

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 75

November 2020



Important - please see the Motorway Noise Survey on pages 19/20. We strongly encourage everyone in Upton to complete the survey and return to the Parish Clerk. If the M5 Working Group and Parish Council are to achieve improvement action they need your support!!



The "Brooding Soldier" Memorial to Canadian soldiers at St Julien, near Ypres. See Page 3 for more on Remembrance Day.

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN, AND IN THE MORNING

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Trevor Hall is 90!!



See more of Trevor and friends on Page 15



Whats Been Happening in USL?

From BMI to Greek sun, sea and sand, not forgetting the Taverna.



After 9 years serving the ever various needs of the members of the Village BMI Club, our Steward Alec Russell together with his wife Mary, are very sadly retiring and departing for an island life in Greece.

It just doesn't seem like 9 years since Alec and Mary arrived at the Club, both being accomplished Master Cellar men and having had many years in the pub and hotel trade.

Without doubt they brought a fresh look to the running of the club, Alec's experience with Real Ales is probably second to none and indeed, when he agreed to join us from the Dick Whittington, the local Chair of CAMRA was reported to have said, "the Dick Whitt's loss is the BMI's gain." That has certainly proved to be so as over the years the myriad of different real ales served perfectly have borne that out. He also became King of coffee when the ever popular coffee morning started on Monday mornings, currently sorely missed, which he supported wholeheartedly.

Their catering expertise came to the fore, when despite a limited kitchen space they catered each year for the Pensioner's Christmas Lunch with a 3 course dinner, enjoyed greatly by all. The club has also been able to cater very well for a large number of booked events such as birthday parties, weddings and funeral wakes, all bringing in much needed sales to the Club.

Alec and Mary have been a great asset to the BMI for this period and will undoubtedly be a hard act to follow. We wish them all the very best in retirement in the sun, something I know that they have always wanted to do. Bon Voyage, thank you for all that you have done and hope we see you again when you visit England in the future.

The BMI Committee

A new baby in Six Acres

"Congratulations to Emma and Peter Bonnington on the safe arrival of baby Maxwell Anthony at the end of May, a first grandchild for Lynn and Dave Bateman. We wish Emma, Peter and Max good health and happiness for the future."



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 25 September 2020



Well done to Seeta and Rahul of our Village Post Office and Shop for their continued support of Macmillan's national coffee morning event and thanks to everyone who attended.



Whats coming up in USL?

Remembrance Sunday

"They Shall Grow Not Old As We That Are Left Grow Old....." The words from Laurence Binyon's 1914 poem, "For the Fallen", will be echoed in cities, towns and villages like ours on Remembrance Sunday morning at 11 o'clock as we pause in silence to remember those who gave their lives in both World Wars and conflicts since.

Villages like ours sent many of their sons and daughters away to war and many never returned. Their graves are located across the world - some have no known grave. The Upton stone War Memorial was erected almost 100 years ago, and there are five military graves in the Churchyard. They represent a cross-section of the community – from the Birchall brothers Arthur and Edward, to Renford Hooper who returned to work at Bowden Hall Farm after being gassed in France, and died of his wounds in 1920.

The USL Life of November 2018 lists 226 men and women associated with service in World War 1; a huge contribution from a small village where 40 men made the ultimate sacrifice. For World War 2 there are 10 names – a smaller number but all were, and are, remembered equally.

As you drive or walk past the War Memorial, or through the Churchyard, please pause and honour the sacrifice of these men. Their names are recorded without rank or precedence, just listed in the year of their death – all are equal in the sight of God. We Will Remember Them.

For anyone interested in attending our local ceremony at the Village Church, it will be held on Sunday 8 November at 1030am (see further details on Church information, Page 10)



Have You Ever Had an Unusual Christmas Dinner?

It has been a very strange year so far and Christmas in 2020 may be a little different to the norm so we would like to hear from anyone who has experienced an unusual Christmas Dinner and we will share those experiences in the December edition.

Please send any contributions to Ann Morpew


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What's Coming Up in USL? - cont'd

Advent Windows

For the last couple of years we've had Advent windows round the Village, organised by Karen Morris. Lots of Christmassy things will no doubt be cancelled this year, but this 'new' tradition needn't be affected. If you would like to have one at your house, please contact Karen. You are given a date for your window, and in the December edition of USL Life we will publish a Village map showing where the windows are. The deadline for contacting Karen is November 10.



Would you like to Design our front page ? for the Christmas Issue of USL Life!

You may recall that we asked for this last year - we only got one response, but we used it!

The idea is that this is something children can do in half-term, or when having to stay indoors. Adults can submit a design too, and the December editor will select one or more of the designs.

Simply send us a scan or photo of your design.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - 2020

Poppies will be on sale at Morrisons and house-to-house on 24 October - 8 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. 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.

Jenny Cunningham

Jim Browne



History of Upton continues

A look back at a couple of news items from the past.

With the continuing absence of bell ringing due to the lock down one item makes interesting reading.

November 1920

The first remembrance service was held at the War Memorial on 11th November.

The Memorial having been unveiled and dedicated on August 8th that year.

To conclude the dedication The Last Post and Reveille were played by buglers from the 5th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment who were in camp on Sneedhams Green. The bell ringers added their tribute by ringing muffled peals before and after the service.

December 1920

The Bishop of the Diocese dedicated a Memorial Window, which is on the North side of the church Sanctuary . It is dedicated to Edward Scobell, Rector of Upton Parish for 23 years. The window contains the figure of St Leonard. The window was paid for by Mrs Scobell.

We hope the bells will ring out this Christmas if allowed by the circumstances of the time?

A news item from the Gloucester Journal July 3rd 1869

A letter sent into the Journal reads:

“Sir, I hear that the new squire has arrived at Bowden Hall (John Birchall). I regret to say that he arrived at his new home without that timinabulatory demonstration which the Uptonian bell ringers usually give upon these auspicious occasions. I love to see these ancient customs observed and maintained and I think the silence of the dear old bells upon this occasion is a disappointment to the parish.

I enquired the reason for this apparent neglect, and one of the ringers informed me that the clergyman had taken possession of the belfry and will not allow them to ring. I do not blame the pastor for this for I have no doubt he has justifiable reasons for this course of action. Bell ringing has been the cause of a great deal of drunkenness and domestic misery.

Cannot the ropes be placed in different hands? It has an aesthetic and spiritual influence upon the minds of the people. Are there no respectable young men in the parish who would volunteer to form themselves into a band of ringers?

On the 10th July 1869 a letter was received by the Gloucestershire Journal from the bell ringers of Upton St Leonards in reply to the letter that appeared last week.

They declare themselves ready to ring the parish bells on all occasions when required to do so “from a love of the art” and there is no reason to suppose that they are other than respectable professors of campanological sciences.

Fancy drunkenness in the belfry and domestic misery at home? Something to think about when the bells ring out again. No mention at this time of course for ladies to volunteer, and enter the belfry of drunkenness. Well done to the ringers for answering these accusations.

Mike Stratford



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Group News

Letter from Janice Cole, Federation Chairman, Gloucestershire WI

Dear fellow members,

I said a very sad goodbye, on your behalf, to Denman last Wednesday. The estate looks as beautiful as ever, its fate as yet unknown. I know for many of you it is full of happy memories, let us hang onto them and remember. Liz and I went to clear the Gloucestershire room. The desk/table, mirror and chair are replacing the others in the hall of WI House and eventually the pictures etc will all be hung in the house. So Denman will be there in spirit. We have two bedside tables which were made for the room needing a good home. If you are interested put in an offer to me and they, either together or singly, will go to the highest bidder. I can organise photos if you want, final date for offers is October 31st.

On a happier note we are looking a long way forward to next year when the plan is the Three Counties main marquee in June and an afternoon with David Olusoga in July. They are not fixed in stone as you would expect but agreements have been reached with a caveat. We do need to have something to look forward to. I have also asked the membership committee to investigate whether we can have some form of Federation quiz. Ann Scott is looking at a walking weekend (non-walkers welcome) next year but all we will ask for, at the moment, is expressions of interest. It is a lot of work for Clare and disheartening for all to take in money only to have to cancel and refund.

Our AGM is still planned for March and National's AM for April, fingers crossed.

I am going to bang my drum again! If you enjoy watching the television documentaries, why not expand your repertoire and watch some via zoom? You are not on screen nor do you have to say anything. Just sit back and enjoy, and you can buddy up with another friend or member, we don't charge any more!

Our next talk coming up on Tuesday 6th at 7pm (you can have supper while you watch) is about an all-woman expedition to the North Pole in 2018. The brave women came from different countries and walks of life. Our British participant Misba Khan will be telling us all about her role. No men went on the trip and the film crew were also all female. I am in awe and can't wait to hear more, what I call an adventure from

the armchair! Tickets as usual £5 via Eventbrite who send a link to your email, their link is :
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/gfwi/>.

**Finally Classic FM tell me it is World Smile Day, so -
Keep smiling**

Janice



Upton History Group

In over twenty years of the village history group this is the first year that we've had to cancel a meeting, and regrettably 4 have been cancelled this year. (Please note that in normal times the group meets every third Thursday in the month at 7.45, always in the main hall of the village hall).

At the time of going to press we are still hoping to go ahead with the November meeting on Thursday November 19th. The speaker due then is Dr Simon Draper on Gloucestershire Place Names. Simon gave a very interesting talk at the Gloucester History Festival in 2019, explaining vividly how our history can be told through place names, so do attend if you can.

As an educational group we are still allowed within government guidelines, to meet in groups of up to 50 in the main hall. We have to be socially distanced at two metres if possible, and all appropriate safety precautions will be taken. A one way system, strategically placed seating, sanitizing gel provided, no refreshments, a track and trace system, only one person in the toilets at a time with an occupied and vacant indicator provided. All light switches and handles will be wiped down afterwards.

We will be asking members to wear a face mask please and if possible to pay the annual membership fee (£7.50) or visitor fee (£2) by cheque.

Obviously the situation changes very quickly and a poster will go up in Upton Post Office a week before with details. It may be that we will have a different speaker and topic or that we have to cancel again.

Here's a sneak preview of the meetings coming up this season:

January - Cotswold and Cornish Cream by Martin Fry

March - John Bellows Overseas by Edward Wyatt

May - Mary Queen of Scots by Dr Gillian White

July - AGM and picture quiz by Mike Stratford.

**We thank you for your understanding at this difficult
time and hope to see you soon!**



Hadwen Medical Practice

News from Hadwen Medical Practice (and relevant to other centres)

Millie Barnes attended (by remote video call) the first Patient Practice Group (PPG) meeting since last December, and heard about how the practice is coping. This report is mainly from her.

The practice has been seeing the same challenges as other workplaces over staff having to self-isolate, sort out child-minding, etc., and this has impacted quite severely at times the service that can be delivered.

Like many practices, and as reported earlier in this newsletter, Hadwen is now using eConsult, with mixed results. We have had a number of reports where eConsult has been really helpful, saving patients and practice staff a great deal of time and getting to a resolution of health issues much faster. On the other hand, we have heard that it hasn't been helpful at all in some cases. It is a work in progress.

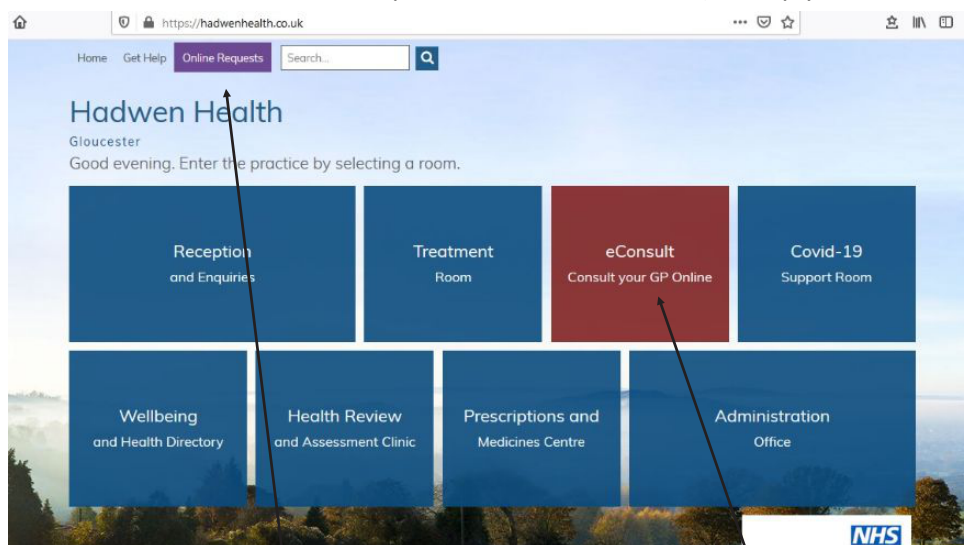
A few people have been confused by the difference between eConsult and the other online services available. The picture and description below might help. If you are unable or unwilling to use eConsult, of course the phone is still there for you.

In other matters covered at the PPG it was announced that the release of appointment slots at 12.30 has been removed to simplify the system as it was not working. However the waiting time for an appointment has reduced significantly to 2 weeks (it was 6-7 weeks).

The final flu jab clinic at the Hadwen Medical Practice will be held on 14th November.

ONLINE SERVICES AND ECONSULT

The picture shows the Hadwen Health website, <https://hadwenhealth.co.uk> (or simply do an internet search for Hadwen Health)



Other online services

This service is still being developed, but at the moment you can use online services for:

- Asking the surgery for a repeat prescription (but you could ask the pharmacy instead)
- Access to your medical records
- Cancelling an appointment

These require a login and password. To register for these online services you will need to complete a form (available from the Hadwen web site) and then visit the practice, bringing with you two forms of identification, including photo ID.

eConsult

Covers

- I want help for my condition
- I want administrative help
- I want general advice
- I want help for my child or someone I am caring for

To use eConsult you do not need a login and password. You just go to Hadwen Health's web page, click on the eConsult panel and start answering questions about your need or condition.



Priest in Charge:
Rev Clodagh Ingram

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Our Priest in Charge, Clodagh, remains unable to be with us at St Leonard's right now because of illness. Please hold her and the family in your prayers at this time



At the time of this magazine going to press it is still unclear if Remembrance Day parades to honour the fallen will be able to go ahead this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. If it transpires that we can't gather this year, then to enable us all to mark the day in a special way I invite you to hold your own private tributes to the war veterans who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. To help you with this the Church of England have published a prayer for people to use as they remember all those who have given their lives in the line of duty.



At 11am on Sunday November 8th, let's all take a moment to reflect and pray this prayer to remember the fallen.



At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them.



O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those people who have been injured or who have died in active service. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life, peace and hope, now and for ever

Amen

Due to number restrictions and to assist with planning on the day, please ensure you email James to notify him of your intention to attend the service.

1. Please wear your face mask.
2. Please observe social distancing, particularly when entering, moving around and exiting the church. The two metre rule applies.
3. Please use the sanitiser provided on entry to church.
4. We are required to record names of attendees and keep them for 21 days to assist "track and trace".
5. Follow the one-way system around the church.

Curate: Rev James Turk

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

November Readings

Sunday 1st November

1 John 3: 1 – 3
Matthew 5: 1 – 12

Sunday 8th November

1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – end
Matthew 25: 1 – 13

Sunday 15th November

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 = 11
Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Sunday 22 Nov

Ephesians 1: 15 – End
Matthew 25: 31 – end

Sunday 29th

1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9
Mark 13: 24 - 37

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Thirty Books Of The Bible Can you find them?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on it while fishing from his Johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo.

Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That is a fact.

Some people however will soon find themselves in a jam especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph.

During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper The Chronicle surveyed over 200 patrons who responded that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight. Those able to find them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown.

One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are thirty books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this article waiting to be found.

Note, A prize will be given to the first completed entry. The prize is having the privilege of explaining to others where the answers are!

Good Luck!

Answers in next month's edition

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St Leonard's Church News

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Tower Floodlighting 2020

On the 2nd November, the Church Tower is lit in loving memory of Evelyn. A very special lady who is missed by all her family.

The Church Tower is lit in remembrance of the 98th birthday of Evelyn on the 6th November. With love from all the family.

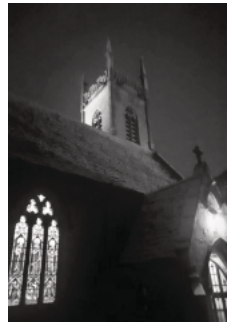
On the 9th November, the Church Tower is lit in loving memory of James Bruntnell Williams. Sadly missed by wife Yvonne and all his family.

On the 12th November, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the 18th birthday of my grandson Ben Davies. With much love from Nanna.

The Church Tower is lit in memory of Keith, my beloved husband who passed away on the 20th November 2018. Sadly missed, always remembered by wife Brenda and all the family.

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

Please note that the deadline of the Church Pages of USL Life is the 10th of the preceding month.



Lest we forget...



Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

This year we will not be able to gather at the war memorial as normal because of Covid 19 restrictions. Instead, we will be holding a service in St Leonard's Church

starting at 10.30 am. The service will incorporate the 2 minutes silence and laying of poppy wreaths on the high altar at 11.00 am. The poppy wreaths will be taken out to be laid on the war memorial after the service.

Numbers are limited so if you would like to attend please email to book a place by contacting a church official.

A short act of Holy Communion will be held at 11.15 for anyone who would like to stay after the act of remembrance



Upton St, Leonard's Mothers Union

In line with other village organisations Mothers' Union will not be attempting to meet again this year. The planned September meeting had to be cancelled due to the "Rule of Six" but members are keeping in touch by email, telephone calls & regular newsletters.



Mothers' Union produce some very attractive Christmas cards & gifts which can be obtained mail order at www.mueshop.org

Kate Gale Branch Leader

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest in Charge

Rev Clodagh Ingram

Curate:

Rev. James Turk

Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Vacancy

PCC Secretary: - Sarah Kent

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

Safeguarding

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

USL Life (Church pages) and Pew News

Rachel Middleton

Christmas isn't cancelled for the shoebox appeal 2020



It's not too late to support OCC the Shoebox Appeal 2020. You can:

- 1) fill a shoebox and I will gladly collect it from you or you can sponsor a box. I will make up a box for you, the cost will be £15 plus £5 for the transport of the box; (6 shoeboxes have now been sponsored, thank you so much).
- 2) you can go online and 'fill' a box with items of your choice. The cost is £15, plus £5 towards the transport;
- 3) any donations will be gratefully received – we are in need of toothbrushes, flannels, soap, hairbrushes and combs, as well as any donations towards the cost of transport.

Thank you so much for your continual support for the OCC Shoebox Appeal 2020.

Jenny Cunningham is our contact

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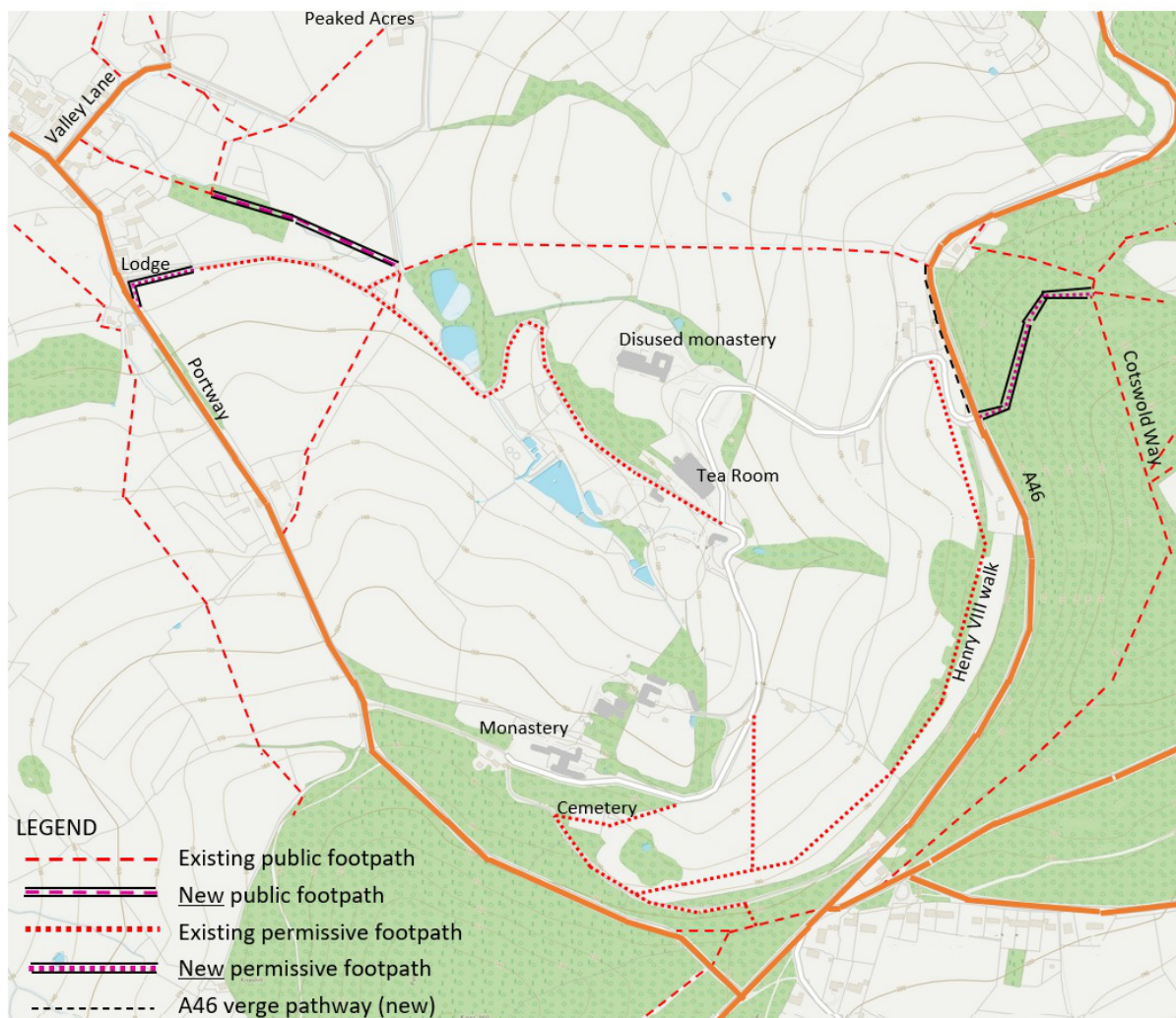
New Route to Prinknash Abbey

We can at last announce the creation of two new footpath routes to Prinknash from the Village.

This map shows the new routes from the Village (and a third new route to get to Prinknash from the Cotswold Way). Firstly, from Portway there is a permissive path from just above the Lower Lodge which connects with the track that used to go past the Lodge. Then, secondly, there is a new public footpath that goes through the orchards and fields behind Gastrells Farm. This connects with existing footpaths from Valley Lane and from Rooksmoor via Peaked Acres. The map also shows the various paths that were marked out a number of years ago inside Prinknash Park.

We are indebted to the Manager and Trustees of Prinknash Park for making all this possible, and to the USCAN footpaths team who created the paths. The Parish Council has funded this work.

FOOTPATHS IN THE PRINKNASH AREA



NB only some of the footpaths and bridleways to the south of Portway (Kite's Hill and Pope's Wood) and to the east of the A46 are shown

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Cycling Tips



2020 has been a funny old year, but as two very glass-half-full people it's been really nice to see the number of people out on their bikes round the village. We've both been riding bikes for a long time, both for fun and exercise, and as part of variously-long commutes – and one of us has worked in the cycling industry for longer than he would care to remember.

Here are some of our combined thoughts about all things bike – hopefully some of these are useful to those who are venturing out for the first time, trying to get out more, or just interesting for other road users.

- Always keep your tyres pumped up (the maximum recommended stamped on the side). This will instantly make everything less work! A track pump, a pump you put a foot on, makes this a 2-minute task instead of a 20-minute battle.
- Oil your chain – wipe the worst of the muck off first with a rag otherwise you're just oiling grit. Make sure your brakes and gears actually work. Youtube is full of tutorials, or take it to your local bike shop (if they have any space!)
- Especially at this time of year, don't forget about lights (not just because of the clocks changing, but when the weather turns dark and cloudy). If you have a super bright front light – and there are some seriously bright lights out there - point it down a bit. Oncoming drivers especially don't appreciate being dazzled. Wear something bright – it doesn't have to be neon, but not dull greys and blues which tend to blend into the background.
- Security – unfortunately big, heavy locks are still the safest. Folding locks are more convenient, but more expensive for the same level of security. Cables are pathetically easy to cut. These are ok to stop someone grabbing it and riding off while it's outside a café and you're keeping an eye, but no good if you're out of sight. Lock it up at home too – standard garage doors are pretty easy to break into.
- E-bikes. Not cheating! You'll still finish a ride knowing you've done some work – you'll just have gone further and/or faster than if it was unassisted. E-bikes are getting cheaper, but they are still pricey and heavy (fine when you're under power, but not much fun to get onto a car rack or up the steps to your shed). The battery and motor are the expensive bits, so if you see what looks like a bargain, it may have some very cheap components to keep the price down – they'll wear out fast with all that torque so worth spending a bit more if you can.
- Padded shorts. Weird at first, but brilliant. If you want to ride further and still be able to sit down the next day, they're invaluable. Lycra can be worn under baggy shorts or trousers so you don't have to look like a Tour de France rider (unless you want to). Big squishy saddles are OK for short journeys, but tend to get in the way of your legs' movement so can lead to chafing.

Finally, neither of us would go out on a ride without a helmet and gloves (if you do come off gently, it'll be your palms which will likely take the brunt), nor ride with headphones or music. We are really lucky that drivers round here are typically really genuinely very considerate (is it because people are used to the horses?), but there can always be someone in a hurry who will scare you, or who just gets it wrong - you need to keep your wits about you. Beware of potholes, and try to plan a route around them rather than swerving at the last second; likewise, don't ride right in the gutter as there's more debris there which can lead to punctures. (But there is really no excuse for adults cycling on the pavements in somewhere like Upton...)

Enjoy the fresh air, and the gentle or not-so-gentle cardio if you're heading up Nuthill (average 4%, max 13%) or the Portway (average 12%, max 20% [!!!]). Happy riding!



A Pair of Upton (Bike) Riders

Twyver WI



The group had a fabulous talk on their recent Zoom Meeting from Caroline Pover about Japan after the Tsunami which everyone found interesting and entertaining.

Upton Bonfire Night

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions there will be no village Bonfire Night in 2020. In the absence of events the children of Upton School created this



FORTY YEARS IN UPTON- Peggy and Mike Blanch

The first thing you notice when you enter the Blanchs' brand new home in Gloucester Docks, is a framed picture of the wonderful map of Upton by Sue Aristide, which shows there are more footpaths and bridleways in Upton than there are roads. It was not surprising that the Blanches stayed here 40 years because the more you talk to them the more you realise Upton to them was primarily a place of fields and farms, hills with an abbey, woodland and wildness, streams and animals and above all, not just a place to discover but a place to belong.

"It was time to move on," Mike says, "the quarter acre garden was too big and there were more bedrooms than we needed. The move to the Docks didn't go as smoothly as we'd hoped but it was definitely the right thing for us". Peggy shows me around their 'state of the art' master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe and 'state of the art' everything including two large balconies overlooking the canal where they can watch the boats sail by. Two days after the move they were happy to discover that Ginny Ring, another Upton resident who'd moved to The Docks before them, was in the same block.

Peggy and Mike came to Upton in 1980. Both had grown up in villages and were grateful to find a village setting; they loved our beautiful church with its own organist and enthusiastic choir and soon became regular members of St Leonard's. Now that Lockdown rules have changed they still attend Sunday Services.

They became members of the BMI and joined USCAN; Peggy designed the booklet with Upton Rights of Way and kept the shop supplied and Mike joined Don Webb on the Footpath Team. Mike, a 'born walker,' also joined The Ramblers and they often holidayed with them in Europe, South Africa, America and Egypt.

Tuesday mornings was the regular Footpath Team's 'Workday' which always ended with a visit to the BMI for a pint before lunch. When Don Webb retired Mike took over; they had a clear strategy, in the early months they would walk all the pathways, assess the repairs and materials required and decide a plan for the months ahead. There was a time when USCAN Members paid a fee, some of which went towards repair materials. There was a time when USCAN organised 2 or 3 walks a year and Mike has many happy memories of these walks, one of which included a talk by Fr Aelred from Prinknash Abbey, who had a keen interest in the history of the original monastery and was able to dispel myths about Henry 8th and Ann Boleyn's visit but was inclined to wander in thought and talk about all the wonderful trees on the estate instead.

On one walk a crowd of Prinknash visitors stopped

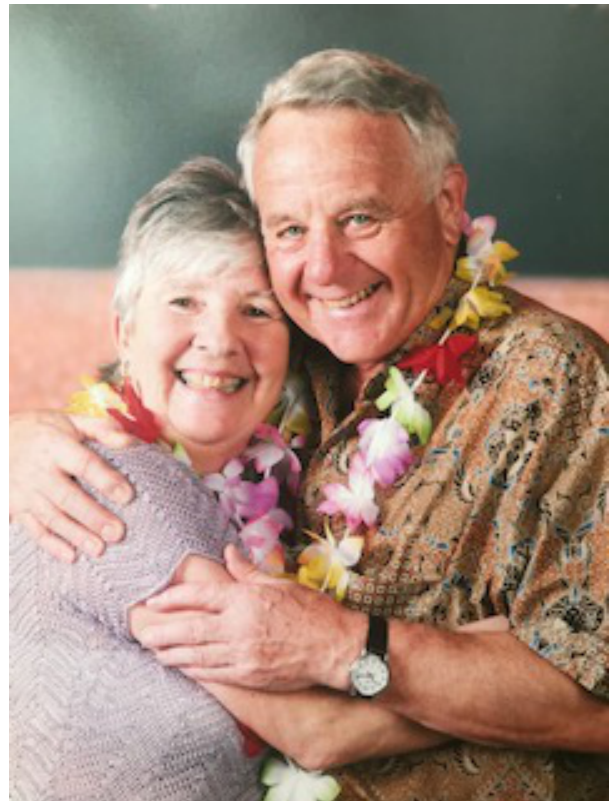
behind the Upton Walkers to listen to Fr Aelred's talk, they thought it was a guided tour!

In the early 80's USCAN volunteers secured a sizeable amount of money and joined with The Woodland Trust to plant over a hundred trees on Nut Hill. About halfway up the hill, near the footpath, an oak tree was planted in memory of Mike and Peggy's son Adrian who was killed in a motorbike accident in 1982.

It was no surprise to find that, just as Peggy and Mike got involved in the natural world around Upton 40 years ago, they are doing the same in their new environment; Mike is full of enthusiasm, having already discovered walks along the Severn and the canal and is currently enjoying the wonderful jungle of the Alney Island Nature Reserve. There's no stopping these Born Walkers!

USL LIFE wish Peggy and Mike all the very best in their new home and landscape.

Christina Caldwell



Thanks.....

.... to the Farm Shop for their meat voucher donation as 2nd Prize for the Scarecrow Competition.

Much appreciated by the Newsletter Team



Information

TEMPORARY CLOSURE 3/197 HIGH STREET (UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH) STROUD DISTRICT



Gloucestershire County Council intends to make an order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) to temporarily close part of the 3/197 High Street from its junction with The Stanley to its junction with Perry Orchard for a distance of approximately 556 metres.

The reason for the closure is for the replacement of a BT pole.

The road is expected to be closed between the hours of 08:00 and 16:30 on 19th November 2020 only or until the works have been completed.

For further information, please contact Gloucestershire Highways on 08000 514 514 or visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Alternative Route – As signed on site

Pedestrian access to premises on or next to the road and emergency access will be maintained.

Freecycle

Free to a good home: A large quantity of "Shelfstore" (look up shelfstore.co.uk to see what it is) components that make up into shelves, a wardrobe, a desk, some drawers - something like 10 foot length, but it is all very flexible, so you can make your own design.

Good condition. If you are interested, contact **Andy** to see how much there is and various designs.

"Thanks to many people for making my 90th birthday such a pleasant experience. Members of the BMI coffee club sang at my front door, neighbours and friends called, and I received 74 birthday cards and other presents.

A wonderful day. Thank you all."

Trevor Hall

Happy 90th Birthday!!



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Arts Page - November 2020

In this month's Arts Page we think of America and her citizens as they take part in a Presidential Election (2 November) and Thanksgiving Day (26 November).

I, Too by Langston Hughes (1902 – 1967)

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed –

I, too, am America.

Robert Frost 1874 – 1963. In 1961 Robert Frost, American Poet and Playwright, was invited to read a poem at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. He intended to read his poem 'Dedication', which was written for the occasion, but was unable to read it due to the brightness of the sunlight, so he recited his poem '**The Gift Outright**' from memory instead.

The land was ours before we were the land's.
She was our land more than a hundred years
Before we were her people. She was ours
In Massachusetts, in Virginia,
But we were England's, still colonials.
Possessing what we still were unpossessed by,
Possessed by what we now no more possessed

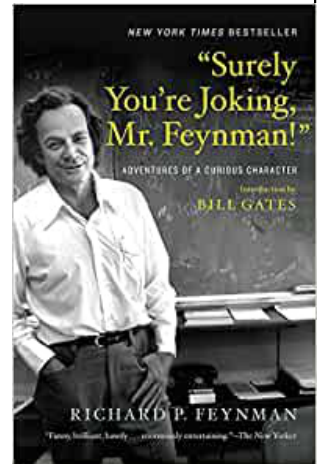
Something we were withholding made us weak.
Until we found out that it was ourselves
We were withholding from our land of living,
And forthwith found salvation in surrender.
Such as we were we gave ourselves outright
(The deed of gift was many deeds of war)
But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,
Such as she was, such as she would become.

In his poem, *The Road Not Taken*, Robert Frost describes the dilemma faced by a traveller at a junction on his journey. We have all been in a position of having to decide which route to take in life. Frost ends his poem on a positive note:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

BOOK REVIEW

Richard Phillips Feynman (1918 – 1988) was a theoretical physicist, joint-winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics. The New York Review of Books described him as one of our greatest minds of the twentieth century. He was stubborn, irreverent, playful, intensely curious and highly original.' His semi-autobiographical book "**Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! (1985)**" is our recommendation this month. It is a series of sketches including an account of his childhood as a Jewish boy on Long Island. He describes working on the Manhattan Project to produce the first nuclear weapons. More lightheartedly he describes his fascination with safe-cracking, studying foreign languages and art and music. The book's title stems from a woman's response at Princeton University when, after she asked the newly-arrived Feynman if he wanted cream or lemon in his tea, he absentmindedly requested both!



Epigram from Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014)

HATE – it has caused a lot of problems in the world, but it has not solved one yet.

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Regular weekly events are only shown for the first month here

VILLAGE DIARY

NOVEMBER

1	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
2	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion or via zoom	7.30p.m.
3	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden Waste for those with brown bins		
3	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
3	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
4	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
5	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00p.m.
6	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	9.30a.m.
8	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
9	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
10	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
10	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
10	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
11	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
12	Thu	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	1.00p.m.
13	Fri	Pilates	Village Hall Annex	9.30a.m.
15	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
16	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
17	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden Waste for those with brown bins		
17	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
17	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
18	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
19	Thu	History Group ("John Bellows. The Man Revealed")	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
22	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
23	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am
23	Mon	Lady Downe Trust	Upton St Leonards School	7.30p.m.
24	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
24	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	10.00a.m.
24	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
25	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
29	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
30	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions)	Village Hall Annex	10.00 and 11.00am

Please note, the details below are still provisional due to coronavirus

DECEMBER

7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion or via zoom	7.30p.m.
10	Thurs	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		

JANUARY

4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion or via zoom	7.30p.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
21	Thu	History Group ("Cotswold and Cornish Cream")	Village Hall	7.30p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

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Information - cont'd

Message from our local PCSO, Lianne Hiscocks

Horses on Footpaths

We have received complaints from local residents of horses being ridden along the footpaths forcing pedestrians to get out of the way. The Law states the following:



The Code refers to the legal requirement that a person MUST NOT take a horse onto a footpath or pavement. It is a criminal offence under the Highways Act 1935 to wilfully ride or lead or drive a horse on a footpath or causeway by the side of a road made or set apart for the use or accommodation of foot passengers.

We are aware that there are some parts of the road which are slippery having been resurfaced and are dangerous for the horses so being on the footpath/grass verge is acceptable in these circumstances, however, we do ask to make way for pedestrians where applicable.

Parking Restrictions:

We have had complaints of vehicles parking on and blocking pavements.

Parking on a pavement and causing obstruction to pedestrians is an offence. As much as the police will attempt to educate motorists on the dangers of parking in positions which cause an obstruction to other road users (including pedestrians), drivers who choose not to listen to the advice given can ultimately find themselves receiving a fixed penalty notice.

With this in mind, a common sense approach should also be adopted when considering the road layout, street furniture and the traffic flow along the road.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2021 ELECTIONS.



Following the postponement of the 2020 Elections due to Covid-19 we would like to provide you with a brief update as we start to look ahead to Thursday May 6th 2021.

Planning is already underway and we would like to reassure you that our highest priority is the safety of our staff and our electorate. We are currently undertaking initial work with regard to all aspects of our Polling Stations.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

In anticipation of a possible shortfall in our usual Polling Station staffing levels, coupled with the need to be able to offer short notice cover for last minute cases of self-isolation we would very much like to add new staff to our Team. If you think you would enjoy the experience of being right at the heart of the democratic process and would like to find out more about the role and rates of pay, please get in touch direct via

email: elections@stroud.gov.uk

All applicants must be over 18, not a member of a political party, eligible to work in the UK and available for the whole day and evening of Thursday May 6th 2021.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



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:

This month's editor: Peter Wilson

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Barbara Swindin

Peter Wilson

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The editor next month will be

Barbara Swindin

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USL Motorway Noise Survey

On the following page, you will find a questionnaire from the Parish Council Motorway Working Group. Please read through, complete and return the survey as indicated.

You may remember an earlier article in the February 2020 edition of USL Life that set out our history of motorway noise and the efforts made to reduce this to an acceptable level.

Unfortunately, government departments responsible for motorway noise have shown a marked reluctance to look into this local issue and it is only through pressure applied over the years by local politicians that any remedial work has been carried out.

The noise level has now risen to a point where we are classed as a Noise Important Area, nevertheless, Highways England is still refusing to deal effectively with the problem. We therefore need our new Member of Parliament to become fully engaged with this issue and the questionnaire is one way of showing her the extent and depth of feeling that exists.

Everyone is encouraged to complete and return a form by 14th November. Should they be needed, a small number of questionnaires will be available at the collection box in the Village Post Office, additional electronic copies can also be obtained from the parish clerk by emailing him at uslclerk@btinternet.com

Tony Pryce

Motorway Working Group for USL Parish Council

Please complete the survey over the page



Upton St Leonards Parish Council

Roy Balgobin, Clerk to Upton St Leonards Parish Council

Email: usclerk@btinternet.com

Background:

Residents of Upton St. Leonards were last asked about motorway pollution in 1991, when 42% regarded this as a nuisance. Since then traffic volume has increased dramatically and we are now classified as a Noise Important Area. The authors of the Cotswold AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 recognise this and have made the reduction of traffic pollution a key objective (Outcome 6 - Tranquillity). Yet despite this, Highways England still refuse to perform work outside its planned maintenance programme; it is clear that without some additional political input the problem will only become worse. We need our new MP, [Siobhan Baillie](#), to take up our cause when she resumes her position full-time, this survey is being conducted to show her the depth and extent of concern now felt by our residents.



M5 Motorway Pollution Questionnaire

As a resident of Upton St. Leonards, you are invited to complete this questionnaire, cut it out of the newsletter and return using one of the following methods by 14th November 2020.

- i. Place in the collection box in the Village Post Office.
- ii. Post to the Parish Clerk at the above address.
- iii. Photograph or copy and email to the Parish Clerk at the above email address.

Please consider the below statements as they relate to your experience of living in Upton St Leonards - mark with a ✓	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I regularly experience motorway noise/ airborne pollution at a level that adversely affects my quality of life					
Exposure to motorway pollution has affected my physical/mental health					
I feel that more needs to be done to reduce the problem of motorway pollution					