

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 39

November 2017



We are moving quickly through Autumn and the fantastic sights at Westonbirt Arboretum are in full swing.

Why not pay a visit in the early part of November to see a lovely part of Nature before it's too late this year.



Upton St Leonards Life Newsletter presents a "Call My Bluff"
wine tasting evening - see page 7

What's Been Happening in USL?

Gnome Hunt - Sunday 15 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 made by a great team of ladies. A really good atmosphere and we were all totally overwhelmed again by its success. This fundraising event has raised **£2,070.00** 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. St Leonards Church PCC will also use it wisely. The funds will be split equally. We have had positive feedback and many requests to sponsor and host the Gnomes again.



Many thanks to all the businesses, residents and friends who have generously sponsored the *GNOMES this year*:
HP air systems / The Foster Family / BMI / The James Family / Roger Brown, Painting & Decorating / The Hay Family / Tim & Val James, Cedar Motor House Ltd / Daniel, Oliver, Jacob & Noah / Christchurch Abbeydale Craft Circle / The Price Family / Roseville House Dental Practice / The Merigold & Tomes Families Chipmunks Day Nursery / The Barnes Family / Portway Farm Shop / The Stratford Family / Sugar Loaf The Hawksworth Family / Knit & Knatter Ladies Group / The Dawson Family / Bath Clothing Heather Rogers / Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School Staff / The Patterson Family Mercure Gloucester, Bowden Hall Hotel / Mrs Rumsey / Partners & Staff at Brockworth Surgery Mrs Dorothy Cox / MJ Boon Electrical / The Stephenson Family / Wendy Metcalfe Wise Hippobirthing Gloucestershire / The Browne Family / Vicky Guy, St Austell Brewery Sara Hemmings, Physical & Sports Injury Clinic

MANY thanks to FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS WHO GAVE DONATIONS and cakes.

We also wish to thank Morrisons, local Police, everyone who has helped or taken 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



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What's Been Happening in USL?

Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Post Office

A big thank you from Rahul and Seeta for the cakes and support they received for their coffee morning on Friday 29 September.

As a result of a great turnout, approx £500 was raised for Macmillan who do so much to help people and their families dealing with their life threatening illnesses.



Many Thanks to Rahul, Seeta and PO staff for holding such a successful event.

You will see in the picture on the left the youngest person at the Coffee Morning! We welcome Rysha, born at the end of September, our newest Village resident and daughter of Rahul and Seeta. Congratulations to them on the latest addition to their family.



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What's Been Happening in USL?

BMI Quiz - Saturday 14 October

There were 21 teams for the recent quarterly quiz at the BMI, which shows how we in Upton St Leonards love a challenge! The result was very exciting with two teams tying for first place with joint scores of 191. The winners after a tie break were "Team GB." Worthy winners with only 2 people in their team! The runners up were "The No Hoppers", who are repeatedly in the top 3 every time they enter the quizzes. Maybe their turn to win next time!

The amount raised on the night £193.50 will go towards the BMI charity, Maggies and The Air Ambulance.



Thanks once again Eric for an interesting and enjoyable quiz and for the support from everyone that attended on Saturday. **The next quiz will be the post Christmas/New Year Quiz which will be on Saturday 13 January 2018.**

Upton WI Report 2 October

Diane welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jerusalem was sung and Birthday cards given out.

Various correspondence was read out. Members' attention was brought to items in the Newsletter, Tim Poole cup – write in 300 words what your WI means to you, Walking Holiday in Devon, 11 – 13 May staying in Torquay, Thanks to volunteers and those who donated cakes at the Three Counties Show, Come to WI House on 18 January and learn "Silk Shading and Stumpwork", Gloucester Federation played Avon at Bowls on 18 August and won!! One of our members was in the team.

Peter Macey thanked everyone who donated cakes for the Upton Show.

Everyone enjoyed the Lunch at The Queens Head, Longford. The next lunch is at The Bell, Shurdington.

Our speaker, Roger Turner was then introduced, speaking on "Making a Garden at Chelsea". He told us how he won a competition to do this. He told how a lot of plants were taken to Chelsea. Some flowers have to be wrapped to prevent them flowering too soon. Laurel and other plants needed for hedges are actually all in pots which have to be hidden! All sorts of things are needed to make sure everything is in place – measuring tapes, spirits levels for example. He showed us lots of slides of the gardens as they were being built and the finished article.

Our next meeting is 6 November. Please come along and see what you are missing!

Diane Thomas

Macmillan Coffee Morning

In addition to the Post Office event, Ian and Mandy Davies in Valley Lane ran their own Coffee Morning on Friday 29 September and raised an excellent £450 for the charity.

Congratulations to them and their friends on a great result.

What's Been Happening in USL?

ABBEYDALE GARDENING CLUB MEETING- 16 OCTOBER 2017

Our speaker for the evening was Fiona Waring who took us through the war years (WWII) and the Ministry's very successful campaign entitled 'Dig for Victory'.



Fiona addressed the members as if we were all actually in 1939 and she was taking the first meeting as Chairperson for the 'Grow More Food initiative' as it was originally called. Apparently a young journalist named Michael Foot wrote in the Evening Standard telling us to 'Dig for Victory' and thus the campaign took off with men and women keeping allotments all over the country.

Official rationing began on 8 January 1940 and thus we raced through the ensuing five years as Britain dug up school playing fields and lawns and flower-beds were turned into vegetable gardens so that we didn't have to rely on imported goods.

The propaganda campaign was so successful that it was estimated that over 1,400,000 people had allotments. People were also encouraged to keep chickens whilst others kept rabbits and pigs. Rationing was the cause for much creativity and resourcefulness and amongst other things, carrots replaced sugar in fruit tarts and were also eaten on sticks as lollies!!

A huge thank you to Fiona for her entertaining and lively delivery and for bringing back some special memories of those times for those members who were children at the time.

Our next meeting on Monday, 20th November at 7.30pm is entitled 'A Year Long Walk in Woodchester Park' and the speaker is Robert Bryant. New members are always welcome.

TLC Ladies Choir

TLC, the ladies choir based in Upton St Leonards, visited Trevone Nursing Home in Denmark Road on Monday 16 October to entertain the residents. Twelve members plus Sylvia Ardron the musical director arrived just after the red sun had broken through the Saharan dust cloud which gave so many cause for concern! The resulting bright sunshine ensured curtains had to be drawn in the lounge area where we were performing, as the normal warmth in the home became increasingly hotter and fans were quickly put in place, especially one for Rose, the lovely dog who was visiting for the day with her owner, the entertainments officer, Becky. A programme of songs such as 'Can't Help Falling in Love' and 'Hallelujah' were interspersed with sing-a-long songs such as 'Que Sera, Sera' and 'Cockles and Mussels' and the final song for TLC was the anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone', which then had to be followed by 'You Are My Sunshine' because the residents wanted to keep on singing.

The event seemed to go down well, and TLC have been asked to return yet again, (this was a second visit), which seems a likely occurrence, as everyone agreed it was very enjoyable and ended with a nice cup of tea!

Twyver WI Report 9 October

Our members welcomed two new guests and Monica Grey as acting Chair and Val McGarr as acting Secretary outlined the varied programme of events members can get involved in over the coming months. Next year there will be an emphasis on Health and WellBeing.

In November we link together to alleviate loneliness, which is another of our national initiatives and we agreed to undertake an act of kindness to others.


The End Plastic Soup campaign gave us interesting facts on the amount of fabric fibres that get washed from our clothes in each wash, so we are encouraged to wash less and look for natural fibres such as cotton where possible.

We agreed to ask our local supermarket to sign up to our national campaign to avoid food waste.

Our guest speaker, Nicole Maynall, outlined the work of The British Legion in supporting those who have served in the armed forces. She praised the help from WI in producing knitted poppies. Their online shop has lovely gifts for friends and family especially with Xmas coming up so it's worth a look.

Our next meeting will be 13 November when we will enjoy pre-Xmas Wine and Cheese once the Annual Business Meeting has taken place. New members to the Committee will be very welcome to join the happy band of volunteers we have to run Twyver WI.

What's Coming up in Upton?



Upton St Leonards Show
Annual General Meeting
 At the Pavilion on Tuesday 21st Nov at 7.30

Important Notice

This year the AGM is incredibly important. The committee must be refreshed with new people, otherwise the Show will not go on. It is that serious. Please consider joining the organising team, and come to the AGM.



BONFIRE NIGHT HELD IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL UPKEEP
 Upton St Leonard's

WHIZZ BANG WHOOSH
 Hot food, drinks, various games and a tombola

Friday 3rd November

Tickets Adults £4.50 Child £2.50
 Family £12 (2 adults & 2 children)

Gates open 5.30pm
 Bonfire lit 6.30pm

Held at the Village Hall, Bondend Road, Upton St Leonard's

If you are setting off Fireworks, you MUST make sure you are nowhere near horses or other livestock. Fireworks scare these animals and they can injure themselves trying to get away from them. Thank You.

Christchurch Abbeydale Presents
 an Evening of Music with
Gloucester Excelsior Band
Friday 10 November
7.30pm to 9pm
Tea / Coffee / Cakes
 Retiring Collection for Church Funds



Gloucester Excelsior Band now have Christchurch as a base for practising



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Rahul and Seeta

What's Coming up in Upton?

Upton St Leonards Life presents



Wine Tasting Call My Bluff



Saturday 25 November

**In the Village Hall
7 for 7.30pm**

Come and enjoy a hilarious evening of wine tasting. Three consummate blaggers will try to convince you that they are describing the wine in front of you, and of course only one is correct. Can you and your table see through the bluster? We'll have six wines in all, supplied by Laithwaites.

The St Leonards Singers will perform in the interval

Admission will be by ticket only in advance, costing £12; your seat will be reserved for you when you get your ticket, so you can share a table with your friends.

Contact Peter Wilson or Andy Russell

to book your place. It's sure to be a sell-out, so don't delay!

This event is organised by USL Life to raise funds for the newsletter.

Saturday 4 November

Entertainment Night at the B.M.I.
From 8.30p.m. until late

With

The Dudettes

Open to members and signed in
guests



Christchurch Abbeydale presents

It's Really Christmas

with

The Salvation Army Band and Songsters

Tuesday 5 December

7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £5, Children £1

Including Refreshments

Advanced Booking Recommended

Call David

Information



The UpStagers - Wanted - Sound & Light Person

The UpStagers amateur dramatic group has been running for over 10 years now. The current sound and lighting system has been run for around eight years by a local man, Duncan Lord, still ably supported and advised at times by his mentor. Duncan now wants to find a successor and have a gradual handover to that person.

Are you the person the group is looking for?

Requirements:

Some experience of PCs.

A willingness to climb up and down ladders to sling the lighting!

Time commitment:

- **For productions** (typically pantomimes) where musical accompaniment is needed, possible backing tracks need to be supplied to the director for consideration.
- **Sound effects** and special lighting effects need to be considered reasonably in advance of the productions, as advised by the director.
- **Attendance at rehearsals** two or three weeks prior to the actual performances: Wednesday evenings (and occasional Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings).
- **Attendance at performances** – usually Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

Training, support and help will be provided by Duncan and his mentor.



Interested? Call Duncan



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - 2017

The usual House-to-House sale of Poppies will be made during the fortnight leading up to Remembrance Sunday, 12 November. Please give generously to help our servicemen/women and their families. Thank you to everyone who continues to help with the collection. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to help, please contact us.

We will also have the poppies on sale at Morrisons and we need as much help as we can, to cover the dates between the 30th October-12th November. Any time that you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Please contact us if you feel you can help us to help others. Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you.

House-to-House Collection - Jenny Cunningham

Morrisons Collection - Meg James

PS: Last year we raised £995 house-to-house in the Village and over £3700 at Morrisons

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Revd James Turk writes:

I was asked a question on Sunday morning by one of the congregation. "What does work place ministry mean James?" It's a good question, and one I have been asked often. As many of you know, my position as assistant curate in St Leonards is a part time role. I also have a 'day job' which means I get up each morning and I go to a place of work. I work in the design office of a local engineering firm Eroga which is based just outside the parish boundary on Eastbrook Road (just down the road from where Homebase and KFC are situated). I do not wear my collar to work and I do not stand out in any visible way whilst at work, but everyone knows that I am a Christian and that I am also ordained. There have been times when I have worn the Dog Collar at work if I am off to a funeral or some diocesan event which would require me to wear my clergy uniform, but it is rare. I wear an Eroga polo shirt just like the rest of the people that work there. It is very tempting to think that I wear two hats metaphorically speaking. There is James the draughtsman who works in the design office, and there is Revd James who works in the parish of St Leonards during the evenings and weekends. This is true physically, but it doesn't go anywhere near describing what I see my role as.

I am first and foremost a Christian and even before I felt God calling me to ordination I was always open about my faith whilst at work. This doesn't mean that I walked around clutching a bible and looking pious, it just meant that if I was asked what I was doing at the weekend my reply would invariably be words similar to "I'm off to church." Now, I've never experienced open hostility to my faith, sometimes apathy, but more often I have found many people intrigued by my faith and by my regular church attendance. This would often spark conversations and through those conversations relationships were built and mutual trust was formed. To me this is ministry; it may not take place in a church building on a Sunday, but it is ministry nonetheless.

Since July, my role at work has not fundamentally changed. I am still employed to do a specific job (which involves computers, drawing boards and some heavy machinery). I am also now an ordained man who works for the diocese. My church role has changed quite significantly since ordination though, as you could probably imagine! I believe God has called me to be a priest in his church because I am a married man with two children and because I work in an engineering



company, not despite those things. At this moment in my life it is a privilege for me to be a part of God's ministry in Gloucester in this way. In the future things may change, but at the moment I am able to be with people where they are at, and I get the chance to talk about faith and about Jesus to people on a daily basis in the workplace.

Space doesn't allow me to go into too much more detail regarding my role but I would like to end by saying that even though I work during the day, I am still very much your assistant curate in Upton St Leonards. It is true that my time in the parish may be limited to weekends and evenings, but I take that role seriously. It is a constant delight and privilege for me to be here with you all and with Revd Clodagh. If you do see me around the parish then do stop me and say hello, and if this short article has prompted you to want to know a little more about what I do then please do ask.

James

Harvest Services at Coopers Edge School & Upton St Leonard's Primary School

As 'Vicar' I get the opportunity to join in with lots of different events and this autumn I have been delighted to have been invited into both schools in the parish to join in with their Harvest Services. On 27th September I joined with all the children and staff of Coopers Edge School. In the photo can be seen the reception children who were experiencing their first ever whole school event. The children had prepared some really thought provoking work in the form of dance, song, and art work, considering issues around farming and environmental change.

Upton School, being situated much closer to the Church, usually holds its Harvest services in St Leonard's but due to the dismantled organ it was decided to hold the services in school, enabling parents and grandparents to attend. I have had the opportunity to visit the school on three occasions over the past week. The Junior Harvest Service was a joy and as one grandmother commented the 'Vegetable Rap' lifted the worship in a way that 'We plough the fields and scatter' never did in her school days. The Infant Harvest Service was another joyful occasion with many delighted parents and grandparents looking on. The final Harvest Service was led by the Reception children, supported by years 1&2. It was amazing to realise that the youngest children had not even been in school for five weeks, another joyful celebration.

During the final Harvest service I had the privilege of Commissioning the New Head Teacher Mr. Mark Allen on behalf of Bishop Robert, The Bishop of Tewkesbury who chairs the Diocesan Educational Committee. Mr. Allen, parents, children, staff and governors committed to working together within the Christian ethos of the school.

Clodagh

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

- Sat 4th Church Council "Away Day"
- Sun 5th **8.00am Communion (Revd Clodagh)**
10.00am St Leonards Day Special Service followed by bring and share lunch - see over.
- Tue 7th 9.30-9.50am Morning Prayer
9.50-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat
- Sun 12th **Remembrance Sunday**
10.50am Assemble at the War Memorial.
Silence at 11.00. At 11.05 we move to the Church for a short service. Youth organisations, families and all are invited.
6.00pm Holy Communion
- Tue 14th 9.30-9.50am Morning Prayer
9.50-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat
- Thu 16th 2.00pm Mothers' Union
- Sun 19th **10.00am Holy Communion (Revd Clodagh)**
6.00pm Evening Prayer
- Tue 21st 9.30-9.50am Morning Prayer
9.50-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat
- Sun 26th **10.00am Holy Communion (Revd Clodagh)**
- Tue 28th 9.30-9.50am Morning Prayer
9.50-12.00 Church open for coffee & chat

On Tuesdays, after Morning Prayer, as well as having coffee & a chat, the time is used to do small (light) jobs around the church and of course you can help!



Revd Clodagh speaks to the reception children at Coopers Edge School

CHURCH NEWS

ST LEONARD'S DAY



(The picture portrays St Leonard blessing a prisoner. It is from the Scobell window in the Church. St Leonard's Day is actually 6th November.)

To mark the occasion there will be a special service at 10am on Sunday 5th November. The service is intended as an opportunity to gather together to give thanks for God's faithfulness, to say sorry for past hurts and pray for the future work of mission in the parish. All are invited to join us and stay on for a Bring and Share lunch in the church following the service.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

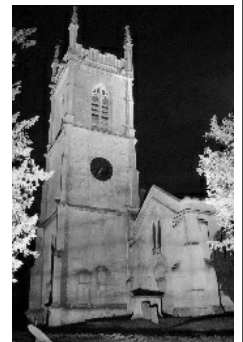
On Remembrance Sunday, 12 November, the Act of Remembrance will start at 10.50am at the War Memorial with the reading of the names of those from the village who gave their lives in the World Wars, followed by the Last Post, Silence and the Reveille. All are then welcome to the church for a brief service for Remembrance Sunday. The ceremony and service should end by about 11.30.

Tower Floodlighting in November

The Church Tower is lit in celebration of the 95th birthday of Evelyn, on the 6th November. With love from all the family.

On Sunday 12th November, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the 15th birthday of Ben Davies. Kindly sponsored by his 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 Jenny Cunningham. There is no set amount for sponsoring, 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 get the announcement here in time, please note that the deadline is the 10th of the preceding month.



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During the Harvest Celebration at Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School, Revd Clodagh formally “Commissioned” Mark Allen, the new Head Teacher, who took up his post at the start of this term.

Bell Ringing

You will have heard the bells! Charlie Burnett, the new bell tower captain, has revived the weekly practices and he writes: “Church bell ringing is a very enjoyable pastime, and if you are interested in having a go, or just finding out more about it, then please come along on a Wednesday evening or contact me .”

Earlier in the year Roger Fry was presented with an engraved bell and lantern from his fellow bell ringers in recognition of his very long service as Tower Captain at St Leonards Church and to mark his retirement.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD, aka SHOEBOXES

In Operation Christmas Child, lots of churches and ordinary members of the public, get involved in filling shoeboxes with small presents for children. These are dispatched to parts of the world where poverty means that children get no presents at Christmas or any other time. “A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal.”

You may have spotted the Operation Christmas Child stand at this years Show. If you’d like more information about how you can help, or would simply like to fill one or more shoeboxes, please get in touch with Jenny Cunningham .



Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:

Revd Clodagh Ingram

Clodagh is available to be contacted
Sundays through to Wednesdays.

Curate:

Revd James Turk

Churchwardens:

- 1 Keith Robbins
- 2 Rachel Hall

PCC Secretary:

Roy Roberts

pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:

Church Administrator:

Jenny Cunningham

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:

Vacancy

CHURCH NEWS

We were delighted to welcome the Stuart Singers to perform for us in the Village Hall in September. They are a very well known choir from Minchinhampton and they didn't disappoint, with an excellent concert led by their accompanist Barrie Cooper.

We were entertained by a very varied selection of music from popular shows to reflective songs and some comic touches as Barrie demonstrated the various sections of the choir. We were also introduced to four young members who sang for us.

The evening was very well supported. Thank you to all those involved in setting and clearing the hall and providing refreshments, especially to Dorothy Cox who organised the event.

£812 was raised for church building funds and thanks to people's generosity no expenses were incurred.



Thanks to all,
Dave Knight

Organ repairs: update

The picture says it all really! These are bellows used to pump air round various parts of the organ, and they won't work with gaping holes in 'em like those shown! They are made of sheepskin leather.

The organ builder has taken a lot of these away to his workshop where the perished leathers are being replaced -- obviously a highly skilled job.



DECEMBER AT ST LEONARDS

We will publish more details in next month's Church News. But here is a taster - please mark your diaries and calendars!

FRI	Gloucester
8	Brass concert &
Dec	carols in church, 7.30pm

SUN	Christingle at
10	4.00pm -
Dec	getting ready for Christmas

SUN	Carol Service
17	at 4.00pm
Dec	

SUN	Christmas Eve
24	10am Holy Communion
Dec	4pm Nativity Service
	11.30pm Midnight Communion

MON	Christmas Day
25	10am Christmas service for all
Dec	

SUN	4pm New Year's
31	Eve celebration
Dec	followed by a short "said" communion

Marcus Jelfs

Precision Engineer

With much media coverage recently about repairs to Big Ben and the necessity to maintain these old masterpieces of engineering, USL Life decided to ask our own St Leonards Church clock engineer, Marcus Jelfs, about his work and interest in clocks.

"When I was a boy, my father was a farmer in a small village in the wilds of Worcestershire and I had a very long walk to school. I used to look out for discarded clocks and I'd carry them home, take them apart and get them going again. Looking back, it seems that engineering is in my blood, it just comes naturally. I remember walking behind the tractor in our fields and studying its mobility, but I also remember loving all aspects of farming life, that too is in my blood."

On leaving school, Marcus started a five year apprenticeship with the Ministry of Aviation in Malvern, a sub-division of RAF Farnborough. The work was mainly in Research and Development; this was high-precision engineering in aeroplanes and radar. In time, he became Senior Instructor at *Heenan & Froude*, tutoring 60 apprentices a year and in 1972, moved to *Fielding and Platt* in Gloucester to run their apprenticeship programme. Falling in love with Rosemary, a Gloucester girl, brought Marcus to Upton; they married in 1974 and moved into the village.



When the government ended their financial support for engineering apprenticeships in 1986 and *Fielding and Platt* had to close the apprenticeship school, Marcus moved to *Telehoist*, specialists in hydraulic lifting equipment. He also became involved with another 'love', restoring vintage cars. He has completely restored two Ford Populars and one of his restored Austin7 Nippys has won awards(see left and below). It is clear from our conversation that Marcus likes a challenge and he referred often to 'transferable skills' which, precision engineering brings. When asked which of the engineering challenges he remembers most; number one is a small intricate steel component which is still used in satellites, number two is a Wool-Winder for 'Extreme Knitting', a wool and pattern company in the Cotswolds.

In 2012, Marcus took over the maintenance and repairs of St Leonard's Church clock from Alan Bennett, another village engineer from Watery Lane who had maintained it for many years. In April this year, he approached Stroud Town Council with an offer of voluntary help to get the Four Clocks in Stroud working again. He did this to an accuracy of one minute a week, "that's not my skill but the skill of someone who made it in 1921." He hand winds the clock weekly and is hoping to make another alteration to electrify the winding. "It's very satisfying to see it working again," he said.

Marcus is fascinated with the mechanics of clocks. He has a keen interest in the history of all time-pieces and clock engineers and the way time came to be synchronised across Britain and the whole world and the necessity of the village or town clock to inform the ordinary person of the time of day whether in towns or in the fields.



The team of USL Life wishes to thank this quiet, unassuming, precision engineer for his ongoing repair and maintenance of St Leonards Church clock and for agreeing to be featured in our magazine. Thank you Marcus.



Information - cont'd

Upton St Leonards Rocks!!

We all know that it does already but these are actual stone ones!

You may have heard about a 'thing' going round local areas lately which involves people hiding and finding stones/rocks/pebbles in a specific village....this is the USL version. It is to try and bring the community together and get people to be creative. A bit like a rock version of geocaching.

There is a Facebook group of the same name (and profile picture) which you need to join to share your finds, however if you'd prefer to just paint some stones for people to find then you don't need to join. It is fun for people to see their rock discovered and shared to see how far it can travel.

So what do you have to do?

- 1) Paint your own rock (add the USL Rocks name, initials and age of the creator on the back) and wait to see if anyone finds it. Please keep locations inside the 'Upton St Leonards' signs on the village boundary
- 2) Go out searching to find a rock that is already hidden out and about in the village and photograph it (you don't have to photograph faces if you're not a fan of posting yours/your children's pictures on social media) and add it to the group with the location of where it was discovered and then re-hide it somewhere else.
- 3) DO BOTH!!

Remember to think safety first and help people to 'find' them - eg benches, window sills, shop fronts, parks, trees, outside of your own house etc. None inside gardens, above head height, in long grass or on the ground where they could get lost or contaminated by dogs!

To decorate, use sharpies, gel pens, paint, nail varnish, sticky jewels, glitter...whatever you fancy.

Karen Morris



WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN/ALLOTMENT IN THE AUTUMN

Well it's time for cooler and shorter days but also a beautiful time of the year for colour. Warm up with hot soup and digging over vacant areas of the vegetable and flower plots as autumn approaches.

There are still plenty of jobs to be done, divide rhubarb crowns, herbaceous perennials, plant out spring cabbage, garlic, onions and finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year. Keep an eye on yellowing leaves on Brussel Sprouts and remove.

Don't forget to raise the height of your mower and brush worm casts from the lawn before mowing. It's also time for lawn repair and rose pruning, moving tender plants to the greenhouse or conservatory to over winter

Continue to harvest fruit and if like me, you make chutney, now is the time to keep warm in the kitchen.



Carol Evans

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Where is the Skylark by Ted Gardner

I've often stopped and wondered why
What makes the Skylark fly so high
Soaring heavenwards on tiny wings
Veers left and right he continuous sings
Till reaching the apex of his climb
Still singing loudly all the time
He decides that downward he must go
On a steady decent flutter to and fro
No other bird can share his song
Or rise up singing all day long
But where is the Skylark now I say
I've not heard his song for many a day

The call of the Yellowhammer and the twitter of the Linnet

Are also gone from Upton's limits
Remembering back when as a lad
The sound of birdsong was all we had
Each one we heard we recognised
We knew their song their habit and size
Where are they now I ponder and sigh
Did we drive them away when we modernised
Was it really progress

The Changing Days by Val Doll

The warmth of the sun has long since gone
The balmy evenings filled with song
As families gathered under starlit skies
Their laughter carried on the breezes sighs
The gentle falling to the ground
Of a boat shaped leaf - Russet Brown
We gave blossom and fruit and all our best
And now it is time for us to rest
As dawn arises from her slumber
A child looks out with eyes of wonder
And natures coat of dazzling white
And frost on hedgerow diamond bright
The new Year comes with an icy blast
But knowing the dark days will not last
We eagerly seek in sheltered spots
The arrival of the brave hearted snowdrops

#StolenMemories

Your home contains all of your special memories. If your home is ever burgled those memories could be stolen. This year, in the run up to Christmas, when the days are getting shorter, take steps to protect your home and keep your memories safe.



Use this checklist to survey your home and implement new changes.

Quick actions:

- Timer switch connected to a light for the front of your home
- Stop 'checking in' to locations online when you're not home
- Avoid posting about expensive items you own online
- Put any tools or equipment left around in your garden securely away
- Put up a 'beware of the dog' sign
- Move your house and car keys so they are not visible
- Put up a window sticker advertising your alarm/cctv/neighbourhood watch scheme
- Make your property look lived-in and loved from the outside
- Add wire mesh to your shed's window and/or an alarm if possible
- Turn on iCloud's Find my Device and Activation Lock for any Apple products you own
- Replace door locks if required
- Remove unknown and past people from your online social network

Planned Actions:

- Put up motion-activated security lighting at the back of your home
- Lay down some gravel
- Put high value items in a safe or in a third-party safety deposit box
- Trim your hedges, greenery and bushes to give natural surveillance

Any Suspicious person/s seen in your area or vehicles please dial 101 for non-emergency or 999 for emergencies.

PCSO Lianne Hiscock

Police Community Support Officer 9270

Gloucester City Local Police Team

Gloucestershire Constabulary

email – Lianne.Hiscock@Gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

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

VILLAGE DIARY

NOVEMBER

1	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
1	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
1	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
1	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
1	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
1	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
1	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
2	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
2	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
3	Fri	Firework Display.....	Village Hall.....	5.30p.m.
4	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.30p.m.
6	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
6	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
6	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
6	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
6	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
7	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week (and Garden Waste for those with brown bins)		
7	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
7	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
7	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
7	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
7	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
8	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
8	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
8	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
8	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
8	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
9	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
9	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
10	Fri	Copy Date for December issue of USL Life		
13	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
13	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
13	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
14	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
14	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
14	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
14	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
14	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
15	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
15	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
15	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
15	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
15	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
16	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
16	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
16	Thu	History Group - Whittards of Chelsea and Gloucestershire.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
20	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
20	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
20	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
20	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
20	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
21	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week (last collection before Feb 18 for Garden Waste - those with brown bins)		
21	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
21	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
21	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
21	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
21	Tue	Upton St Leonards Show AGM.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
21	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
22	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
22	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.15a.m.
22	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.



22	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
22	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30m.
22	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
22	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
23	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
23	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
25	Sat	Wine Tasting/Call My Bluff Evening.....	Village Hall.....	7.00p.m.
27	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
27	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
27	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
27	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
27	Mon	Lady Downe Charity Meeting		
27	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
28	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
28	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
28	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
28	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
28	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
29	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
29	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
29	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
29	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
29	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
29	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
30	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
30	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
30	Thu	Get Together Club - School Concert.....	Village Hall.....	2.00-4.00p.m.

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

DECEMBER

4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
9	Sat	"B.M.I. Pensioners" Christmas Lunch.....	B.M.I.....	12.00p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for January issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
14	Thu	Get Together Club - Christmas Lunch.....	Bowden Hall.....	12 for 12.30p.m.
16	Sat	Christmas Draw and Carols.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
24	Sun	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
31	Sun	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.

JANUARY

2	Tue	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Wed	Copy Date for February issue of USL Life		
13	Sat	Winter Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
18	Thu	History Group - "Small Monuments Inside a Church".....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
27	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
27	Sat	Get Together Club Meeting.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

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What's Coming Up As We Approach December?

16 Nov-2 Jan	Christmas Ice Rink at Gloucester Docks
19 Nov / 25 Nov	Gloucester / Cheltenham Christmas lights switched on
23 Nov - 16 Dec	Cheltenham Christmas Market
24 Nov - 7 Jan	Dick Whittington Panto at Everyman
9 Dec	Christmas Carols and Market at Gloucester Cathedral
9 Dec	BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch
14 Dec	Get Together Christmas Lunch
16 Dec	BMI Christmas Draw and Carols
24 Dec	BMI Christmas Eve Entertainment
31 Dec	BMI New Year's Eve Entertainment

A fuller list of activities over December will be provided in our December edition

TWO NEW WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the Pavilion

Senior Circuits 11am-12pm on Tuesdays at the Pavilion - run by Debbie Locke

The Thursday Senior Circuits fitness class is now proving popular, so Debbie is starting another class on Tuesday mornings. Please call Debbie Locke, 07738 104404, email DebLockePT@mail.com

Junior Jujutsu class 3.30-4.30pm on Tuesdays at the Pavilion - run by Amanda Wright

Jujutsu has developed into an enjoyable and rewarding leisure activity. This class teaches a practical and effective self defence program carefully put together by some of the UK's leading authorities in personal protection for children. Children gain many benefits such as self-confidence, increased self-esteem, fitness and general wellbeing. We also have a strong sporting focus which enables the children to test their skills in a safe, effective and fun way. The first lesson is a free "taster session" and classes are open for children aged 6 years plus. All instructors are fully qualified and DBS checked. Please call Amanda on 07930 696260, email Amanda.wright4le@btinternet.com or look at our website for more details: www.taijutsukai.co.uk

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We are situated on Upton Hill in Upton St Leonards. Grove Court is 100 yards past the Kings Head Pub on the right hand side. Collection service available.

TWYVER WALKERS



Six Tywver walkers so enjoyed the sunny September stroll led by Jackie Hunt. Starting and ending at The Fleet Inn at Twyning, the 4 easy miles were a delight.

Flocks of Canada geese, swans and heron on the river added even more interest to the lovely countryside, and we ended with a tasty lunch in the warm sun back at The Fleet.



UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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

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A belated Thank You..... from USL Life to Dave Appleyard for the photos he took at the Village Show which we used in the October edition.

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