

# Upton St Leonards Life

*incorporating Church News*

Issue 117

May 2024



## Upton Spring Show 2023



We have a new Coffee House in Upton so see back page for details. The newsletter team wishes the family every success for the future and encourage village residents to try them out.

The Cheeserollers Competition will be taking place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May and as a result, Nut Hill will be closed to vehicles between the hours of Midnight and 8pm

The Barn Dance and BBQ at Portway Farm is coming up soon. Why not bring your friends and family to a lovely village evening event. See page 6 for more details

**Can you help with the 2025 Spring Show? - see page 2**



# *What's Been Happening in Upton?*

## **Upton Spring Show 2024**

Thank you to all who participated and attended the 49th Spring Show which was held on Saturday 16th March 2024. All profits raised from the Show go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall.

The winners of the Show were presented with trophies and a shield by retired Committee Member, Val Doll. The winners as follows:

Flowers – Lee Blackshaw, Home Produce – Julie Winstanley, Handicrafts – Marian Croose, Children – Isaac Payne, Best in Show (Photograph – Isaac Payne (Aged 5 ½)). Some of the prize Winners are shown in pictures below.

The Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who came forward and helped on the day and a special thank you to the retired committee members for helping out in the background on the day. Without you all the show would not have gone ahead this year.

### **Your Ideas and Help welcome**

Planning for the 50th Spring Show will commence soon but we would appreciate any feedback, ideas that you may have, if you would like to be part of the committee or volunteer to help on the day, please contact either:

Sarah Desforges-Poths  
Amy Croose



Val Doll presenting winners' trophies to Lee Blackshaw for Flowers (on the left) and Julie Winstanley for Home Produce (on the right)

## **USL Ladies Probus Club**

After our brief AGM, we all settled down to listen to our speaker Mr Patrick Howell.

Back in 1984, he and his wife travelled to Hong Kong to visit their son who was working there.

As Mrs Howell was prone to air sickness, they decided to take an overland route to reach Hong Kong. This journey took 8 days, crossing through 7 time zones & some 9,000+ miles of travel from a Dutch port, via Europe, Poland, Russia & China - and all on a Russian train.

What an interesting time they had and we also had, but we were listening from the comfort of the BMI lounge! Needless to say, they wisely decided to fly back to the UK, air sickness or not!

In May, Steve Tilley will come to tell us about 'Walking the Coast' so that too should be another adventure for us all. Please come & join us in the BMI at 10am on Wednesday 22 May to hear all about it!

# What's Been Happening in Upton?

## April 2024 Upton WI Report - What's in the Bag

April 1<sup>st</sup>, yes not only April Fools day and Easter Monday, but a fun afternoon was anticipated for Upton St Leonards' ladies WIF. Organised by secretary, Pam Kidgell, small numbered linen bags containing mystery items were given to each table of four players. The idea was to handle the unopened bags, made by Pam, and guess the contents. Lots of concentration and guessing, followed by laughter, a score was kept and bags passed from table to table. Winners with the highest score were the "green" team.

I read a report on the GFWIF Annual Council Meeting held at Cleeve School on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. An inspiring day for us all where first speaker Richard Geary gave an update on Samaritans Purse. Supporting poverty stricken, war torn areas of the world, notably Ukraine, Samaritans Purse has been working tirelessly; also setting up a field hospital in Turkey. The Shoe Box appeal is ongoing and widely supported here in Upton. Our main speaker was Julie MacKay, speaking on her life and career spanning 32 years in the police, retiring from the position of Detective Superintendent (Head of Homicide). Working as an undercover officer she won an international award for a case involving DNA, also Crown Court Recommendations for bravery. Julie now works as an author. Using her detailed knowledge of her subject has resulted in her co-authoring a best selling novel, "To hunt a killer". The Council Meeting was very well supported,

We meet again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, at 2pm in the Upton Pavillion for a film show of 'The Good Old Days' presented by Michael Morris. All ladies are warmly welcomed.

**Kathy Quant**

## Twyver WI Report - 8 April 2024

Our 'speaker' for the evening, Sandra, greeted us from the off, full of enthusiasm and while some of us ladies a little less so – an evening of Line Dance promised fun and above all movement!

We began by learning sequences which at some stage – perhaps another time – will be put together to form a real show piece. Some of our gang are well practiced in the art and it was great being able to watch the professionals at it.



Wikipedia defines Line Dance as a group of people dancing along to a repeating sequence of steps in one or more lines or rows, all facing the same direction. After my own attempt I beg to differ as one or two of us found facing the same direction confusing but despite the two left feet and lack of spatial awareness, it was hilarious and joyous.

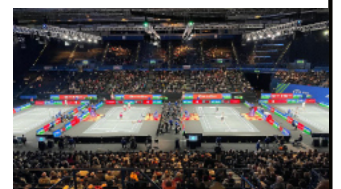
Yours truly was advised I was doing the Hokey Cokey – to be fair, that's a pretty generous analogy! Above all we gamely carried on and we had great fun and that was the whole point of the evening.

Thank you Sandra and our demo ladies for an uplifting session. For more information on Sandra's classes at San N Tone Line Dancing you can contact her on 07779423414 or 01452 617430. Classes are held at various venues and there may be one near you. Followed by usual business, and tea and coffee the meeting closed on a high. Our next meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> May and all are welcome.

**Linda M**

## USL Badminton Club Update

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March saw four members of USL Badminton Club on the 9.50am train to Birmingham. The train was packed, luckily only as far as Cheltenham; the atmosphere was friendly and it was really nice to see so many people dressed up for the races. Tony, our treasurer, had secured us tickets to the Yonex All England Badminton Competition. We arrived a little after the start of the day (cheaper train tickets) but there were enough seats available for us to sit together. The view we had allowed us to see the four courts set out for the day's play as well as the screen showing some of the material being filmed on courts one and two along with the challenges to the line judges' call of in/out. The games were fast paced with players covering the court with ease, glancing away for even a moment meant missing the next point being scored. So sitting with a view of all the courts proved both a blessing and a strain as we tried to swap our attention between them! The skill was amazing to watch as players returned shuttlecocks we thought they'd surely miss but with a flick of a wrist, a drop shot, or a smash, the rallies continued. We rooted for the last English pair but their opponents were just too good. The matches were so riveting that we were reluctant to leave but finally we decided we needed to go out for something to eat. A short walk to Brindley Place gave us a few options and we decided on Turtle Bay, where we enjoyed a relaxing meal and good conversation before heading back to watch the last few matches of the day. The walk back to the station was a leisurely stroll and we noticed that Birmingham is looking really good now that most of the improvement work is finished, the lighting heightening the beauty of some impressive buildings. I'm now considering an overnight stay so I can fully explore and enjoy the changes in this city.



**Jane R**

## *What's Been Happening in Upton? - cont'd*

### **BMI Entertainment Feedback**

Michael Ian Brown made a return visit to the BMI on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March singing and playing a selection of songs from the 60's onwards. It was a great night, and if you missed it, Michael will be back at the BMI on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

It may have been a little dull and drizzly on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, but inside the BMI the atmosphere was warm. We had an enjoyable afternoon, watching the opening day of the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham on the big screen in the lounge. Lorraine provided a wonderful lunch and we had a little bit of fun lucky dips for each race.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Cygnet played their jazz again. They will be back once more on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The spring quiz took place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. There were 14 teams on the night but once again two teams had failed to turn up as we should have had 16. Everyone enjoyed the evening, regardless of whether they could answer all of Andy's questions! The winners on the night were "The Woodentops" with a score of 124, only one point ahead of "Julie's Team". A total of £167 was made on the night to be added to the BMI charity for 2023-2024, The St Leonards Roof Fund. The summer quiz will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **St Leonards Parish Church - Raise the Roof Appeal Update - Where is the Money?**

Historic England gave St Leonards Church a Grade II\* listing, which means it is a building of special or national interest. Only 8% of all listed buildings fall into this category so not only is it important to our community but also to the heritage of the country. I thought I would look at the listing on Historic England website (list entry number 1154810) which is available for everyone to view. The listing is very detailed and a degree in Church Architecture would be helpful to understand it all! However, it does illustrate why many parts of the church are considered of special interest.

Our village is rightly proud of the status of our church, but it does endow us with a greater responsibility for its upkeep. Repairs have to be made using the same type of materials and installation can only be carried out by skilled, conservation contractors.

This brings me to the current Raise the Roof Appeal project for repairing the leaking church roof. A restoration scheme was prepared by our architects and put out to tender, resulting in a huge repair cost that we all know about. The Raise the Roof fund has raised about one third of the sum which is required by the end of the year. . . . . so what are we doing to bridge the gap. . . . .

I have written about the Church's historic status because it is helpful to promote this status to grant awarders who are very interested in preservation of heritage buildings. They are keen to see that the church will be open to everybody because of its special interest as well as ensuring the continuity of its religious and community value. They are also encouraged that we are continuing to raise money ourselves and many grantors prefer to see 50% of the amount raised before considering grants. I urge you all to continue to support the efforts of all the volunteers who are organising and helping produce an exciting programme of events.

In reality the funding gap can only be bridged with grants and the fund raising committee are applying to organisations who may be willing to assist and already have received two grants amounting to £4,000 which has encouraged us to believe our case for assistance is valid. Major grant awarding organisations offering up to £50,000 take rather longer to agree awards but applications have been made and we are being patient and hoping for positive outcomes.

Our committee is working hard and we are confident with help from all the other dedicated fundraisers and the support from the village that we can achieve a sooner, rather than later, successful outcome to the project.

**So that's where money will be!**

Richard Sugdon, Project Manager

# What's Coming Up in Upton?

## ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BMI

**Saturday 11th May**

Entertainment with the ever popular

**Ian Oliver**

From 8.00pm



**Sunday 19th May**

Sunday Lunchtime Jazz

With

**Cygnets**

1.00-3.30pm

All events open to members and signed in guests

## More Entertainment at The BMI

**Sunday 26th May - Comedy Night**

From 8.00p.m.

A great night of stand up comedy hosted once again by "Nik Hill"

Tickets @ £6 each for members only.

The proceeds from the evening will be added to the BMI Charity for 23-24

**"The Upton St Leonards Church Roof Fund"**

(Please note, the comedy night may include "adult humour"

The Upstagers will present.....

**Two One Act Plays**



**"Counter Secrets" by Alan Robinson**

**&**

**"Dead Ringer" by Stuart Arden**

**at**

**Upton St Leonards Village Hall**

**on**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**Performances at 7-30pm**

Further details of booking procedures will be in the next edition of USL Life

## USL Village History Group

**Thursday May 16th**

**Subject - The Jet Age Museum**

**David Hunt**

7.45 pm Village Hall

Visitors and new members welcome.



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# What's Coming Up in Upton?

## BMI Summer Skittles

The BMI summer skittle competition will begin in June if there are sufficient teams interested in playing.

If you would like to enter a team (6 players plus up to 4 reserves) please add your name to the booking sheet on the BMI notice board by **18th May**



## BMI Entertainment

**Saturday 8th June**

"ABBA TRIBUTE"

with

SUMMER NIGHT CITY

From 8.00p.m.

Tickets available for members  
@ £4



## BARN DANCE

**Upton Barn Dance and BBQ - Saturday 29 June 2024**  
In aid of the "Raise The Roof Appeal" for St Leonards Church

Things are progressing for what we hope will be a very enjoyable evening for everyone who attends. We have also booked great weather!!

### Volunteers

Our thanks to those who have already volunteered to support the event and if anyone is able to join the group who will be making it happen please contact Peter Wilson

All volunteers will receive free entry.

### Sponsorship

Our thanks to the Village Shop and Post Office for their generous donation which will be used to part fund one of the bands. If anyone else would be willing to help us towards the cost of our event please contact Peter Wilson as shown above.

### Tickets

You may have seen posters around the village which explain how to get tickets. The Village Shop and Portway Farm Shop started selling



tickets on Monday 15 April and they will be on sale until capacity of the venue is reached. There is also an online option if easier using [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk).



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# Arts Page - This is the merry month of May when poets write Of life and love

## **BROWN PENNY by W. B. Yeats (1865 – 1939)**

I whispered, "I am too young",  
And then, "I am old enough";  
Wherefore I threw a penny  
To find out if I might love.  
"Go and love, go and love, young man,  
If the lady be young and fair".  
Ah, penny, brown penny, brown penny,  
I am looped in the loops of her hair.

O love is the crooked thing,  
There is nobody wise enough  
To find out all that is in it,  
For he would be thinking of love  
Till the stars had run away  
And the shadows eaten the moon.  
Ah, penny, brown penny, brown penny,  
One cannot begin it too soon.

## **DREAM VARIATIONS by Langston Hughes (1901 – 1967)**

To fling my arms wide  
In some place of the sun,  
To whirl and to dance  
Till the white day is done.  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes on gently,  
Dark like me -  
That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide  
In the face of the sun,  
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!  
Till the quick day is done,  
Rest at pale evening . . .  
A tall, slim tree . . .  
Night coming tenderly  
Black like me.

## **RONDEAU by Leigh Hunt (1784 – 1859)**

Jenny kiss'd me when we met,  
Jumping from the chair she sat in;  
Time, you thief, who love to get  
Sweets into your list, put that in:  
Say I'm weary, say I'm sad,  
Say that health and wealth have miss'd me,  
Say I'm growing old, but add,  
Jenny kiss'd me.

## **EPITAPHS on Life and Love**

Life, you know, is rather like opening a tin of sardines.  
We are all of us looking for the key.  
(Alan Bennett)

For the happiest life, day should be rigorously  
planned, nights left open to chance.  
(Mignon McLaughlin 1913 – 1983)

Even logical positivists are capable of love.  
(A. J. Ayer 1910 – 1989)

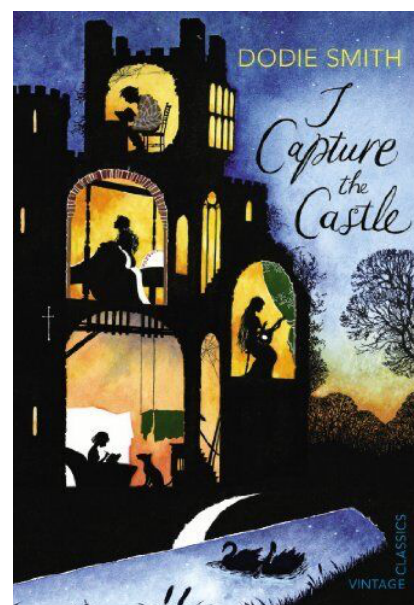
Love's like measles – all the worse when it comes late  
in life.  
(Douglas Jerrold 1803 – 1857)

## **BOOK REVIEW – A NOVEL OF LIFE AND LOVE**

### **I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith (1896 - 1990)**

This is the first novel of the English author Dodie Smith, written during the Second World War when she and her husband Alec Beesley, an English conscientious objector, moved to California. The novel relates the adventures of an eccentric family struggling to live in genteel poverty in a decaying castle during the 1930s.

After publication of this novel in 1948 Dodie Smith went on to write a children's novel – *The Hundred and One Dalmations*. It was published in 1956 and adapted into an animated film and a live-action film by Disney.







Rev Helen Champion

# Saint Leonard's Church

Churchfield Road  
Upton St Leonards  
Gloucester  
GL4 8AT



Rev Helen is available Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

Please note change of venue

## Services for May 2024

5 <sup>th</sup> May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Flourish Service
12 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Holy Communion
26 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Holy Communion

## Tuesday Morning Prayer

9.30 am

In the Rectory

BondEnd Road

Everyone is welcome



I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and that you weren't overwhelmed with too much chocolate.

In the church community we journeyed toward the cross of Jesus and jubilantly celebrated his resurrection.

May brings other important events in the life of the church – Ascension and Pentecost. We remember that, 40 days after Jesus rose again, he was taken up into the clouds right in front of his disciples. That must have been quite something to see. No wonder they all stood by him to the ends of their lives – they absolutely knew that this was the son of God.

The Ascension marks the culmination of Christ's earthly ministry and symbolises his exaltation to the right hand of God. And then Pentecost just 10 days later.

Pentecost is one of my favourite festivals because it reminds us that the Holy Spirit came

in power that day and enabled the disciples to do amazing things. The Holy Spirit, described as the breath of God, is an empowering presence today, aiding us as we strive to be agents of God's love and grace in the world.

We also believe in the power of prayer – to bring comfort, healing and hope to those in need. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, either directly or through someone you know in the church. We are here to support you during life's challenges and rejoice with you during times of celebration.

As we embrace May and all it has to offer, let us also take time to appreciate the simple joys of life: the laughter of children, the warmth of the sun on our faces, and the love that surrounds us each day.

Rev Helen Champion

Thank you to Charlie Burnett who has been the bell tower captain at St Leonards for several years. He has rung the bells summoning us to services on a Sunday and organised teams of bell-ringers for weddings and special occasions. Charlie tells us he is moving from the area so is no longer able to continue as captain. We all wish him well for the future.

Our bells will be silent for the time being but hopefully someone willing to take up the reins (or should that be ropes!) will come forward soon. Please let Helen, Gill or any of the PCC know if you or someone you know would be interested.

## *Who's Who in the Church*

**Parish Priest:**  
**Rev Helen Champion**

**Churchwarden:**  
**Gill Howell**  
Interment and burial of ashes enquiries

**Church Administrator:**  
**Jenny Cunningham**

Wedding & Baptism Enquiries

Parish Safeguarding Officer  
**Sue Downey**

PCC Secretary  
**Kay Hutton**



*If you or your family wish to sponsor the lights in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or for any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details.*

*Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the preceeding month.*



### *500 Club Winners for April*

First Prize	£30	No.	50
Second Prize	£20	No:	53

# L EASTER N T



Lent was a busy time for the church with lots of things going on.

The Lent lunches were once again a big success with lots of people coming to enjoy the lovely home made soup, bread rolls, and fruit, cheese and biscuits all served by volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped and joined in. The proceeds from the lunches have been donated to the Raise the Roof fund.



The Maundy Meal was also much appreciated by those who attended and there was a full house again this year. We were treated to a delicious Lamb Tagine, Flat bread and couscous, followed by ice cream. All served again by Gill and her team of volunteers, your efforts are much appreciated.

*Thank you everyone*

After the meal a communion service was held by Rev Helen.



Unfortunately the Good Friday walk to Prinknash had to be cancelled owing to the large amounts of rain we've had and the fields were far too muddy for a walk to be pleasurable. Not to be outdone by the elements, coffee and hot cross buns were served in the school room and those who wanted a walk set off around the village. The Sunday communion service was well attended. Rev Helen included the children present in her sermon, she got them to identify objects



she pulled from her mystery bag to see if they were related to Easter. It was surprising just how many everyday items which, when some thought was given, were actually part of the Easter story





*Mothers' Union*

At the March meeting members enjoyed learning about the Gloucester Talking Newspaper from their Chairman, Bob Coles. During the week, the Editor selects items of Gloucester news mainly sourced from the "Citizen", details of local events, items of general interest, the times of sunrise and sunset and recent death announcements. Every Monday a team read out aloud and record the items and next day each issue is "burnt" onto USB memory sticks. This is done by volunteers from Rotary@Kingsholm who organise putting them into pouches and posting them off free of charge under the Post Office's "Articles for the Blind" concession. Each pouch has an exterior clear envelope which holds a card with the recipient's name and address on one side and the Newspaper's address on the other, in case they are not received back in time for the next edition spares are held. They welcome volunteers as Sound Recorders, Recyclers, Readers and Editors so if you are interested please contact them. USBs can be played on most computers and some televisions. If you haven't got a suitable player Gloucester Talking Newspaper can provide a simple one.



On Palm Sunday Katie Moore of Grove Court Farm was enrolled into the St Leonard's Mothers' Union Branch, following in the footsteps of her late mother-in-law, Val Moore. It is great to welcome a new member especially as she has indicated she wishes to play an active part in the running of the Branch.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 May in the Old School Room at 2pm when the Rev Marilyn Sharland will tell us tales of being "A Chaplain at Sea" Knowing how amusing and entertaining her sermons are it should be a very enjoyable afternoon. She always sends us out "With a Smile!" Everyone is welcome to come along and join us.



Kate Gale – Branch Leader

Samaritans Purse



Operation Christmas Child

Organising the shoe box appeal carries on right throughout the year and not just in the period leading up to Christmas. So wrapping Christmas boxes is nothing unusual in April for the volunteers who arrived at the school room recently.

Equipped with sticky tape, wrapping paper, baubles and beads, scissors, stickers and stamps they set to work with a will and produced everything in the photo, wash cloths made into teddies, and prettily decorated tubs full of hair accessories and craft bags were assembled ready for the packing days in November.

Jenny is always glad to receive any empty shoeboxes so please contact her if you have any to give.

Thank you

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View from the french windows

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# Information

## *The Lady Downe Trust* (Registered Charity no. 286577)

Are you intending to go on to further education this September? Going to college or university? Then the Lady Downe Trust may be able to help.

The Lady Downe Trust is a small charity based in Upton St Leonards that provides grant aid to residents of the parish who are in need, or to support the education of local children and young people under the age of 25.

Visit our website [www.ladydowne.org](http://www.ladydowne.org) for more information, to see a list of the eligible streets in Abbeymead, Abbeydale and Coopers Edge or to download an application form.

Alternatively, you can request a form from the clerk at [clerk@ladydowne.org](mailto:clerk@ladydowne.org)

**If you are a student going on to further education in September, remember to apply for a first-year grant (see website)**



## Upton Climate Group - Repair Cafes

Discussion took place around the idea of a Repair Cafe in Upton.

For information, there are now 16 Repair Cafes in Gloucestershire including Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud areas.

The point of having such places is for people in a community to repair items that might otherwise be thrown into landfill and help their neighbours re-use them. Most Repair Cafés offer repairs across the following areas: small household appliances, sewing, computers and bicycles. Other repairs are possible depending on the skills of the volunteers present that day: sharpening, repairing jewellery or wooden objects, etc. Many of these workshops meet on a monthly basis but frequency would be decided by the people who get involved.

### Is This Something Anyone Would Be Interested In?

The first step is to see if anyone who has skills in repairing items eg electrical, furniture, clothing, other, would be interested in supporting such an idea. If yes, please contact Peter Wilson with your contact details and what you could offer as a skill.

If there is sufficient interest, the Climate Group will explore potential spaces that could act as a workshop, look at any relevant issues that need to be considered and get interested people together to discuss the way forward.

## UPTON ST LEONARDS TENNIS CLUB NEWS

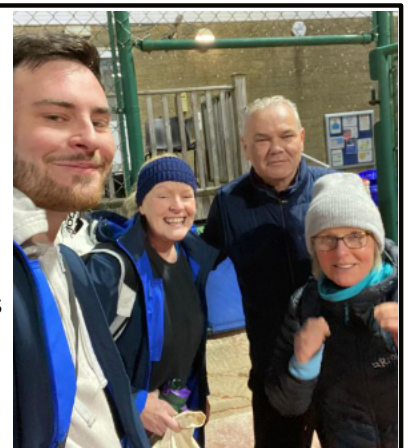
Upton St Leonards Tennis Club have been enjoying a successful couple of years in the Dunlop Gloucestershire Summer and Winter Leagues.

After re-joining the summer league in 2022 and topping the table to be promoted to division 4 for 2023, the ladies doubles team exceeded expectations after some very competitive matches, earning the points to once again be promoted. Division 3 is now the next challenge for the ladies team this summer.

To add to the club's success, the mixed doubles winter league team fought off some very stiff competition in division 4, to finish second in the table and, with it, promotion to division 3 for the 2024/25 winter season. This feels like a great achievement, finishing ahead of some of the larger clubs in Gloucestershire.

There is plenty to celebrate at the village tennis club with the team's success, and anyone wishing to compete in the league or join our friendly club for recreational tennis, any age or ability, please email [usl.tennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:usl.tennisclub@gmail.com) for information on memberships.

You will receive a warm welcome.



## CCS TAIKO (Taiko is the ancient Japanese art of drumming)

Back in 2010, amidst the ancient small town of Lostwithiel, Cornwall, came the most mesmerising murmur of what appeared to be distant drums. Following this beautiful sound as it crept louder to my ears, I eventually came upon four youths playing an intricate piece of music on a set of large drums and it was magical. It captured the very depths of my soul and I wanted it to go on forever!

I found Taiko. The drumming spoke to me – it evoked deep emotions. My immediate thought was perhaps Taiko could provide a means for children with special or additional needs, for example autistic youngsters. Could this be a route to communication? This exciting potential decided to occupy my every waking thought thereafter. CCS Taiko (Collective Conscious Society), non-for-profit, was born.



Six months down the line, having researched Taiko; sought and undertook intensive training in how to teach Taiko, I was ready to approach my first challenge - Milestone School in Longlevens. After much discussion and deliberation, their amazing headmistress was prepared to allow me to examine my thesis on a few select pupils. With the bare minimum of equipment (we began with cut-to-size broom handles, played on the backs of chairs.(Yes really!!) The sessions took off and became a great source of joy to those pupils and transformation of some by way of vocalization and confidence was evident in terms of their improved communication. I am pleased to say that, after some fourteen years or so, the sessions at Milestone remain and many pupils, I believe, have benefited from their interaction with the group.

After growing interest in Taiko became apparent, the group expanded to offer community workshops to all ages from ten years upwards. The emphasis being on inclusivity thereby anyone of any age - both typical, with special needs or any particular ability or disability they may present with, are welcomed to the group. The second emphasis is about fun. Integration and acceptance being the principals of CCS. Perfection has never been a priority with the group, but the emphasis is all about enjoyment.

In 2021, CCS Taiko was taken over and is now owned by my grandson, Joe Bond, from USL himself, who is one of the original players in the group. Joe is carrying out a spectacular job in modernising and running CCS, whilst continuing with his work as an accomplished kit drummer. In fact, Joe has integrated his full drum kit into the CCS programme, which created the first Taiko group in the country to incorporate kit and Taiko drums. It's brilliant! He has just completed updating the website which can be found at [www.ccstaiko.co.uk](http://www.ccstaiko.co.uk) and provides contact details; workshops; costs and much more for anyone who may be interested. The next plan is to form CCS Junior Taiko as a separate entity.

**Peter Hewitt, Artistic Director / Sensei.**

**Joe Bond, Principal**

**The band are hoping to hold a concert in support of "Raise The Roof" so keep a look out for details in USL Life**



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Admin [peter@ccstaiko.co.uk](mailto:peter@ccstaiko.co.uk)  
Web [www.ccstaiko.co.uk](http://www.ccstaiko.co.uk)

**| TUITION, WORKSHOPS AND CORPORATE EVENTS**

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## MAY

1	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
1	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
1	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
2	Thu	Polling Day	Village Hall	
5	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
6	Mon	Bank Holiday		
6	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
6	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00.p.m.
7	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
7	Tues	Needles & Pins	The Old School Room	9.45a.m.
7	Tues	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
7	Tues	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
8	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
8	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
8	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for June issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
12	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
13	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
14	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden waste for those with Brown bins		
14	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
14	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
14	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
14	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
15	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
16	Thu	History Group – The Jet Age Museum and Aviation Art By David Hunt	Village Hall	7.45-9.15p.m.
18	Sat	Twaddle Racing	Village Hall	
19	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.30p.m.
19	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
22	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
21	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
21	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
21	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
21	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
22	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
22	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
22	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
22	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Fri	BMI AGM	BMI	8.00p.m.
26	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
26	Sun	Comedy Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
27	Mon	Bank Holiday		
27	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
28	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden waste for those with brown bins		
28	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
28	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
28	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
28	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
29	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
29	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
30	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

## JUNE

3	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
19	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
22	Sat	Summer Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
27	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m
29	Sat	Barn Dance	Farm Shop	Time t.b.a

## JULY

1	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
17	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
18	Thu	History Group – AGM and talk on Margaret Malden By Edward Wyatt	Village Hall	7.45-9.15p.m.
20	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
21	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.30p.m.
25	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

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

## Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	<b>07876 764425</b>
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	<b>01452 614227</b>
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	<b>07505 761420</b>
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Yoga	Wednesdays 6.30	Village Hall	Kat Hill	<b>07507 971578</b>
Tai Chi	Thursdays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	
Pilates with Sam	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Sam Slatter	<b>07894 757360</b>
Seniors Fitness	Fridays 10am	Pavilion	Ian Preston	<b>07306 334222</b>

**NB - Seniors Fitness has changed to Fridays and is now led by Ian Preston.**

### Some things on in the Area

- 1-6th May - Cheltenham Jazz Festival**
- 1-31st May - Bird Flying experiences at the Cotswold Falconry Centre**
- 4th May - Sandford Parks Lido Cheltenham opens**
- 7th May - Legend - the music of Bob Marley, Everyman Theatre**
- 9-12th May - RHS Malvern Spring Festival**
- 10th May - Paul Young at Roses Theatre**
- 10-20th May - Giffords Circus at Sudeley Castle**
- 18th May - Family Dog Show, Painswick Rococo Gardens**
- 25-27th May - The Gloucester Tall Ships Festival**
- 27th May - Cheese Rolling at Coopers Hill**
- 27th May - Tetbury Woolsack Races**
- 29th May - The McCartney Songbook, Roses Theatre**

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## Birth

Kelly and Nick Cannock are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Arthur William, brother to Penelope. Congratulations to the proud parents from all on the newsletter team.



## Obituaries

### Pauline Fairbrother

We are saddened to inform our readers of the death on 1 April of Pauline Fairbrother who lived in Bondend. Pauline moved to Upton in the 1970s with her family. She was a talented needlecrafter and regularly won prizes at Village Shows. Latterly Pauline was a member of the Stitchers Group and contributed to their work producing blankets, mittens and baby clothes for those in need. Our sympathy goes to Angela, Ian and Laura and all Pauline's family and friends.



---

### Mrs Leslie Leithead

Leslie came to live in Upton St Leonards many years ago, following the loss of her beloved husband, Charles, who had a very important medical post in Ethiopia. Four children were left to be loved and cherished by Leslie, who returned to London with no home or job, to make a new life for her family.

By some miracle, she obtained a very good job in the science department at Ribston Hall School, and raising Karen, Michael, Alison and David. Of course she rose in the ranks of Ribston, and was respected (and loved) by those at school over many years. Eventually, a few years ago Leslie moved to Wimborne in Dorset to be nearer her family.

And so it was, that as dawn broke on Palm Sunday, Leslie passed away in her sleep at the grand age of 94.75 years .... "her busy world was hushed, the fever of her life was over, and her work done".

We pray that God will grant her "... a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at last". It remains only for me to say how fortunate very many of us in the village were to have such a friend. She will be sadly missed.

Meg James

---

### Max White

We are sorry to announce the death of Max White who lived in the Village in the 1990s and 2000s. Some will remember that he was Secretary of the Parish Church Council for some years in that time.

## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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

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### Next month's editor Barbara Swindin



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# We have a new Coffee House in Upton!!

Some of you may have noticed that our new coffee house opened on 1 April and the Upton Builders family would like to thank everyone who came on their opening day for your support.

Upton Builders was formed in 1988 by Dean, the father of the family (who has since retired)). The company continues to be very successful and is now run by the three sons and son-in-law.

There are also three daughters and daughter-in-law, who whilst involved in the company, wanted to create something for the village that they grew up in and love and the Coffee House is their project.



From left to right are - Laura, Jo-Dean, Courtney, Ruby and Jenna

Together with some of their children, they are very pleased to be bringing a new facility to Upton where local people can meet and have a chat over a coffee and have a bite to eat (see picture of the team above). They are looking forward to meeting local residents over the coming weeks and months.

The family would like to thank village residents for their patience whilst the building work has been taking place and all changes have been completed with the recent resurfacing of the car park.

They have free WiFi for anyone who needs to access the internet whilst enjoying what's on offer (see the menu below).

The Coffee House is also dog friendly which is a great advantage for those who enjoy walking around the village with their dog/s. There is a maximum number of 4 dogs allowed at any one time and they need to be kept on a lead.

The Coffee House Opening Hours are as follows -

Monday to Saturday are 08:30am-4:30pm

Food is served from 09:30am-4:00pm

Sundays the Coffee House is closed

Please come and give us a go!!

## Toasties & Paninis

Cheddar Cheese & Red Onion Chutney  
Chicken Breast & Monterey Jack Smoked Cheese with BBQ Sauce  
Chorizo & Red Leicester Cheese with sweet chilli sauce  
Wiltshire ham & Cheddar cheese with wholegrain mustard  
Bacon, Brie & Cranberry Sauce

## Sandwiches

Bacon, lettuce, tomato with mayonnaise  
Wiltshire ham, cheddar cheese & tomato  
Chicken Breast, bacon & lettuce with mayonnaise  
Cheddar Cheese & tomato

All £6.75 - All Paninis, Toasties and Sandwiches served with a side of rocket, balsamic glaze & a side of lightly salted Tyrells crisps. Toasties/Sandwiches available in White or Brown Bread

## Hot Drinks

Latte £3.50  
Americano £2.65  
Cappuccino £3.50  
Espresso £2.50  
Flat White £3.50  
Filter Coffee £2.65  
Mocha £3.75  
Pot of Breakfast Tea £3.50  
Green Tea £3.50  
Hot Chocolate £3.50  
Mini Hot Chocolate £2.25  
Decaf also available

## Cold Drinks

Coke/Diet Coke £1.30  
Bottled Water £1.30  
Ribena £1.30  
Apple Juice £1.15  
Orange Juice £1.15

## Frappes

Oreo Cookies & Cream £4.50  
Strawberry & Cream £4.50  
Chocolate & Caramel £4.50

## Cakes

Muffins £1.80  
Kinder Chip Cookies £2.50  
Viennese Whirls £2.50  
Triple Chocolate Brownie £3.50  
White Twix Brownie £3.50  
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Kinder & Nutella Blondie £3.50  
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Flap Jack £3.50  
Short bread £3.50  
Sliced Cake £2.50

## Extras

Double Cream £0.50  
Scoop of Vanilla Ice Cream £1.00

## Extras

Marshmallows £0.35  
Whipped Cream £0.35  
Syrup £0.35

For Special dietary requirements please speak with a member of staff