

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 3

November 2014



Remember Remember the 5th of November ! Why not celebrate with your fellow villagers - see over



News *Report*

Bowden Hall Farm planning application

In August 2013 a planning application was submitted to Stroud District Council seeking outline permission to build 15 new homes on land at Bowden Hall Farm. The Parish Council and a number of village residents raised objections to it. At a meeting of Stroud's Development Control Committee in February this year, the senior planning officer recommended that the proposal should be accepted. However the Committee decided instead to defer the application to obtain an independent flood risk assessment.

In April the applicant appealed against the deferral, and it was announced on 2 October that the Government's Planning Inspectorate upheld the appeal. Outline planning permission has therefore been granted.

If you wish to see the plans, objections, debate and decisions, all the papers can be read at Ebley Mill or on line from Stroud's web site. Look for the planning reference S.13/1844/OUT.

Bonfire Night There has never been a better excuse to bundle the family up in hats and scarves than the annual Upton St. Leonards fireworks display!

Gates open at 5:30pm, with various games like “guess the name of the bear” and “find the long lost treasure within the village”. The Scouts will be selling glow sticks and we will also have sweets and chocolates available inside the hall.

If you're feeling hungry, there will be a delicious range of hot dogs, cheeseburgers and jacket potatoes for sale, all from the local farm shop in Portway, as well as hot drinks and soups to ensure you stay warm.

The bonfire will be lit at 6:30pm with Chipmunks Day Nursery creating the Guy Fawkes. Then get ready for the skies over USL to be illuminated with fireworks, dancing to music, dazzling colours and the rockets fizzing away.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who make the night possible. Without these people, our traditional village social events could not happen. If you would like to help get involved in social events within USL please contact Jackie Lord on the night, or call her.



USL Bonfire Night
Wednesday 5th
November 2014
At the Village Hall,
Bondend Road

Gates open 5:30pm Bonfire lit 6:30pm

**Hot food and drinks available as well as various games
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Upton St. Leonards People

Gill Mew

Many of us enjoy discovering interesting friends and neighbours and Gill and family are a talented bunch. Gill plays saxophone, piano and clarinet and performs Jazz and Swing with *The Cotswold Big Band*, who you may have heard playing at the Upton Flower Show in September. They perform at many venues, including the 'Sunset Specials' events at Bristol Zoo.

Gill's husband Steve plays bass guitar and sings hits from 1960's to the present day in the highly successful *Over the Hill* band. Their seventeen-year-old daughter plays piano, dances and sings and is inundated with bookings for her *Emily Jane Mew Trio*. Emily sings every genre from Jazz and Blues to Pop and demonstrated her talent at the village Jubilee celebrations and the flower show. She hopes to pursue a career in musical theatre in the West End and many predict that her dreams will be realised. She will be performing at the Kings Head for Halloween on 31st October.

Gill remembers listening to her own father's Frank Sinatra records at their Stroud home; she was 'brought up on the rat pack' and so her love of music began. Her musical talent was discovered early by junior school teachers and she began piano lessons at 7 years of age. Her own experience suggests that children's potential must be spotted early and she regrets the fact that cuts in music education reduce opportunities for children.

A degree in Music from Leeds University followed and her first job was playing clarinet and saxophone on Cunard Mediterranean cruises. However, she quickly tired of 'playing the same thing' and applied to teach music at Cheltenham College. She was appointed in 1988 and still teaches there some twenty-six years later. Gill also began teaching at Pates Grammar School in 2004. She organises concerts and tours for both schools and recently toured Pates' jazz band around Belgium. Cheltenham College jazz group also play at a yearly fundraising fashion show. This is one busy lady!

Gill's love of Upton began when she used to visit a school friend, Dinah Lammiman, who lived in Perry Orchard. Serendipity saw the Mews move there in 1993 when they found a house that 'they just knew' must be theirs. 'There's always a lot going on here' she says and they support many village events. Upton is convenient for travel and is 'everything you could wish for'. She hopes that developments won't affect the calm of village life.

A special memory for Gill was when her band was the headline act at an Essex millionaire's daughter's wedding reception. They felt out-of-place in jeans but were invited for canapés and drinks on 'the lawn'. They spotted a little jazz band entertaining the guests and were stunned to realise that their second on the bill was Acker Bilk! It was a proud night.

So, look out for Gill, Steve or Emily playing somewhere soon – you'll have a great time!



Interview by Kathryn Alderman

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What's been going on in Upton !

UPTON ST LEONARDS GNOME HUNT

Wow! What an amazing afternoon, the weather couldn't have been better, the village was buzzing with Gnome Hunters of all ages. The Hall was packed with people enjoying homemade refreshments served by a great team of ladies – you know who you are. A really great atmosphere and we were all totally overwhelmed by its success. The event has raised £2,000 to date and I know the local charity FOCUS – Funds for **O**ncology Centre **U**sers and **S**upporters will be so pleased and use it in helping people suffering from cancer visiting our Gloucestershire Hospitals. We have had positive feedback and many requests to make it an Annual event for another charity. So next year WATCH THIS SPACE! We are lucky to live in such a lovely village.



Refreshments for tired walkers



Some gnomes awaiting starter's orders

Many thanks to all the businesses, residents and friends who have generously sponsored the *GNOMES* :-

Trevor & Rachel Hall

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Bath Clothing

Mr & Mrs Hacker

Heather Rogers

The Stratford Family

The Hawksworth Family

The Barnes Family

Mr & Mrs Shotbolt

Mrs Rosalind Pearce

The Wheeler Family

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Gloucester Street Forge

The Home Service (1995) Ltd

HypnoBirthing Gloucestershire

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Vicky Guy at St Austell Brewery

Christchurch Abbeydale Craft Circle

Mercure Gloucester, Bowden Hall Hotel

Pearson May Chartered Accountants-Bath

Partners and Staff at Brockworth Surgery

Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School Staff

Plus many friends who wished to stay anonymous

We also wish to thank Morrisons, local Police, everyone who has helped take part in this event and last but not least the residents of Upton St Leonards who have kindly hosted our *GNOMES*.

Best wishes Marilyn & Mike Bannister

There was a **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** on 20th October but there is no report on it in this edition. At the moment the Parish Council meets every third Monday, which is usually too late in the month for our printing schedule (it was OK last month). The Parish Council is considering whether to move to meetings earlier in the month. Otherwise, if we insert reports, they will be very out-of-date by the time you read them.

Upton St Leonards Life

is now a Limited Company, formed to produce this newsletter. It has been registered as a "Community Interest Company", or CIC for short, a type of company structured for non-profit making organisations supporting the community. Peter Wilson and Andy Russell are the founding Directors, Cliff Alderman is the Company Secretary and Ian Crowe is the Treasurer.

USL Football Report

After a cracking start to their season in the Stroud League Division 1, the Football Team stumbled in October with two defeats and a draw. They are fourth in their division as we go to press, having Won 4, Drawn 1 and Lost 3.

The Reserves, currently 11th in Division 4, have Won 1 and Drawn 2 and Lost 4 from their 7 games so far.

Home Fixtures in November are :

1/11 : USL v Tibberton

8/11 : USL Res v Old Richians Res

15/11 : USL v Kings Stanley Res

22/11 : USL Res v Berkley Town Res

29/11 : USL v Longlevens Res

Keep Alert !

UPTON ST LEONARDS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Between 8th September and 9th October the public have been involved in contacting the Police on 24 occasions mostly passing on or seeking information about their concerns. Of the crimes reported over the period there was 1 domestic burglary, 2 commercial burglaries, a theft of and theft from a car and 1 reported incidence of violence.

This just shows that even in a quiet village on the outskirts of a city there are always people moving around looking for opportunities to commit crime and make easy pickings. There are many ways to deter offenders who generally make their decision about "having a go" from walking or cycling past a property. **Does the property look cared for, are there opportunities to breach security whilst not being seen, are there other people about, are neighbours at home, does the property look empty, is there a Neighbourhood Watch, are there any windows open, is there an alarm, is the door likely to be locked – all these questions go through the offender's mind in a quick assessment and should the fruits line up he may have a payday.**

Your security will depend on the converse of the above:

If your front door cannot be seen by your neighbours due to growth in the front garden, cut it back and make use of natural surveillance. Don't allow easy access to the rear of your property. Join or start a Neighbourhood Watch and get the signs up, consider an alarm system. And the last two most important points –

- be it your home your car or your shed lock them and don't have items that may tempt offenders on display – *Over 30% of all burglaries occur by offenders entering insecure premises.*
- Make your home look occupied even though you are out – *this is especially important in the late afternoon and early evening now the clocks have gone back. Light timers are cheap, easy to use and reliable.*

Please consider joining Neighbourhood Watch with a registered scheme and if you want more information please contact me.
Crime cannot flourish in a community that cares!

Alan Hardacre

Gloucester Watch Administrator, Bearland Police Station

Contact : 335253 or alan.hardacre@gloucestershire.police.uk

Police Advice - Cold Callers

In response to some recent door knocking in USL by people of no fixed abode looking for work and particularly targeting elderly women on their own, the following advice has been provided :

- A) Never agree to any work unless you have obtained 3 quotes from 3 different tradesmen**
- B) Never agree to having any work done there and then**
- C) Always insist on a written quote on headed paper with their business address as well as their contact number**
- D) Always use the 7 day cooling off period to decide if you want the work done, before you agree to the work starting**
- E) If unsure of any quote please contact your local police as we are always happy to offer advice by calling 101**
- F) Remember you don't have to let them in**
- G) Ask to see any salesperson's official ID and find out exactly where they are from**
- H) Don't sign anything even if they're only offering a quote**
- I) A trader must advise you in writing that you can cancel any contract. If they don't, they cannot hold you to anything in the contract**

Khim Mortimer, Police Community Support Officer

In Remembrance

USL Commemorative Project

Like the realisation of those involved in the dark times of World War One, our Project won't be over by Xmas, but it is moving ahead steadily. As many will be aware the Parish Council agreed to coordinate the various commemorative elements including a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) which is underway. This will hopefully cover the restoration of our War Memorial (completed during our fine summer weather - doesn't it look better ?), support the copying and publishing costs of Mike Stratford's wonderful WW1 Exhibition held in August and, building on research and activities so far, enable future educational visits to Gloucestershire Archives by the two schools and by adult groups too.

We aim to plant a new commemorative tree on the Village Green to replace the Cedar which had to be removed recently.

Finally, a major element is the planned erection of two wooden memorial plaques on the south wall inside the church to record the names of the 37 men from Upton who gave their lives during the 1914-1918 conflict. They will be placed adjacent to the existing WW2 plaque beside the Royal British Legion standard. The Church Authorities have approved the plan and once their consultation period is complete and the HLF bid is agreed the plaques can be made. A suitable ceremony will be held to unveil the plaques when ready and will be announced by Rev Christine in good time.

Following on from Mike Stratford's exhibition, if any parishioners have discovered further details they can share about life in Upton during the Great War, or about the menfolk from the village who fought, please let Mike or me know via the Parish Clerk on email : uslclerk@btinternet.com

Roy Roberts, USL Parish Councillor

Behind the statistics of the huge numbers of men who fought in the First World War of 1914 - 1918, there are stories of bravery, tragedy, injury and suffering, not only of the men themselves but also of the families left behind.

Upton St Leonards was at that time a traditional English Village and from this rural community 209 young men went to war; most were volunteers, and many went overseas. In those days it was considered "your duty" to defend your country and fight for freedom. Of this number, 37 did not return and several local families were left bereft. The War Memorial near the village church is dedicated to the loss of our local men. There will be many stories untold as those who returned were often reluctant to talk about the darkest days of their lives.

Most people in Upton will recognise the name of "Birchall". The Birchalls were a wealthy family who originated from Leeds having built their fortune in the woollen trade. Aurthur Percival Dearman Birchall, the eldest son, was already a soldier at the start of the war, in Canada. He entered the war with a Canadian battalion, losing his life in 1915 at the first German Gas attack near Ypres in Belgium. He was 38 years old. He has no known grave though his name is recorded on the Menin Gate.

His battalion of which he was Lieutenant Colonel funded a bronze plaque and donated this to the church in Upton. Edward Vivian Dearman Birchall, Arthur's brother died in France on the 10th of August, 1916, his 32nd birthday. He had been shot in the leg and it is told that he would not leave his position to receive medical care at the time. The wound became infected and he died from his wounds in a field hospital.

... cont'd over

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In Remembrance - cont'd



Sydney Millard

He is buried in Estaples Cemetery and was posthumously awarded the DSO for his brave deeds. The Village Hall in Upton St Leonards is dedicated in memory of the two brothers, and also a third brother who died whilst away at school.

The Millard family lived at Pincott Farm. They had moved to the Village from Deerhurst and in 1901 William Millard died leaving a widow Alice, seven sons and three daughters, who completed their education at Upton school.

At the outbreak of war Sydney Millard joined the Gloucestershire Regiment. Before the war he had played rugby for Gloucester and had played at Twickenham. During his time in France Sydney and his Gloucester teammates played a rugby match against a team of rugby players from another division. In 1916 the news came that Sydney had been killed on the 3rd July, the third day of the Somme offensive. He has no known grave but is recorded on the Somme Memorial to the missing at Thiepval. He is also listed on the memorial at Gloucester rugby ground along with some of his teammates.

Harold Millard also joined the Gloucestershire Regiment and in 1917 another telegram arrived with the sad news that he had died of his wounds on the 7th of October. He was 28. As was Edward Birchall, Harold was buried in the Estaples Military Cemetery in France.

Four other sons of Alice Millard joined up; Leonard and George joined the Gloucester Hussars, Edward joined the Royal Field Artillery, and Henry is also listed as serving during the war. To their mother's relief they returned home safely, although we will never fully know the effect of the war on those who lived to tell the tale.

The Ridler family who lived on Upton Hill sadly lost two sons; William in 1916 aged 22, and Henry, who died in 1918 at the age of 20, less than one month before the end of the war. Upton St Leonards was no different from many villages and towns throughout the country. Families were left bereft, scarred and struggling to come to terms with their new conditions. This was a war that was to end all wars and yet in just over 20 years the country was at war again!

Music for Remembrance in Gloucester Cathedral

Hector Berlioz wrote his "Grand Messe Des Morts" to commemorate the dead of an even earlier conflict. This Requiem is one of the largest scale classical choral works ever written. To perform it, the combined forces of Gloucester and Bristol Choral societies plus extra singers join with The Philharmonia Orchestra. The music is on such a large scale that it is hardly ever performed, so you may never again get the chance to hear it live! It includes four brass bands placed around the Cathedral to give a huge spatial dimension. Saturday 22 November at 7pm. Tickets from the box office at 01242 572573 or via the Gloucester Choral Society website.

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2014

The usual house to house sale of Poppies will be made in the fortnight leading up to Remembrance Sunday. Please give generously to help our servicemen / women and their families. Thank you to everyone who helps with the collection. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to get involved, please contact us !

We are also hoping to have the Poppies on sale at Morrisons and we need as much help as we can get to cover the dates between 26 October - 9 November. Any time that you can give us will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you - see contact details below -

House to House Collection : Jenny Cunningham

Morrisons Collection : Meg James



Celebrating Our Innovative Nature - Festomane

Can you name three everyday items invented and made in Stroud District?

The lawnmower? Green baize cloth for snooker tables? But what about the inflammable material that was used in the fuselage of Concorde and in the suit worn by Niki Lauda, helping to save his life when he crashed during a race? Or how about the adjustable spanner, the lightning conductor, a material that is used in open heart surgery, or the world's first 3D printed bicycle?

Stroud District's long and distinguished track record in manufacturing and engineering goes unnoticed amongst many residents, yet nearly 24% of people living here work in this sector in some way. The creativity and innovation that makes this area one of the industrial powerhouses of the UK is celebrated during **Festomane**, 24th – 29th November 2014. It's a week-long festival of events highlighting achievements past and present, which was started by Neil Carmichael MP, and Neil and his staff still provide the coordinating role for organising the festival.

On Monday the 24th, the 'Creation and Innovation Revealed' Exhibition at Stratford Park Leisure Centre gives you the chance to meet some of the innovative companies based in the district, and learn more about what they do. At the Museum in the Park on Wednesday, the 26th, the spotlight falls on our history: alongside displays compiled by local history societies will be a special preview of the Redler's Collection, prior to a major exhibition next year. A special talk in the evening discusses the history of Dursley's Mawdsley Mill, and how past industry is still with us today. A special morning seminar on Thursday 27th provides support and guidance to small and medium sized businesses to help them develop and expand. Entry to all these events is free.

The week rounds off on Saturday 29th with the Girl Power! workshop aimed at girls considering their future careers. Talks by successful women working in this sector, demonstrations and a Q&A session provide an insight into the potentially well-paid and rewarding careers on offer in manufacturing and engineering.

For more information about the whole week's events, visit www.festomane.co.uk or ring 01453 751572.

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CHURCH NEWS for the Parish Church, Upton St Leonards

The Priest-in-Charge, Rev Christine Birkett writes ...

Dear Friends“Remember, remember the fifth of November.... “

Well, November is quite a month for remembering. It is a month that emphasises how important remembering is in our Christian tradition; how remembering has formed our worship today, and how it strengthens our plans for the future.

We begin the month remembering All Saints' Day. This is a day to remember the great heroes of the Christian faith, whose lives drew others to Christ; from the famous saints of the New Testament right through to the present day. We remember that we too are called to be saints, here and now, to shine as lights in the world, and by our lives, draw others to Christ.

Celebrating All Saints' Day began in the fourth century, so we are following a great Christian tradition. Next comes the remembering of All Souls' Day, 2nd November. It is sometimes known as the 'Commemoration of the Faithful Departed'. This is the day when we remember that "in Christ all the faithful, both living and departed, are bound together in a communion of prayer". We pray with thanksgiving for those who have gone before us in faith, and ask that we may be strengthened by their examples.

On the 6th November we remember our patron Saint Leonard of Noblac.

November 11th sees the great Act of Remembrance: remembering those who have given their lives in the service of others in the two world wars and other wars. A day to remember with gratitude, and to pray for peace and justice in the world. On Sunday 9th we remember this event both in church, and also at 11am at the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial outside.

But alongside all these special days of remembering, week by week, we celebrate another act of remembrance together: the Holy Communion.

"This is my body, this is my blood, do this in remembrance of me", said Jesus to his disciples. The Holy Communion is the central act of Christian Worship, the act of remembrance that Jesus gave to his disciples to continue. The great saints that we commemorate in November did just that, and they would exhort us to do the same: "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, that is my Gospel" (2 Timothy 2:8).

But such Acts of Remembrance cannot be just for their own sakes: we remember so that we can be strengthened, learn and move out in mission. We remember those great Christian saints who have gone before us, so that we can be inspired by their examples in our lives today. We remember those who gave their lives in war, so that we can learn from the past and strive for peace and justice in the world today. We remember and receive Jesus' gift of his body and blood each week, so that we can be strengthened to go out and do His will. "Remember, remember", and in the spirit of remembrance let us give thanks for the past, value the present, and move forward together in mission.

With every blessing and prayer,



Christine

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Meet the Church Team - This Month Chris Mitchell

Chris was born in Stroud, Gloucestershire. He met his wife Pamela when he was 17 where they both worked part time at a Ford dealership. They were married at St Paul's Church, Whiteshill, Stroud. On 1st Sept they celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Chris and Pamela have two sons and a granddaughter.



After leaving school Chris worked as an apprentice at Wicliffe Motor Company Stroud. He qualified as a mechanic and parts specialist. During his career he has worked for most of the leading car manufacturers, Audi, VW and Chrysler. He currently works as an Operations manager for Mercedes-Benz.

He likes to spend his spare time with his family. He enjoys music, films, photography and sport, especially Rugby and is a Leeds Rhinos supporter.

Chris is Chairman of the Church fundraising committee and a member of the Parochial Church council.

He has recently enrolled on the "Mission Shaped Ministry" course.

Lee Abbey with Upton St Leonards Mission

From Thursday 27th November until Sunday 30 November we will be joined by a team of 12 young people of various nationalities who live, work and pray together in a Christian Community known as The Lee Abbey Movement – a sort of modern monastery.

Our visitors have offered to work alongside us, the local church in a faith sharing mission which will be focused around a series of creative and vibrant fun filled events in the days leading up to Advent Sunday.

Some of these activities might include:

- Men's / Women's breakfast event
- A creative "cabaret" style gospel presentation
- School assemblies or classes
- Coffee mornings or supper parties - with a talk and sharing.
- Meditation/Reflective/Taize style service
- Input at services including drama & music
- Quiz evening.

If you would like to be involved in our mission then there are lots of ways that you can help. We are particularly in need of people to be able to help with catering or be able to offer bed and breakfast for one or two of these folk, or just come along and join in. Please get in touch with Rev. Christine.

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Wednesdays

10:00 - 10:45 Abbeydale Community Centre

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NICEIC
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The Archdeacon of Cheltenham, the Venerable Robert Springett, reflects on the First World War#

In August our Cathedral gave a whole day to reading the names from war memorials across the county of all those killed in the Great War. It was deeply moving, a reminder of how that war affected almost every family and community.

Its deepest power was though simply in the reading of names. Names are so precious, the way in which we are known to each other as father, son, daughter, husband, partner, lover and of course they are the way in which we are known to God, whom the psalmist says formed each one of us in our mother's womb, who call us, who holds us as beloved.

As the names of those killed in the Great War recede into the carved stone of our memorials it would be easy to forget them. In this centenary year let us remember them, the humanity, the vulnerability, the uniqueness of each person, and those who loved and mourned them.

In our world today where still innocent victims of every race and creed lose their lives in war and conflict, it is in this remembering that we discover anew our common humanity, our hope for peace and commit ourselves to a better future, for which they laid down their lives that we may have a new heart and a new spirit.

Lest We Forget

When the fighting of the First World War finally ceased, many people wanted to find a way of honouring the thousands who had died – as well as providing for those soldiers who had been left injured from the conflict.

Three years after the guns went silent, in 1921, the British Legion was formed. The organisation adopted the poppy as its symbol of hope and remembrance, wearing one on their lapels as they turned their thoughts to those who had fought in the conflict.

The problems facing First World War veterans when they returned to the UK continue to affect serving personnel and veterans today: whether living with bereavement or disability, finding employment, or coping with financial stress. The Royal British Legion, which was awarded the Royal title in 1971, continues to work to improve their lives.

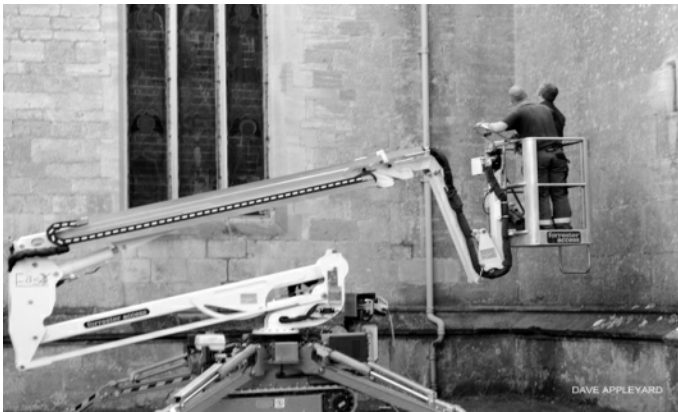
Today, more than 45 million poppies are distributed each year with 95 percent of people taking part in Remembrance events. This year it has set a national fundraising target of £42 million towards helping men and women of the military.

To find out more about the work of the Royal British Legion and how you can support it, visit www.britishlegion.org.uk/

Read further Gloucester diocese news from <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/news/publications/the-messenger/>

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION

Just a reminder that the Quinquennial Inspection is a statutory survey of the church building and graveyard every five years by an approved architect, which must be funded by our church together with the cost of completion of all repair work identified. The picture below shows the architect about to inspect the tower and roof!



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CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER	
SUN 2nd	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT 08.00am - Holy Communion 11.00am - Communion for All (All Saints) 6.00pm - Evening Service (All Souls service - with refreshments
THU 6th	7.00pm - Film night in Church in honour of St Leonard, (Patron Saint of Prisoners) 'Cool Hand Luke' with Paul Newman
SUN 9th	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10.45am - Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial 11.15am - Remembrance Service Holy Communion 7.30pm - Fundraising meeting in the Village Hall
WED 12th	2.00pm - Holy Communion hosted by Mothers' Union
THU 13th	7.30 pm - Quiz in the Village Hall
SAT 15th	
SUN 16th	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT 8.00am - Holy Communion 11.00am - Communion4All 6.00pm - Evening Service
SAT 22nd	12 midday - Wedding
SUN 23rd	CHRIST THE KING 8.00am - Holy Communion 11.00am - Communion4All 6.00pm - Evening Service
THU 27th	7.30pm - Lee Abbey Mission Team Introduction with Worship
FRI 28th	11.00am - Coffee Morning with Lee Abbey Team (Venue to be announced) 3.30pm - Afternoon Tea with Lee Abbey Team (Venue to be announced) 7.00 pm - Quiz night with Lee Abbey Team and Fish and chips
SAT 29th	8.00am - Men's Breakfast with Lee Abbey Team 11.00am - Walk to Prinknash and Lunch with Lee Abbey Team 7.00pm - Cabaret and Supper in church with Lee Abbey Team
SUN 30th	ADVENT SUNDAY 8.00am - Holy Communion 11.00am - Communion4All and bring and share Lunch with Lee Abbey Team 6.00pm - Evening Service (TAIZE)

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge:

Reverend Christine Birkett

.

Churchwardens:

1 Vacancy

2 Vacancy

PCC Secretary:

Ceri Darley-Jones

Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Roger Fry

Mothers Union:

Rachel Hall

Church Flower Rota:

Evelyn Rumsey

Electoral Roll Officer:

Naomi Stanley-Gunn

Fundraising Committee & Church News Rep:

Chris Mitchell

Upton St Leonards Church

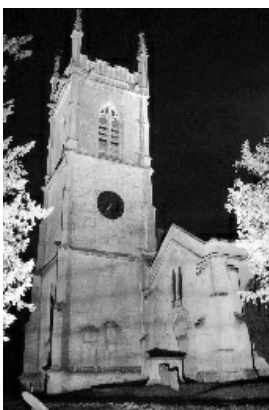
proudly presents

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In a special seasonal concert

December 5th @ 7.30PM. Admission £5 (includes glass of mulled wine) Tickets in advance from Rachel Hall & Sheila Thomas

Upton St Leonards Parish Church Tower Flood Lighting Sponsorship



On 2nd November, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the baptism of Bradley Drew taking place in the Church on that day. Kindly sponsored by his loving parents, Mark and Donna Drew and his loving family.

On Sunday 9th November, the Tower Lights are lit in memory of the birthday of the late James Williams and his family.

On Wednesday 12th November, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the 12th birthday of Benjamin Davies. Kindly sponsored by his proud grandparents, Brenda and Keith Davies.

If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or for a loved one's life or any other reason then please contact Matthew Gibbs There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to gift aid any donation this will help us too.

To arrange sponsorship of the Tower Lights please contact Matthew Gibbs for more details.



MEMORIAL SEAT

Some memorial plaques have now been placed on the “Memorial Seat” on the Village Green. The photo is of Mrs Pat Innes sitting alongside the plaque for her son-in-law, Mike Ponting, late husband of Sally.

For anyone wishing to commemorate a lost one there are still some spaces left and you should contact Roy Balgobin. The cost for a plaque is £80.

BMI Autumn Quiz

With 15 teams at the recent “Autumn Quiz” at the BMI it was a fun evening with an amount of £136 added to the current year’s nominated charity which is “Research into Alzheimers”. The next quiz will be on Saturday 10th January 2015. Teams consist of just 4 players each, with the cost being £5 per team.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan coffee morning at the BMI on Friday 26th September was again a huge success. With a vast array of “enticing” cakes on offer, they were hard to resist.

A total of £334.30 was raised on the day which included a raffle and apart from the occasion being for such a worthy cause, it was also a nice way of getting together with friends.

Trees Along The Motorway

Once again this issue has raised its head. Residents of numbers 50 to 60 in Woodland Green have an issue with a number of Leylandii trees that run along the rear of their properties. These trees, about 10 in all have become very tall and are blocking light from their homes; some are also looking in poor condition and are a little worrying.

They approached the Highways Agency (HA) and a meeting was arranged with their landscape maintenance agents Skanska. The Chair of USL Parish Council, Keith Pearson, attended this meeting. It was made clear that the residents did not want the trees completely removed (the preference of the HA), just reduced in height and tidied up. The Agent agreed to go away and apply for the funds for this work although obtaining them was not a certainty. If the funds are made available the trees will be reduced in height to around 15-20 feet.

There are other trees behind the Leylandii so the screening of the motorway will not be greatly affected and of course the trees will soon grow again, which in time will cause a similar problem.

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS FAYRE INCORPORATING XMAS TREE FESTIVAL - IN THE CHURCH

The Festival and Fayre will open at 7.00 pm on Friday December 12th, with mulled wine and raffle on entry. We are looking for stall holders willing to sell Christmassy homemade produce of food and crafts. Donations are also welcome. Stalls are available for 2 purposes : -

- Free stalls are available to raise church funds
- Stalls for personal profit will be charged at £5

If you would you like to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival, please bring your own tree decorated with a Christmas theme. (Please note only battery operated lights can be used). The church will be open to receive decorated trees on

Thursday December 11th 3.00 - 4.00 pm

Friday December 12th 10.00 - 11.00 am

The Fayre opens at 7 pm on Friday December 12th, and the church will also be open on Saturday 13th 10.30-3.30 pm

All enquiries to Sheila Thomas or Rachel Hall.

Village Groups

SCOUTS - DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

1st Upton St Leonards Scout Troop is a mixed Troop of 10 to 14 year olds. The Troop meets at the Village Hall from 1900 to 2100 on Fridays during school term time.

A typical Scouting year will see a week's Troop camp during the summer break, a winter weekend hiking in the Brecon Beacons and an overnight expedition in the Autumn. We also encourage our members to participate in activities organised by Gloucester District and Gloucestershire County, as well as working on as many of the 70+ Activity Badges we can offer and ultimately, the Chief Scout's Gold Award - the highest award a Scout can achieve whilst in the Troop.

As part of the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation, we change lives by offering our young people fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we can make a positive impact in our community.

Scouting helps children and young adults reach their full potential. Scouts develop skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self motivation, cultural awareness and commitment. This is possible thanks to our adult volunteers, who support Scouts in a wide range of roles from working directly with young people, to helping manage a group, to being a charity trustee. We help volunteers get the most out of their experiences at scouts by providing opportunities for adventure, training, fun and friendship.

Our award-winning training scheme for volunteers means that adults get as much from Scouts as young people. Our approach focuses on what you want to get out of your involvement whilst respecting how much time you can offer. Over 90% of Scout volunteers say their skills and experiences have been useful in their work and personal life.

For further information, please contact Paul Baker, Group Scout Leader, 1st Upton St Leonards Scout Group.

Upton St Leonards Badminton Club - every Tuesday, 8.30pm, Village Hall

We are a non-league club, so there are no pressures to play at the highest level to maintain your place in the team in order to get a game. We have a mix of ages and abilities and the emphasis is on including everyone with games being arranged to give everyone a chance of success on the evening. Yes, it's the taking part that is important, but we all want to win sometimes! Once a year we do add a competitive element with a club tournament. It's not compulsory but most enjoy the chance to play for the trophies awarded at the end of the evening.

Our club is very much a social one and away from the badminton court, we try to organise one or two social events or trips each year and range from BBQs to Skittles evenings and before Xmas some members are going GoKarting !!. Our visit to see the All England Badminton competition in early March at Birmingham has become an annual fixture.

If this has whet your appetite to pick up a racket and give it a go, have a look at our website www.uslbadminton.co.uk for more information, or call Tony Sharpe, or come along on a Tuesday evening. First evening is free to new members and then it is £2 a week when you play. All you need is a racket, we provide the rest, and if you want to give it a try for a week or two, you can usually manage to borrow a racket as well.

UPTON ST LEONARDS WI

Upton St Leonards WI meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.30 p.m. The evening starts with WI news – events that are taking place within the next few weeks and reports on those that have happened recently. We then have a speaker with talks on a wide variety of subjects. After the speaker has finished it is social time when members have a cup of tea or coffee, buy from the bring and buy table, sign up to the various activities available and chat to friends. At the end of the evening the raffle is drawn. Visitors are very welcome to join us at our next meeting. We would love to meet you. Our AGM is in November and our speaker will be Lizzie Ellis from the Donkey Sanctuary, while in December entertainment will be provided by The Wide Valley Singers.

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Natural Definition by Kate

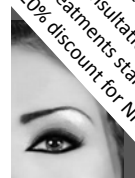
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**FUN DAY FOR THE BBC CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL, AT THE B.M.I.
SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER, 12.30 'TIL LATE**

Children's "Decorated cup cake" competition (For children under the age of 11) – entries please by 1.30p.m. for judging @ 2.00p.m.

Adults – make your favourite pudding competition (Entries please by 5.30p.m.) for judging @ 6.00p.m. after which they will be sliced and offered for sale

Children's "Decorate a Christmas Bauble" (50p per bauble-glue and glitter etc. provided)

Fabulous lots in our "Auction" from 8.00p.m. (Secret bids may be left during the day on any item if you wish)

Children's Balloon Raffle

Tea and coffee available. Cake sale

Seasonal Crafts, White Elephant, Plant Sales

Bar open

Adults Balloon Raffle

Evening Entertainment with "Smokestack"

Please come and support this event and help us to raise our target of £500

QUIZ NIGHT

**Calling all quiz enthusiasts
We are holding a quiz night
on Saturday November 15th @ 7.30
in the Village Hall.
Entrance fee £5.00 per team (4)
Come along for a fun evening.**

For more information call Chris Mitchell

THERE IS A TROPHY UP FOR GRABS

Where's the kids' page?

It will be back next month, when it will be designed and written by year 6 children at the Village School. Something to look forward to!

Christchurch Abbeydale Christmas Concert

An advance notice, so you can mark your diaries. Once again Christchurch hosts The Salvation Army Band and Songsters on Tuesday December 16th at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 Adults, £1 Children, including refreshments. Admission will be by advance ticket only, obtainable from David & Kath Barber.

FLOWER SHOW AGM

The Upton St Leonards Flower Show
AGM is to be held on

Thursday 27th November 2014

Upton St Leonards Pavilion
Starting at 7.45 p.m

All will be welcome



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News from your Village Agent Lou Kemp

As I write this article, the sunny Indian summer has ended abruptly and so I thought it would be helpful to look at schemes available to help us stay warmer this winter.

The Council backed Warm and Well advice line has been helping people tackle their energy bills and make their homes more comfortable for over 10 years. Since 2001, they've given advice and provided grants to thousands of local households helping them to stay warm and well.

In certain areas of Gloucestershire, if you're on specific benefits or over the age of 60, you may even be able to receive financial support for installing loft and cavity wall insulation. Even if you're not eligible for a grant, you can still get advice.

If you're worried that your home is particularly inefficient and wastes a lot of energy, they have local qualified assessors who can carry out a Green Deal Assessment on your home as a way of giving your home a health check to ensure it is doing all it should and is fit for purpose. You may need one of these assessments if you are looking to access funding.

Recently my colleagues and I helped out at a "pop up" dementia shop in Stroud which ran for 2 days. It had been organised through "Fair Shares" and anyone could come in and get advice and information regarding memory loss and dementia. It was a great success and I hope that we can do more of these types of events Fair Shares is a brilliant scheme whereby you can access a "time bank". Time banking is a system of two way volunteering; for every hour of your time you put in, you earn an hour of help in return.

They have been organising wheelchair friendly / dementia friendly walks at Stratford Park in Stroud. Trained walk leaders will help those who need assistance but if you need a carer, they should come too. November's dates are Friday's 7th and 21st, meeting at 10.30 outside the Museum in the park for tea and coffee for an 11 a.m. set off and if the weather is bad, there will be an inside activity.

The Alzheimer's Society has a lot going on too which might interest some of you. There is an art group held in Gloucester on Tuesdays 10.30-12.30, Nov 4th and 18th and Dec 2nd, 16th and 30th. The Gloucester Directions Group is for those with loved ones in care and they meet on a Monday, 11.30 onwards on Nov 3rd and Dec 1st with an optional lunch to follow. Finally, "Good 2 Go" is a support group for working age adults with dementia, their family and carers. They will be meeting Nov 26th, 11.30 onwards with an optional lunch to follow.

Carers Gloucestershire are running their "Positive Caring programme" for 6 weeks on a Tuesday morning from November 11th through to December 12th. Help can be given to get replacement care and transport if necessary.

Useful Contacts

Alzheimer's Association : Jane or Jeni 01452 525222

Carers Gloucestershire : 01452 500885 or Email
positivecaring@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Fair Shares : 01453 706555 or Email:
emma@fairshares.org.uk

Warm and Well 0800 500 3076

Cud Hill Common

Upton is lucky to own a piece of unimproved limestone grassland at Cud Hill Common. This is common land and used to be grazed by sheep. It is now grazed by a few cows over the winter. In the spring and summer, the grassland is allowed to grow and flower. This year there was a splendid show of wild grassland flowers, starting with cowslips, and followed by five species of orchid and then two species of knapweed and two of scabious. The flowers encourage a large number of different butterflies. Late in summer and early autumn there was a small patch of autumn gentian flowers - easily overlooked but a scarce flower worth preserving. (Editor - the picture on the right hardly does this beautiful flower justice; the purple petals and green leaves and grass are nearly indistinguishable from each other in grey-scale)

The views from the top are splendid on a good day - over to the Malverns, around the beechwood-covered escarpment, down towards the Severn Bridge and over to May Hill. It's well worth a visit.

Several volunteers from the village pick up litter, control the spread of brambles and ragwort, and maintain the footpaths. They have also repaired the traditional Cotswold stone wall along Sevenleaze Lane which forms the southern boundary of the common.

Ruth Ineson.



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NEW

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 Events happening weekly are only shown for
 the first month or so

VILLAGE DIARY

NOVEMBER

1	Sat	Event for Children in Need.....	B.M.I.....	12.30p.m.
2	Sun	Rabbit Club.....	Village Hall.....	10.30p.m.
3	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
3	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
3	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-10.00p.m.
4	Tue	Zumba Gold.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-10.45a.m.
4	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
4	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
5	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30am
5	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
5	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00pm
5	Wed	Bonfire & Fireworks.....	Village Hall.....	5.30p.m.
5	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
5	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
6	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
6	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
6	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
7	Fri	Tai Chi.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-11.00a.m.
7	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45pm
10	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI- Annual Meeting/Wine and Cheese.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-10.00p.m.
10	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for December issue		
11	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
11	Tue	Zumba Gold.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-10.45a.m.
11	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
11	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
12	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30am
12	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00pm
12	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8pm
12	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
12	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
13	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
13	Thu	Zumba.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-8.30p.m.
13	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
14	Fri	Tai Chi.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-11.00a.m.
14	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45pm
15	Sat	Quiz.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
17	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
17	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00pm
17	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
17	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.30-7.30
17	Mon	Parish Council Monthly Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
18	Tues	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
18	Tue	Zumba Gold.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-11.00a.m.
18	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
19	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
19	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30am
19	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00pm
19	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8pm
19	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
19	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
20	Thu	Painting & Drawing.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.00-9.00pm
20	Thu	History Group - Roman Gloucester.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
21	Fri	Tai Chi.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-11.00a.m.
21	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.15-2.45pm
24	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-11.30am
24	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
24	Mon	Fitness Training (2 separate sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
24	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.

25	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-12.00p.m.
25	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
25	Tue	Zumba Gold.....	Village Hall.....	10.00-10.45a.m.
25	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
26	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30am
26	Wed	Upton Ladies Probus	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
26	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00pm
26	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8pm
26	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
27	Thu	Get Together Club - Christmas Songs	Village Hall.....	2.30p.m.
27	Thu	The Upstagers Variety Show	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
27	Thu	Flower Show AGM	Pavilion.....	7.45p.m.
28	Fri	Tai Chi.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-11.00a.m.
28	Fri	Yoga.....	Pavilion.....	1.45-2.45pm
28	Fri	The Upstagers Variety Show	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
29	Sat	The Upstagers Variety Show	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.

(Regular weekly events are not shown below this point)

DECEMBER

1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-10.00p.m.
5	Fri	Gloucester Brass Christmas Music.....	Church.....	7.30p.m.
6	Sat	Senior BMI Members Christmas Lunch.....	B.M.I.....	12.00p.m
6	Sat	Race Night for Gloucester Football Club.....	B.M.I.....	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Get Together Christmas Lunch.....	B.M.I.....	Time t.ba.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
12	Fri	Christmas Tree Festival.....	Church.....	7.00p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeyleading Gardening Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
20	Sat	Christmas Draw and Carols.....	B.M.I.....	7.30p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.15-10.00p.m.
24	Wed	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
31	Wed	New Year's Eve Party Night.....	B.M.I.....	7.30p.m.

JANUARY

5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-10.00p.m.
10	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
15	Thu	History Group.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.00p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeyleading Gardening Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
26	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
29	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

If you are organising an event and want it to appear in the Diary, contact Paula Quinn



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NEW - Talking Point

We have received a number of requests to provide a facility for Village residents to have their say in what is their Village newsletter. From this month onwards we will do our best to include anything that is received subject to editorial discretion. For example, we will not include any political views or direct criticism of named individuals etc

The title was a suggestion from a recent submission - thank you to ELVI (and for your positive comments).

The two methods of submitting content or answering any questions raised is either physically through the Village Hall postbox or via our newsletter website <http://usllife.co.uk/> We look forward to receiving future items.

Walking through the Perry Orchard allotments over the years has been a real pleasure – almost a walk into the past, when it was a necessity for survival to grow food to put on the table. Today I strolled once again through the plots. What a joy it was. Vegetables and fruit being coaxed gently into fruition, not so much for the anxiety to end hunger pangs, but for the very special tastes you can only get when you pick “straight off the vine”. I have often bumped into folk along Dirty Lane with their wheelbarrows or large bags who are going to the allotments to pick their green beans, sprouts or fruit for their evening meal. How satisfying and enjoyable that social occasion must be. I have never seen the Perry Orchard allotments looking so bursting with health and love and care. Exquisite flowers bind to the edges of the allotments, giving God’s creatures their nectar. When it comes to winners at the September Flower Show, to everyone with an allotment, you are all winners. You would be quite right if you sensed a feeling of, dare I say, envy, running through these words; my attempts to grow anything are dismal, so I’m off to Morrisons to buy a tin of peas!
Anonymous

Editor’s note: We would not normally accept anonymous material but we couldn’t resist including this one. Maybe the correspondent will identify him/herself to us and start a regular column of material like this?

I am curious about the old sundial in the Churchyard near the main gate.

Can anyone in the village decipher the inscription for me please? Also information on its history would be of interest.

Elvi

Personal Column

The family would like to thank everyone for their support, sympathy and empathy shown since Kathleen passed away.

We were all overwhelmed by the number of people who attended her service.

David Chave & Family

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Treasurer: Ian Crowe

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Did we miss you?

If Upton St Leonards Life was not delivered to your door (and you live in the village!) contact us. Our standard arrangement is to aim for delivery during the last 4 days of the month before, so if you haven't received your copy by, say, the 2nd of the month, please call Jenny Cunningham.

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