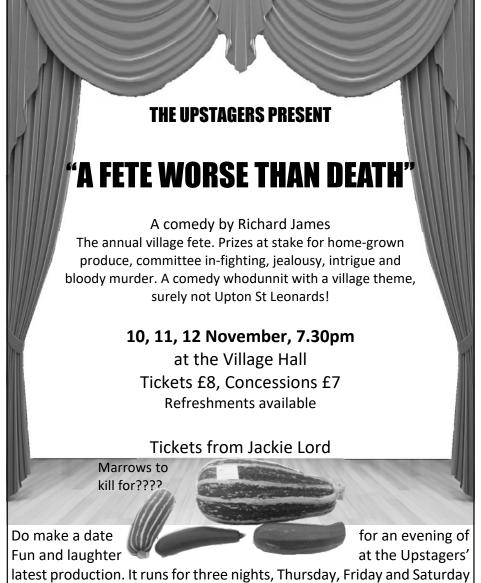
Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 27

UPTON SI LEONARDS

November 2016



10th, 11th and 12th of this month, in the Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm.

M5 Motorway noise - will we ever get anything done? See the Parish Council's latest ideas, including a note on how you can help. Page 8

FIREWORKS!

Note the date: FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

at the Village Hall

See inside on page 7 for more details

IDEAS FOR THE VILLAGE

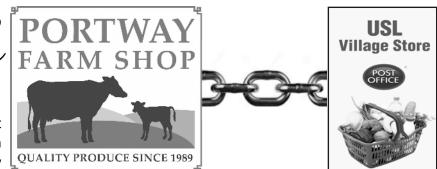
The Parish Council asked you to submit ideas for Village improvements which the Council could then fund and make happen, if feasible and affordable. On page 7 you can see the list of ideas sent in.

Did you know?: November 6th is St Leonard's Day in many old Church calendars

This and past issues of USL Life can be viewed on the web at usllife.co.uk

Portway Farm Shop línks to the Víllage Store

In a development that should benefit villagers and other customers and both businesses, the Village Store is now stocking produce from the Farm Shop.



Have a look in the freezer and the chiller cabinets at the Village Store to see the meat products marked with the Farm Shop logo. Support your local businesses!

The Painswick Beacon Conservation Group (PBCG)

The PBCG is a voluntary group that works to conserve and enhance the Beacon.

The group organises working parties to clear undergrowth, maintain footpaths, tidy litter, etc., and also works with local farmers to get cattle grazing each year. Cattle do a wonderful job in clearing rough grass and preserving the areas for wildflowers and other wildlife.

The group is looking to increase the number of helpers. Of course many of the visitors to the Beacon are from Upton, so maybe you would like to join this group?

In recent articles in the "The Beacon", our sister newsletter in Painswick, the PBCG wrote:

"One member has been on a scything course with a view to using it to

control invasive weeds and cut back grass which can't be grazed. We are experimenting with reseeding flowers using hand collected seeds or hay taken from nearby."

"Large quantities of timber have been removed from the north slope at the entrance to Long Quarry and we made a start at cutting and dabbing the regrowth of ash in the main quarry."

"The cattle have been grazing paddock 2 for a month, at time of writing, and the results are highly visible. In due course they will be moved to one of the paddocks on the other side of the beacon to continue the good work."

This gives an idea of the sort and scale of work undertaken by the PBCG.

Our own Village's USCAN footpath group has for quite a few years had a

very similar role on Cud Hill, which is of course part of Upton parish adjacent to the Beacon. Urged on by the USCAN group, the Parish Council (who own the land) have organised cattle grazing each winter, and this year's animals are about to start grazing there.

On Cud Hill the USCAN group has been picking up litter, clearing ragwort, and battling the bramble patches (at the moment the brambles are winning I think, but we'll keep going) in preparation for the grazing.

To join or just learn more about PBCG call Paul Baxter .

Contact for the Cud Hill group is Andy Russell .

What's been happening in Upton ...?

The Glevum Big Band Concert

A full Village Hall was treated to the Big Band sound, and a great pleasure it was too! Thoroughly enjoyed by all present. (See a letter, page 12, from visitor who was there)

Lots of old favourites from the Glenn Miller era and later

were played. Lovely smooth tones from the trombones, and that Big Band characteristic sound from the saxophone section. For an amateur local musical group this was a really polished performance. Maybe just a small criticism is that there was not enough variation in style, tempo and volume.

Get Together Club

On the 29th September the Get Together Club had a great afternoon listening to the Twyver Ladies Choir, singing some popular old songs as well as excerpts from contemporary musicals. The harmony of these local singers was admired by all with many members joining in the singing. Tea, homemade scones and cakes were served.

The next month's meeting, on Thursday 27th October, is the Autumn Lunch in the Village Hall starting at 12.45 pm for 1.00pm. This year we are having local Farm Shop Sausages and Mash followed by Apple Crumble and Custard.

Entertainment will be by "George Formby" (*aka* our very own Matthew Sproston) together with his "little ukulele".



There was some variation - a few lovely vocal and instrumental solos scattered through the programme, and some pieces that were more jazz than swing. And audience participation with a few brave dancers (well done Mac and Rose!). We all joined in enthusiastically at the right points in the "Tequilla Samba". There was a very generous sized and tasty "ploughman's" to eat in the interval.

The concert was organised by the Church, with the ticket and raffle money going into the building fund. We are told that it raised over £1,000 - a fantastic achievement.

Tennís Club Quíz

Always a fun evening, the Tennis Club quiz took place in the Pavilion on Saturday, September 24th and was much enjoyed by all those that took part.

Our thanks go to Julia for organising the quiz and providing us with much mental stimulation!

A donation of £45 was sent to Sue Ryder from funds raised on the night.

Diary Note: Next year's tennis club quiz will take place on Saturday, 23rd September, 2017

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Pauline Sugdon

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What's been happening in Upton (continued)...?

TWYVER WI WALKERS

Six of the Twyver Walkers were up for the October 4 mile ramble led by Millie Barnes. It was a delightful, and at times challenging, walk from Cranham, up through Buckholt Woods following the Cotswold Way. The views from the top of Coopers Hill (who would ever want to run down there?) were rewarding, and soon after we found a welcome coffee stop with beautiful views over Witcombe and beyond. The route led us round to Cranham, where we had lunch at the Black Horse. (The picture, from left to right, shows Trisha Hales, Jackie Hunt, Jackie Clouting, Pauline Sugdon and Millie Barnes)





UPTON WI

At the October meeting Adrian Bull showed us how to have a perfect weed free lawn and how to deal with various pests whose aim in life is to spoil our green space. With the help of the slides he showed us, we are now able to identify "nasties" and deal with them. We were very grateful that Adrian was able to come at short notice because the booked speaker was ill.

The Upton WI Luncheon Club meal at the Painswick Golf Club was very much enjoyed and the group will meet again at the Royal William on 1st November.

Our next meeting is on 7th November and this will be our AGM. This will be followed by a quiz. We do need some new committee members!

TWYVER WI

The meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of a dear friend and member, Penny Wyatt who had sadly passed away.

Some members took up the call by the British Legion to knit or crochet poppies for the 'yarn-bombing' of trees on Cheltenham's Promenade. The response was outstanding and I'm sure the trees will look fantastic on Remembrance Day.

Our speaker was one of our very own members, Sue Down, talking about the German Occupation of Guernsey during World War II.

Sue's parents were Gerald and Winnifred Bienvenu and the family can be traced back to the 17th cent. The war began in 1939 and in 1940 the Channel Islands were demilitarised. On

June 21st children and mothers with children under 5 years old were evacuated and Sue's mother was evacuated with her 5 yr old son. There were no more boats after 24th June and her father remained in Guernsey for the remainder of the war. 23,000 were left on the island. On the 28th June the harbour was bombed and on the 30th June a German plane landed and Guernsey was occupied. 20,000 soldiers were in Guernsey by the height of the war.

We were told about the difficulties that were faced under the German occupation. New rules were made, all weapons, boats, cars, cameras, fuel, even houses, were confiscated. There was no choice but to work for the Germans and there were serious consequences for anyone caught 'wrongdoing' - deportation or even death! (Continued on page 15)

The TWYVER WI Contact: is Margaret Buckley, This is a correction to the list of contacts in last month's edition.

ABBEYDALE GARDENING CLUB At the meeting in October, Ken Best, a founder member of the club, celebrated his 90th birthday. Ken and his wife of 68 years, Doreen, shared a specially made cake with all the members, following a 'This is Your Life' tribute read by Dr Andrew Nicholl.



THE COFFEE CLUB Autumn Charity Morning held at the BMI on Monday, 17th October, raised a staggering £492.70 thanks to the generosity of all those that came along and supported our chosen charity, **Crohn's & Colitis UK**.

Whether you made or bought cakes, bought books, bric-a-brac, raffle tickets or simply 'turned up' our sincere thanks go to you all. Special thanks must also go to Alec at the BMI for his contribution to the proceeds and his unfailing good humour as the coffee machine worked overtime!

Millie Barnes and Andrea Dawson

UPTON ST LEONARDS GNOME HUNT - 2nd October

Wow! What an amazing afternoon. The weather couldn't have been better and the village was buzzing with Gnome Hunters of all ages. The Hall was packed with people enjoying homemade refreshments, served and made by a great team of ladies. There was a really good atmosphere and we were all totally overwhelmed again by its success. This fundraising event has raised £1,700 to date and I know the local charity FOCUS - Funds for Oncology Centre Users and Supporters will be so pleased and use it in helping people suffering from cancer visiting our Gloucestershire Hospitals, and St Leonards Church PCC will use it wisely. The funds with be split equally.

We have had positive feedback and many requests to sponsor and host the Gnomes again next year. WATCH THIS SPACE! We are all very lucky to live in such a lovely village.

Many thanks to friends & neighbours who gave donations and cakes.

We also wish to thank Morrisons, the local Police, everyone who has helped and taken part in the event. Last but not least thanks to the residents of Upton St Leonards who hosted our GNOMES.

This cheeky chappie was snapped in USL Life photographer Jim Browne's garden. He seems to be offering to look after your vehicle, but of course he was sponsored by Cedar Motor House.



Many thanks to all the businesses, residents and friends who generously sponsored the GNOMES: hp air systems BMI Gifts be Mine, Bourton-on-the-Water Physical & Sports Injury Clinic Cedar Motor House Ltd. Christchurch Abbevdale Craft Circle **Roseville House Dental Practice** Chipmunks Day Nursery Portway Farm Shop Sugar Loaf Knit & Knatter **Bath Clothing** Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School Staff Mercure Gloucester, Bowden Hall Hotel Partners & Staff at Brockworth Surgery Foster Family James Family Lynn Higgs & Devina Blackstaff Hay Family Daniel, Oliver, Jacob & Noah **Price Family Clarke Family Barnes Family** Stratford Family Hawksworth Family Dawson Family **Heather Rogers** Wilson Family Mrs Rumsey Mrs Cox



Mission accomplished. Gnomes all found.

"The village pavements were buzzing with kids and their parents or grandparents searching for the gnomes. It was great to see so many people walking about."

The gnomes listening carefully at the mission briefing before going out to hide.



APOLOGIES

The article, written by Colin Freshney, a write-up on the Upton Show, on page 4 of last month's edition had its last paragraph cut off in mid sentence. The paragraph should have read:

"Finally a mention must be made to our star attraction, the Cotswold Big Band so ably lead by Upton's own Gill Mew who played all afternoon and in the words of one visitor 'held the show together'. Never fear Peter has already booked them for next year!"

Ladíes Probus Club's tríp to Laskett Gardens

On Thursday 29th of September, ladies from the Upton St Leonards Ladies Probus club gathered at the BMI to set off for an adventure.

Our first stop was at Much Birch in Herefordshire to visit Laskett Gardens, the home of Sir Roy Strong and his late wife Julia Trevelyan Oman.



Sir Roy Strong CH, FRSL, was born in 1935, grammar school educated he attended the University of London. He joined the National Portrait Gallery in 1959 and became its director in 1967. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was knighted in 1982 when he was appointed a member of the Companions of Honour. He has written many books and pursues a career as a freelance writer and broadcaster.

Julia Trevelyan Oman CBE trained as a designer at the Wimbledon School of Arts and at the Royal College from which she joined the BBC. She later had a distinguished career designing for film, theatre, ballet and opera all over the world.

The garden they created together was started in 1974. It stretches over four acres and is celebrated for the orchestration of surprise and its thrilling vistas. There are 20 different and contrasting 'rooms' including a rose garden, a knot garden, an orchard, a pleached lime avenue, parterres, herbaceous borders and the Colonnade Court. New additions



include an Italianate grotto and a pond approached through a winding woodland walk.

After an hour and a half wandering through this beautiful creation, we returned to our coach to travel a short distance to The Pilgrim, where we lunched in the delightful conservatory overlooking the Herefordshire countryside.

We returned home appreciative of this inspirational and unique garden, many of us hoping to return to savour the delights of a different season.

Teresa Clarke, President



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Parísh Councíl Report

Extracts from the Minutes of the October Meeting

Cattle will be grazing on Cud Hill this Autumn. (*ed: by the time you read this they will be there*)

The police have been contacted about concerns that there may be some drug dealing going on at the Recreation Ground.

The Council resolved to take further action to push for new M5 noise reduction measures. See the separate article on the next page.

The next stage of Pavilion refurbishment - new flooring downstairs - will commence shortly.

Following up on the request that residents should suggest ideas for tasks the Parish Council could take on to improve the Village, there was a discussion on the proposals. See the separate box to the right. Councillor Wilson and the Parish Clerk will now look at feasibility and costs for the ideas.

Ideas for Improvements

Thirteen people sent in ideas for the Parish Council to consider.

- Seven people wanted vehicle activated signs to discourage speeding drivers as they come through our village. Locations mentioned were Churchfield Road and High Street.
- Two asked for a zebra crossing or a light controlled crossing on Churchfield Road near the shops.
- There was a request for outdoor gym equipment at the Recreation Ground.
- One requested street lighting in Six Acres.
- There was one request for speed calming measures on Ash Path near the junction with Churchfield Road.
- One asked for improved visibility at the same junction.

There were also two requests that seats and picnic tables at the Recreation Ground and Glebe Field be removed because these encourage groups of youths to loiter and behave anti-socially.



Gates open 5.30pm. Bonfire lit at 6.30pm

THE CASE FOR A LOW-NOISE SURFACE ON THE M5

WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL DOING?

As most of you will know, your Parish Council has been lobbying Highways England with regard to the totally unacceptable and increasing noise levels from the M5. Over the past three years. meetings have been held when all aspects of noise mitigation have been discussed. Building new noise barriers where none exist, improving the noise absorbency of the existing, basic fences and replacing the long ago outworn low noise surface have all been raised as possible solutions, so far with no obvious improvements forthcoming. However, as there are now proposals for over 1000 new houses on sites within the Gloucester/Cheltenham M5 corridor, adding substantially to the homes already affected, the Council decided that now was the time to renew pressure to get something done.

At the September meeting, your Parish Council resolved to press for the installation of a low noise surface on the M5 through Upton and beyond. An early start on this work is being requested and although not a complete answer to noise pollution the effects are known to be substantial and well worth having. Improvements following the laying of low noise tarmac can result in noise reductions of up to 5 decibels. It was also agreed that the best way forward would be to present a combined front by engaging with our neighbouring Councils suffering in the same way. Therefore, in addition to our direct request for action, we are encouraging all local authorities abutting the motorway in the Gloucester/Cheltenham area (Junction 11a to 12) to follow our lead and petition the Government to make an early start. Our local MP's and local press, radio and TV are also being encouraged to join in the lobbying. This, it is believed, will present a more effective lobbying group than going it alone.

Officers from Highways England, the government agency res-ponsible, have recently visited Upton and agree that we do have issues that need addressing. They informed us that they already have a policy of low noise surface installation in sensitive areas but only when carriageways need resurfacing on safety grounds. At present, in their view, the M5 through Upton is not at a stage where replacement is needed and therefore a firm date for dealing with the noise issues could not be given. It is this lack of a clear programme that the Parish Council is now challenging.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

As with all matters relating to highway maintenance and improvement, clearly expressing concerns about problems to the appropriate agency is important. If you would like to add your own support to our campaign you can contact Highways England (SW) directly at: The Chief Executive Highways England SW St Brendan's Court,

Island Trade Park Bristow Broadway Avonmouth Bristol BS11 9FB

Finally, the Parish Council is continuing to pursue localised improvements in noise protection through the upgrade of existing inadequate noise barriers and the installation of new noise barriers where none currently exist

Keith Pearson, Chairman Upton St Leonard's Parish Council



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Sat

7am-6pm

Sun

7am-12pm

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Rahul and Seeta

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Dear Fríends

THE HOPE OF HARVEST.

During October the parish has held many Harvest services, commencing with the infants, juniors and parents/carers attending at St. Leonards on two days filling the church building. Chipmunks Nursery also had a harvest service in church.

For the second year St Leonards Church held its own celebrations on the Perry Orchard allotments.

With all this activity what does harvest actually mean? The visiting priest for the school services cleverly linked this terms school value for life - HOPE - to explain to the children (and adults) the real meaning. The HOPE of planting a seed in the ground and watching it flourish; the HOPE of the poor and hungry receiving sustenance to survive. Children brought a large quantity of provisions that was gathered by the church and was then taken to the Food Bank. This surely is the real intention of harvest. The word gathering is important. Jesus Christ the shepherd gathering his sheep into God's organisation. This is of true significance to true Christians. The

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:
Vacancy
Churchwardens:
1 Keith Robbins
2 Vacancy
PCC Secretary:
Roy Roberts
Church Treasurer:
Vacancy
Deanery Synod Representative:
Dorothy Cox
Bell Tower Captain:
Charlie Burnett
Mothers' Union:
Rachel Hall
Church Cleaning Rota:
Claire Appleyard
Church Flower Rota:
Evelyn Rumsey
Electoral Roll Officer:
Naomi Stanley-Gunn

To book baptisms and weddings please call Rachel Hall or Jenny Cunningham

Church Tuesdays - Coffee and Chat

See the calendar on the right. Do just come along! (Ed: at last I think I have the times correct - 9am to midday) pity is that today some people who profess to be Disciples of Christ have redefined harvest in tendentious terms of commercialism in the name of God.

On a lighter note:-

A farmer turns up to evensong and discovered that he and the vicar are the only people there. "What shall we do?" asks the vicar.

"Well", replies the farmer, "If I goes to feed my sheep and only one turns up, I feed her".

So after four hymns, two sung canticles, one sung psalm, two lessons, prayers for everything under the sun and a twenty minute sermon the service ends.

"If I goes to feed my sheep and only one turns up, I feed her" says the farmer on the way out, "but I don't give her the whole bag full"

God Bless.

Dave Kníght

CHURCH CALENDAR - NOVEMBER

Saturday 5th	Wedding at 12.30			
Sunday 6th 8.00am 10.00am 12.00pm				
Tuesday 8th 9.	00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat			
Friday 11th	Armistice Day vigil at the War Memorial - Silence at 11.00am			
Sunday 13th 10.50am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Assemble at the War Memorial. Silence at 11.00. At 11.05 parade to the Church for a short service, youth organisations, families and all.			
Tuesday 15th	Tuesday 15th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat			
Sunday 20th 10.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion - Revd David Eady Evening Service - Rachel Hall			
Tuesday 22nd 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat				
Sunday 27th 10.00am	Sunday 27th 10.00am Holy Communion			
Tuesday 29th 9.00-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat				

Tower Floodlighting Sponsorship Details

On Sunday 6th November, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the baptism service of Eleanor and George Howard taking place in St. Leonards Church on this day. Kindly sponsored by their loving parents Becki and Craig.

The Tower Lights are being sponsored on the 21st November, in memory of Mary Hunt on what would have been her 100th birthday, by her daughter Penny Owen.

24th November: Chris and Angelina Gibbs are sponsoring the tower lights to wish their Son Alex a very happy 30th birthday.

On Monday 28th November, the Tower Lights are lit in memory of Brian Hicks, who would have been 90 on this day. Sponsored by his loving wife Linda. Brian was father of 2, grandfather of 4 and great-grandfather of 4.

On the 28th November, the Tower is lit in memory of a very dear friend, Rev'd Peter Jackson, who died one year ago today. Very much missed by the Stock family.

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

* - please notice the new contact name and number for Tower Floodlight Sponsorship

The Church bells will be ringing regularly again (and a call for ringers to join the band)

You probably were surprised to hear them on a Wednesday evening recently. There will be a practice on the first



Wednesday of each month 7.30-9pm. New ringers are very welcome to join. The band is actually based at Barnwood Church, where there is a weekly practice (on Fridays), but they have decided to practice at Upton once a month.

Goodbye to Roger & Gill Fry

After 19 years of faithful service as the Bell Tower Captain for St Leonards fine peal of bells, Roger Fry has decided to retire. The sound of the bells ringing for state occasions, weddings and funerals is one of the iconic and loved features of our village. We have much to thank Roger and his team for keeping the bells (and clock chime) in good working condition.

So a big Thank You to Roger and Gill for all they have done to bring joy to the village. And a welcome to Charlie Burnett who has volunteered to take over as Captain. Volunteer ringers are always welcome - why not try your hand/arm/back and give it a go!

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Harvest Festival Service 2016

Repeating the "tradition" started last year, we had an open air service in the Perry Orchard allotments. Attendance was even better than last year - 50 or so were there. Thankfully it was a wonderfully fine and sunny Autumn day.

The harvest hymns were played by our great friends, the Gloucester Brass Band. What a wonderful sound to fill the Autumn air!

The service was led by Rachel Hall, ably assisted by churchwarden Keith Robbins and PCC chairman Dave Knight, with further support from Jenny Cunningham. Chris Clouting read "The Church Mouse" by John Betjeman, and Sheila Thomas read an extract from "Cider with Rosie" by Laurie Lee. There was also a reading given by Mike Blanch.

We need to thank Carol Evans and Paula Quinn for their help in preparing the allotment site.

After the service wine and biscuits were served, and then Keith Robbins was auctioneer as money was raised selling the produce which had been presented. The collection and auction raised over £230 for Church funds.



Many thanks to all those who took part.

Pictures by Carol Evans





Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for funds to carry out repairs to the Church

We require about £250,000 for urgent repairs to the church roof and an improvement to the drainage from the church. We will be making an application for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Grant.

The first stage of the grant process is a 'project enquiry' which has been submitted to the HLF organization and by the time this magazine is published, we hope we will have received their confirmation that we have a good case for making the grant application.

One of their requirements is that we will <u>open the</u> <u>church building for uses other than religious services</u> and we need your help - ideas on how else we could use the building. Will you therefore give this matter some thought and please let me know if you have any good ideas. Also if you would like to participate with a new activity it would be good. I think it will take about two months to complete the full application so I will remind you again next month.

These extra curricular uses for the church building will be coordinated by the Parochial Church Council but in the first instance will you send any ideas to me

We have various other actions in hand to improve the general quality of the church building, funded from our own sources and mainly carried out by volunteers. I will summarise these in future newsletters.

Mike Blanch

GLOUCESTER FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS



The Village Primary School Harvest Festival celebrations this year had a most appropriate focus on the Foodbank. A good time therefore for an article in USL Life.

There are Foodbanks county-wide. Our local Foodbank operates at the George Whitefield Centre in Great Western Road. It is not a religious group and is open to anyone who is in need that has been referred by an appropriate care professional.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy, loss of income through illness, to receiving an unexpected bill when on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems. In the UK today it is estimated that 1 in 5 parents skip meals to make sure their children have enough food. There is an increasing number of people who are not being paid a living wage or who are on zero hours contracts. It only takes a week off sick and not able to work resulting in no income, to get into difficulties.

Care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, schools and social

workers identify people in crisis and issue them with a Foodbank voucher. This entitles them to receive a Foodbank box of three days' nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food.

Foodbanks also offer a lot more than food. Volunteers provide a listening ear to clients over a warm drink, and signpost people to other charities and agencies who can help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis.

The food parcel given to people is put together sensitively to suit their individual needs, e.g. if it is for a family or one person; if they have a medical condition such as being diabetic; if they have the facility to heat food or have to have food that can be eaten cold. Every "parcel" is aimed to be balanced in its content from a nutritional aspect.

Foodbanks rely on the support of local communities to help stop UK hunger.

In Upton St Leonards, the Village Shop kindly provides a collection point.

Donations are collected in conjunction with Christchurch Abbeydale. Donations may also be left at St Leonards Church and Christchurch. The donations from these collection points are taken to the Gloucester Food Bank. Thank you for all your past generous giving. Please continue to support this worthwhile cause and remember that we do not know what the future may hold for us as individuals and it could be any one of us that is grateful for help and support at a stage in our own or a member of our family's lives.

As well as the direct gifts of food and household necessities, the Gloucester Foodbank is currently asking for gifts of money to help with its running costs. Please make donations directly to the Gloucester Foodbank, phone 309683, or by post to 107 Great Western Road, GL1 3NF. Do have a look at their web site: gloucester.foodbank.org.uk

As they say "Every Little Helps". Thank You. Dorothy Cox



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WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

On Armistice Day, Friday 11th November we will hold the annual "Vigil" at 10.55 am at the War Memorial. In common with those at War Memorials across the country we will pause to remember; a short silence will be held at 11.00 am.

On Remembrance Sunday, 13th, the Act of Remembrance will start at 10.50am at the War Memorial with the reading of the names of those from the village who gave their lives in the World Wars, followed by the Last Post, Silence and the Reveille. Uniformed organisations and all those attending will then parade to the church for a brief service for Remembrance Sunday. Mike Stratford will give a short talk on Villagers who never returned from wars. The ceremony and service should end by about 11.30.



We will remember them

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Please give generously, buy a poppy and wear it with pride!

Poppies will be on sale at Morrisons, at the Post Office and some roads will have house-to-house collections. If you can give some time to sell poppies, please contact Jenny Cunningham - house-to-house sales, or Meg James - Morrisons.



WILLIAM GEORGE RIDLER - died 18 November 1916

Continuing our series about Upton villagers killed in WWI, this month marks the centenary of the death of William George Ridler, during the final days of the Battle of the Somme. William was born in Upton. One of six children, he was the son of Albert and Alice Ridler of Upton Hill. He went to Upton School in 1898. He enlisted in D Company 8th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment as a Private with service number 15015. He went to France on 18th August 1915 and was killed during an attack on Grandcourt on 18th November 1916 age 22. He is buried in Grandcourt Road Cemetery, 11 kms north of Albert - one of 391 burials.

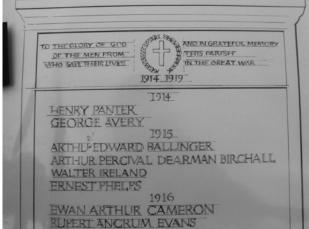
The Ridler family made a significant contribution to the war effort. Three brothers of William George also signed up and fought in France. Two of those survived but William's youngest brother, Henry, is named on the War Memorial. He was killed in 1918.

WORLD WAR ONE MEMORIAL PLAQUES FOR THE CHURCH

A long-running project has been underway to erect two wooden plaques in the church in the south wall (between windows and either side of the RBL Standard) to reflect the WW1 names of those recorded on the Village War Memorial. Together with a Book of Remembrance detailing such information as is held on the 37 local men who gave their lives, this will provide an educational and informative opportunity - particularly for the younger generation - to become better informed on the lives of those from Upton

who never returned from war. It is hoped that the young folks and any adults with local knowledge will be inspired to conduct further research and expand the history already held. The plaques are being created by a local specialist carpenter and a local sign-writer - a sketch plan for the plaque is shown on the right.

The estimated cost of the project is £2120 and the Lady Downe Charity has very generously pledged £1000 towards it. National Lottery and War Memorial Trust funding has regrettably been declined and, with some more local charity funding likely, the project needs an additional £500 to reach its target. There are 37 names on the memorial - a £10 donation for each would give us £370 - almost enough! If you are related, or just share a surname, or just wish to contribute, please contact the Churchwarden Keith Robbins or PCC Secretary Roy Roberts (project sponsors for the PCC) to make a donation to the PCC. Thank you.



Letters to the Edítor

Both of this month's letters relate to Church affairs, so it is right to place them here, just after the church pages.

Glevum Big Band Evening

As a visitor to Upton St Leonards I was not expecting to spend such an exciting evening.

On the 24th September the Village Hall was filled to capacity. The Glevum Big Band, a group of experienced musicians, obviously in tune with each other, hit the right notes by playing popular numbers from previous decades. The star attraction was the seventeen year old vocalist who had a wonderful voice.

Brave couples entertained us by dancing on the floor space provided. Tables of eight to ten people, which were nicely decorated with a flower arrangement, enjoyed a substantial Ploughman's Supper.

It was a happy, relaxed and vibrant atmosphere which was enjoyed, especially as it was in aid of a good cause, the restoration of the Village Church

Margaret Meadows

The Churchyard

With all the recent work done on it, the churchyard looks really well kept. Congratulations to those who worked so hard.

However, can I make a plea for part of it to be designated to be managed to let wild flowers grow and encourage wildlife? Many churchyards do this - indeed the Diocese encourages it. Here's a poem written by my mother on the subject, when she was on the PCC at another church:

Our churchyard, to a tidy mind, Is of a rough and weedy kind, But all among the lichen'd rows, The primrose and the cowslip grows, And ladysmocks in Spring arise, To lure the orange tip butterflies.

In Summer, dandelions bright Present a very cheerful sight, And daisy faces star the grass, To charm the faithful as they pass, In Autumn, seeds and berries there, Provide a feast for birds to share. And as I hope this wildness stays, I say to those with tidier ways, "Your loved ones underneath won't mind The ivy and the bindweed twined, The parsnip and the parsley lace Above their peaceful resting place".

Please trim, but leave God's holy plot A hallowed conservation spot.

> A villager (who is willing to help look after such a patch)

Poetry Please! - A competition

It has been a great pleasure to publish poems in USL Life every now and again - we have one above and we think it is a delight to read. So we are announcing a poetry competition open to you, our readers.

Poems submitted should be new or unpublished material, your own work, on a subject that relates in some way to the Village. Length - short, certainly not much bigger than the poem above, so it can be printed on half a page. Possibly a picture or drawing to accompany it? Entries to be sent in by January 10th, so that the winning entry can appear in the February issue (if there is a seasonal theme, please note that date!)

The prize? A bottle of wine and you will see your poem in print. The competition will be judged by the USL Life Editorial team.

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In the interests of supporting a new local business we are happy to tell you about Honor Campbell's art class:

The Painting House Folk It Classes

Go all dotty with the You Can Folk It! painting technique. You don't have to be able to draw or be artistic. Dotting is fun, therapeutic and by adding a simple comma stroke you can create much more. Classes start on Thursday 10th November 10.30 am - 12.30 am for 4 weeks at the Recreation Ground Pavilion. Also on Thursday 17th November at 7.30pm - 9.30pm for 4 weeks at the Village Hall. The 4 weeks cover basic instructions, paints and surfaces. The cost will be £10 per week or £36 for the 4 weeks if paid in advance. Class spaces will be limited so advanced booking is essential. For more details, please call Honor Campbell 531618/07914 079425 or email: thepaintinghouse@virginmedia.com



DOG MESS

This message is for the unscrupulous dog owner(s) who think it is OK to allow their pet to use the Perry Orchard Allotments and Dirty Lane as a toilet facility and then not pick the poo up. You know who you are!

Perhaps you are not aware that poo bags can be purchased very cheaply! If you really can't afford to buy any, please let us have your address and we will be delighted to post you some (unused of course). If your excuse is that you weren't aware of incidents, then you are obviously unaware of signs that ask that dogs are kept on a lead on the allotments, and by common sense they should be on a lead on Dirty Lane.

We think we are talking about just one or maybe two people, and the Parish Council is initiating action to identify the culprit(s) to hand out the appropriate summons. You have been warned.

HISTORY GROUP

The Upton St Leonards History Group Review No. 17 is available to non-members at the price of £2.00. It includes the following subjects:

Roman Gloucester, Those were the days -1950s, Gloucestershire's Industrial Heritage, Gloucester Cathedral's Royal Connections, Prinknash Abbey & Grange, The Somme & Men from Upton.

Copies can be obtained from Mike Stratford .

The History Group meets on Thursday 17 November for a "Gloucestershire Picture Quiz"

TWYVER WI - German occupation of Guernsey *continued from page 4*

Jews had to register and in 1945 they were deported to concentration camps. Indeed anyone not born in Guernsey was deported. There were acts of rebellion by the islanders and an underground paper was published

15,000 slave workers were brought in to build the fortifications, tunnels, Martello towers, an underground hospital and gun emplacements. Camps were built to house them. They were treated badly and many died.

Food became a problem, the troops always had the best available and the locals were on rations. However they were allowed to forage the fields and hedgerows and used acorns for coffee and nettles for soup! By the fourth Christmas food was in very short supply, even for the troops. There was not enough food or medical supplies. Salvation came when on 27th Dec 1944 a Red Cross ship arrived with 44,000 food parcels for local people only - none for the Germans who were starving by then.

Liberation came on the 9th May 1945. A proclamation was made by Brigadier Snow who congratulated the people on liberation from their enemy. The people could now fly their own flag. The soldiers were rounded up and taken to the camps that had housed the slaves. Repatriation to the Island took about 6 months and was followed by a baby-boom in 1946-47!

Our Feature article is on Myths, Legends and Folklore

Tis the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness heralding dark evenings, Halloween, Guy Fawkes and on to Christmas and the dawn of a new year.

This time of year is steeped in legends and folklore intertwined with myths going back hundreds of years and with this thought in mind I decided to put out a few feelers to our history mastermind, Mike Stratford, for some links with the past and he did not disappoint. I hope you enjoy the following stories linked to our village.

Henry VIII in Upton

In 1121 the land known as Prinknash was gifted to the Benedictine monks of St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester. The first oratory at Prinknash was in 1339. At some time in the Middle Ages a hunting lodge was built which by 1526 had become a mansion house. This had some royal connections in July 1535 King Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn were entertained there.

Henry was visiting Gloucester no doubt whilst his London palace was cleaned to remove the disgusting waste that built up in such places at this time. He had travelled from

Tewkesbury and was met by the Mayor of Gloucester, John Faulkner.

The king went hunting in the area of Cranham Woods and had not returned by nightfall. Men carrying flaming torches went to look for him and escorted him back to Gloucester to stay at the Abbey. The men that helped find Henry were given a tip which amounted to about 8p. The royal couple stayed • for five days. It is during this time they spent some time at Prinknash. It is not recorded if they spent the night there. At the end of his hunting trip the King and his hunting party proceeded to Bristol. They were escorted out of Gloucester as far as Quedgeley Green by the clergy.

Strange Goings On in Upton - A report in the Gloucester Journal of June 15th, 1867

A woman residing at Upton St Leonards lost some cabbages from her garden a few days ago and to detect the thief she went to Painswick to consult a 'cunning woman', who, it seems, resides there. The 'cunning woman' told her to go home and on the following

Sunday morning a tall thin childless woman would call at her house and would ask her for something she had never asked for before and that person would be the person who stole \langle the cabbages.

She was not to accuse her of the theft, or the charm or spell would be broken. If she did not voluntarily confess her guilt or restore the cabbages or their value, her mouth would become 'askew'. On Sunday morning a tall thin childless woman called and asked what she had never asked before 'a half-a-quartern of taters' and this poor unfortunate woman had thus been indicated to be the person who purloined the cabbages. She did not however accuse the woman, for either the charm or spell would have been broken. The tall woman is being daily stared at by her neighbours to see if her mouth is going 'askew'.

Perhaps you know of some strange goings on in Upton? Let us know..... if only walls could talk eh? With grateful thanks to Mike Stratford. ... Linda Munnoch









VILLAGE DIARY

NOVEMBER

1	Tue	Needles & Pins	0	
1	Tue	Badminton		
∎ 2	Wed	Pilates		
2	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I	10.00am
2	Wed	Stitchers	Pavilion	10.30-12.30p
2	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00pm
2	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
2	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I	8.00pm
2	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30pm
3	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15am
3	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30am
4	Fri	Firework Night		
∎ 7	Mon	Yoga		
∎ ₇	Mon	Coffee Club	0	
7	Mon	Yoga		
7	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions)		
, 7	Mon	Zumba		
• / • 7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	•	
• <u>'</u>		5		
• ′	Mon	Upton WI		
∎ 8	Tue	Needles & Pins		
8	Tue	Tuesday Probus		
8	Tue	Badminton		
9	Wed	Pilates		
9	Wed	Stitchers		
9	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00pm
∎ 9	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	6	
9	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I	8.00pm
9	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30pm
10	Thu	Copy Date for December Issue of USL Life	-	
10	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15am
1 0	Thu	Folk It! Painting class	Pavilion	
10	Thu	Tai Chi		
10	Thu	Upstagers - A Fete Worse Than Death		
11	Fri	Upstagers - A Fete Worse Than Death		
■ 11 ■ 12	Sat	Upstagers - A Fete Worse Than Death		•
■ 12 ■ 14				
	Mon	Yoga		
14	Mon	Coffee Club		
1 4	Mon	Yoga	0	
∎ 14	Mon	Fitness Training(2 sessions)		
14	Mon	Zumba	•	
14	Mon	Twyver WI		
15	Tue	Needles & Pins		
∎ 15	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
I6	Wed	Pilates	Pavilion	9.30-10.30am
16	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I	10.00am
16	Wed	Stitchers	Pavilion	10.30-12.30pi
16	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00pm
16	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	
16	Wed	Bingo	0	
■ ₁₆	Wed	Tai Chi		•
17	Thu	Senior Circuits	0	
∎ 17 ∎ 17	Thu	Folk It! Painting class		
-		-		
■ 17 ■ 17	Thu	Tai Chi	0	
17	Thu	History Group (Gloucester Pub Signs and Xmas Quiz)		
17	Thu	Folk It! Painting class		
21	Mon	Yoga	0	
∎ 21	Mon	Coffee Club		
21	Mon	Yoga		
21	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	6.00-7.30pm
21	Mon	Zumba	Upton St Leonards School	6.30-7.30pm
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9,30pm
22	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	
22	Tue	Tuesday Probus	0	•
22	Tue	Badminton		
22	Wed	Pilates	0	•
23	Wed	Ladies Probus		
23 23				
-	Wed	Stitchers		
23	Wed	Pavilion Painters		
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	0	•
	Wed	Bingo		0.00000

23	Wed	Tai Chi		8.00-9.30pm
24	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	
24	Thu	Folk It! Painting class	Pavilion	10.30-12.30pm
24	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30am
24	Thu	Get Together Club	Village Hall	2.00-4.30pm
24	Thu	Folk It! Painting class	Village Hall Annex	7.30-9.30pm
28	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30am
28	Mon	Coffee Club	B.M.I	10.00-12.00pm
28	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45pm
28	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	6.00-7.30pm
28	Mon		Upton St Leonards School	
28	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00pm
28	Mon	Lady Downe Charity		
29	Tue	Upton Show AGM	Pavilion	7.30pm
29	Tue		Village Hall Annex	
29	Tue		Village Hall	
30	Wed		Pavilion	
30	Wed	Wednesday Probus	B.M.I	10.00am
30	Wed	Stitchers	Pavilion	10.30-12.30pm
30	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.0-4.00pm
30	Wed		Village Hall	
30	Wed	Bingo	B.M.I	8.00pm
30	Wed	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	8.00-9.30pm.
. .				

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

D E C E M B E R (see also the next page)

5	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting		
10	Sat	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
10	Sat	B.M.I. Pensioners Christmas Lunch	B.M.I	12.00pm
12	Mon	Coffee Club Christmas Lunch	B.M.I	12.00pm
12	Mon	Get Together Christmas Lunch	Bowden Hall	12.30/1.00pm
12	Mon	Twyver WI		
17	Sat	Carols and Christmas Draw	B.M.I	8.00pm
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
24	Sat	Entertainment Night - Christmas Eve	B.M.I	8.00pm
31	Sat	New Year's Eve Party	B.M.I	8.00pm
		JAN	UARY	
2	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
9	Mon	Twyver WI		
10	Tue	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
14	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz	B.M.I	8.00pm
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
19	Thu	History Group ("E R Berryman") the local poet	Village Hall	7.45-9.15p.
23	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00pm
Dates fo	or Get Tog	ether and Ladies Probus to be advised		

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

FOR SALE Grey plastic POND, 900mm dia x 300mm deep. £10.





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Christmas is coming ...

There will be lots of things happening. Here are some . . . Get your diaries ready!

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER	CHURCH 7.30pm	The Christmas Concert with the Gloucester Brass Band. Tickets cost £5 from Rachel or Evelyn, or at the door. Mulled wine & mince pies. Yum!
SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER	ΒΜΙ	Pensioners' Christmas Lunch. Tickets available for BMI members who qualify for pensioner's rate in January 2016
MONDAY 12th DECEMBER	BMI	Coffee Club Christmas Lunch (ticket holders only).
TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER	Christchurch Abbeymead 7.30pm	"It's Really Christmas" - concert with the Salvation Army Band & songsters. Tickets cost £5, £1 for children, from David. Including refreshments.
THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER	BMI* 7.00pm	Carols & Christmas readings with the Twyver Ladies Choir (TLC). Everyone welcome. Free!
SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER	BMI*	Christmas Draw and Carol singing
SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER	CHURCH 4.00pm	Traditional service of Lessons and Carols
SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER	CHURCH 4.00pm	Christingle Service
SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER	BMI*	Christmas Eve Entertainment
SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER	CHURCH 11.30pm	Midnight Communion
SATURDAY 31st DECEMBER	ВМІ	New Year's Eve party night (Ticketed event for members only)

For the BMI events, further details including timings etc will be on the notice board in the BMI foyer and in the December edition of USL Life. The BMI events marked with an asterisk are open to club members and guests that have been signed in. The other BMI events shown here are ticketed.



that makes it happen?

We are on the lookout for new team members. On the business side, we need a <u>treasurer</u> and we need a person to lead on <u>advertising sales</u>. For publishing we would like at least one more <u>feature</u> <u>writer</u>, and another <u>editor</u>. Or simply tell us what you think you could contribute and we will probably be able to fit you in. Contact

Andy, Peter, or Andrea

AUTUMN SCRAMBLE

Answers (The puzzle was in last month's edition) 1 GOURD 2 HARVEST **3 COBWEB 4 BLUSTERY 5 PUMPKIN** 6 FORAGING **7 HIBERNATION** 8 ACORN **9 MIGRATION 10 DECIDUOUS 11 SEASONAL 12 SQUIRREL 13 HEDGEHOG 14 HALLOWEEN** 15 RAKE **16 LEAVES**

BMI NEWS

Village Bonfire. (Friday 4th November)

The Sports Bar at the BMI will be open to members and signed in guests from 5pm. This year we will also be opening the lounge at 6pm, so that you can pop in for some refreshments before the fireworks. Children are more than welcome into the BMI, as long as they are accompanied by an adult, but are not allowed in the club after 9pm.

The Christmas Draw. (Saturday 17th December)

Every year the BMI has a huge Christmas raffle with lots of prizes handed out. This year the Christmas draw will be held on Saturday 17th December. Draw sheets are in the lounge and the sports bar and each entry costs only 20p. There are no restrictions on the number of entries that you can have!

14 months membership for the price of 12

Did you know that if you are not already a member of the BMI and you sign up in November or December you effectively get up to 2 month's free? New memberships in November and December will last until December 2017. If you are not currently a member perhaps now is the time to join.

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE Web site: http://usllife.co.uk/

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

	appear below:	
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The BMI Club (Est 1898)

Bondend Road Upton St Leonards

Members Club, new members welcome. Two bars, wide screen TV with Sky/BT Sports. Snooker /Pool Tables.Skittle Alley. Regular entertainment nights. Function room hire.

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