garage and sheds are always locked, and she also suggests you lock your outside house doors whether you are in or out.

Lianne was particularly keen that we should all watch out for each other and the neighbourhood! If you see a strange vehicle or person acting suspiciously please call 101.



The Upstagers Our local Drama club has been *need ...* providing first class entertainment in the village now for 13 *you!* years - plays, pantos, shows and murder mystery evenings. To be able to continue doing this we urgently need some new members. All organisations need new people and we are no exception. So if you feel like having a go at acting, directing or stage set production please contact us or come along to Upton Village Hall on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. If you are not up for it, maybe you know someone who might be, pass it on.



Dog Mess

... continues to be a problem in the Village, anywhere, but particularly Dirty Lane, Churchfield Road and the Churchyard at the moment. There was an incident in the Churchyard a few weeks ago with a big poo on the path just as the schoolchildren were arriving and departing for their Easter service; it got onto lots of kids' shoes. If you spot someone who fails to clean up, please have the courage to have a word with them - it doesn't need to be aggressive - just ask "please can you clean up after your dog?"

Answers for the St David's Day Quiz which appeared in the March issue:

1. What colours are on the flag of St David? - **Yellow and black** (no, it isn't the Welsh flag!)
2. Which Welshman designed Lady Diana's wedding dress? **David Emanuel (with his wife Elizabeth)**
3. Who was the last native Welshman to hold the title "Prince of Wales"? **Owain Glyndwr**
4. What are the six cities that are located in Wales? **St Davids, Bangor, Cardiff, Newport, St Asaph, Swansea**
5. Which South Wales town was represented in Parliament by the founder of the Labour Party, Kier Hardie? **Merthyr Tydfil**
6. Cardiff was voted the Capital of Wales in 1955, which two other towns did it beat to this honour? **Caernarfon and Aberystwyth**
7. What miracle, according to legend, did St David perform on St Paulinus? **Restoring his sight**
8. In which Welsh town would you find a statue of comedian Tommy Cooper? **Caerphilly**
9. In which Welsh town would you find the World's largest Camera Obscura? **Aberystwyth**
10. Welsh actor Richard Burton never won an Oscar but on how many occasions was he nominated? **7**
11. Who in 1959, became the first Welsh artist to have a UK number one single? **Shirley Bassey**
12. Which privateer, born in South Wales became Governor of Jamaica in 1674? **Henery Morgan**
13. Which is the longest river that flows entirely in Wales? **Towy**
14. Which Welsh football player was voted Italy's Player of the Year in 1958? **John Charles**
15. Which Welshman was Surveyor General of India from 1830 to 1843? **George Everest**
16. In the well known rugby song what is "Sosban Fach"? **Little saucepan**
17. Which mathematical symbol was invented by Welsh physicist Robert Recorde? **Equals sign (=)**
18. What are the three National Parks that can be found in Wales? **Pembrokeshire Coast, Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia**
19. Which village stands on the site of St David's miracle of raising the land to form a small hill? **Llanddewi Brefi**
20. The city of St David's is located in which Welsh county? **Pembrokeshire**

Apologies that there wasn't room to squeeze these in the April issue

Letter to the editor . . .

I just wanted to contact you following Lynne Garner's "Birds in Upton" article in the April edition.

I live in Perry Orchard and have been delighted with the birds in my garden, including a green woodpecker, a pair of long-tailed tits, and a sparrow hawk in my hedge (I was less delighted to see him and felt compelled to tell him to leave my little birds alone!). I also have a pair of robins, presumably a male and female, who are daily visitors. I believe it is the male who finds the food for the female at this time of year, and when I go out to the garden now he comes to see me and I feed him mealworms, which he takes back to the missus, who is perched, cheeping, on her branch. Occasionally I have been a bit slow on the uptake and he has made it clear in no uncertain terms, by shouting loudly at me or flying at me, that I am slacking. We also have two pairs of blue tits, wrens, blackbirds, and sparrows, as well as a beautiful, all-over rust-coloured little bird who sounds a bit like a robin but isn't. I have yet to identify this bird, but it is lovely to look at. Thank you very much, Liz.



Picture by Liz of her robin



Continuing the theme of garden visitors, here are two pictures by our staff photographer Jim Browne of visitors to his feeders - a great spotted woodpecker and a blue tit



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