

# *Upton St Leonards Life*

*incorporating Church News*

Issue 87

November 2021



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Remembrance Sunday - 14 November  
Gather at the War Memorial at 10.50am for the Act of Remembrance and Last Post

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Once again our December evenings will be lit up with **Advent Windows**. If you would like to be involved in setting up a window, please contact this year's organiser Michelle King (email [kingersdm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kingersdm@yahoo.co.uk) or via Facebook).



# What's coming up 2021 - 2022?

Upton Show AGM 2021

Following a very successful show this year, the 2021 Show AGM will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at The Pavilion. Committee members, volunteers, exhibitors and anyone else interested in taking part next year are all welcome. We would like to recruit more volunteers to help with the show as well as expand the current (small & friendly) committee. If you are interested in finding out more, please come along to the meeting or contact Kate Brooks



## Royal British Legion

## POPPY APPEAL 2021

Firstly and most importantly: Please do make a contribution to the 2021 poppy appeal, get a poppy and wear it with pride! Poppies will be available towards the end of the month.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Secondly - Jim Browne and Jenny Cunningham organise the poppy sales and display at Morrisons. Jenny writes: "We need as much help as we can get, to cover the dates from 30<sup>th</sup> October – 14<sup>th</sup> November. Any time 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."

Contacts: Jim Browne      Jenny Cunningham

## *The 5th of November the end of an era*

We regret to announce that there will be

**NO FIREWORKS AND NO  
BONFIRE THIS NOVEMBER AT  
THE VILLAGE HALL**

However, plans are being considered for  
November 2022

For safety reasons we are no longer  
permitted to have bonfires at this location

## Christchurch Abbeydale

## CHRISTMAS MINI MARKET

Saturday 27 November 10am – 1pm

A very mini Christmas Market

Full of *Gift Ideas* from our own local talent

After browsing enjoy Coffee/Tea

Looking forward to seeing you

**SEE PAGE 16 FOR ADVANCE NOTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND CHARITY CLASSES IN  
SPRING SHOW 2022!**

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## **WARNING! OVERNIGHT MOTORWAY WORKS**

### **Potential noise and travel disruption**

#### **National Highways notification**

##### **M5 J9 to J12 safety barrier replacement**

**10 October 2021 to March 2022 – overnight works**

National Highways operates, maintains and improves England's motorways and major A roads.

We'll be carrying out a programme of safety barrier replacement between junctions 9 and 12 from October through to March 2022.

For the safety of our workforce we'll work overnight Sunday to Thursday, when traffic flows are at their lowest. We'll work 8pm to 6am the following morning

and where possible, we'll complete the noisiest works before 11pm.

Work will be carried out in rolling phases on the hard shoulder and there will be lane closures. Some slip road closures will also be necessary and local diversion routes will be in place. The carriageway will be open as usual during the day.

#### **Timetable**

Our ref: 569718

Safety barrier replacement works:

10/10/21 – 25/10/21 - J11-J10 northbound  
25/10/21 - 05/12/22 - J10-J9 northbound  
06/12/21 – 16/02/22 - J12-J11 northbound  
20/02/22 – 27/3/22 - J11-J12 southbound

Slip road closures are planned for:

24/02/22 – 27/02/22 - J11a northbound  
28/02/22 – 06/03/22 - J11 northbound  
07/03/22 – 10/03/22 - J10 northbound  
13/03/22 – 17/03/22 - J9 northbound

Please accept our apologies in advance for any disruption which may be caused. We'll make every effort to ensure the impact on the local community and travelling public is kept to a minimum. We always aim to work to the programme, however unforeseen circumstances or adverse weather conditions may mean changes. To keep updated please monitor [www.trafficengland.com](http://www.trafficengland.com)

If you would like further information about this work, please contact National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 open 24/7, who will direct your enquiry to the most appropriate person, or email: [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)

For information on all our works in the South West please follow us on

Twitter @HighwaysSWEST

#### **With reference to the notice above, we have the following report from the M5 Working Group at a recent Parish Council meeting:**

Tony Pryce gave an update to the council and confirmed a formal complaint has been sent to National Highways regarding the lack of any action to mitigate noise from the M5. If we get a negative response, the matter will be passed to the new Office for Environmental Protection which comes into being in January 2022. Any progress or news will be communicated through USL Life.

National Highways are removing some trees adjacent to Woodland Green and residents near the work have already been informed.

From mid-October for several weeks, a device will be sited in Woodland Green to measure pollution called PM2.5 particulates (from vehicle emissions) to assess any detrimental impact on residents.

**Further items from the Parish Council Report are on page 8.**

BMI  
 ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT  
 SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER  
 8.00p.m.

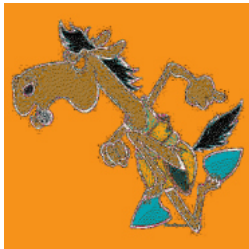
Dancing to  
 the music of  
 "Michael Ian Brown"  
 Open to members and signed in guests

*Some Imminent and  
 Future Events for  
 your diary*



BMI  
 SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

RACE NIGHT AT THE BMI  
 WITH "MIKE'S" WOODEN HORSES  
 COME ALONG AND HAVE A FUN NIGHT  
 FROM 8.00P.M.



All profit on the night will be donated to  
 THE MIDLAND AIR AMBULANCE

You are Invited to the  
 Upton St Leonards  
 Jubilee Garden Party  
 Sunday, 5th June 2022

~~~~~  
 Join family, friends and community for a picnic lunch  
 and an afternoon of fun and entertainment.  
 ~~~~~

Save the date in your diary, more details to follow.

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## What's been happening?

### CRAFT 'N' CHATTER

10 - 12pm The Old School Room - The Old Schoolroom was a hive of activity at September's meeting. On the back cover of this magazine you can see some of the ladies at work. Diana demonstrated how to decorate silk material and make it into a necklace using polystyrene beads - a very interesting finished work of art. Hazel helped the ladies to choose their material to cut out and sew up to make their scissor cases. This will be continued next month.

More ladies now have wool and the pattern to knit the beanie hats for the premature babies ICU Charity at the hospital. Anita has knitted many hats which were on show. Pam was happy to discuss with the ladies her on-going knitted white blanket for the hospital SANDS Charity. We will be happy to accept any donated DK wool in pink, blue or white. Next month we will be learning the

Last Thursday of every month skills of Quilting demonstrated by Linda. We have all the material needed to start the basic work.

Many thanks to Moira who has machine-sewed up the inner linings for the four new cushions which are now ready to be covered with knitted strips (made by Gill) and crocheted together. They will be very colourful for the school room church bench and a very comfortable addition when finished. We encourage the ladies to mix and chat during the meeting over a cuppa. If you are interested in coming along and joining us, meeting some old and new friends and learning some new skills, you will be made very welcome.

Anita Owen  
Diana Rosewell

### UPTON ST. LEONARDS WI REPORT OCTOBER 2021

Our autumn speaker, Pamela Slatter, 'transported' us to a thriving Cotswold cottage industry, THE COTSWOLD PERFUMERY, based near the river Windrush at Bourton-on-the-Water and founded over 50 years ago. The art of making perfume had begun in ancient times and John Stephen, who is the owner and, thanks to his fine sense of smell, also the chief perfumer of the firm, now sells fragrances which are worn all over the world, and even by H.M. the Queen.

The talk covered a wide range of essential oils drawn from not only flowers, but also leaves, bark, twigs, fruit and even the rind of an orange. Roses, lavender, jasmine, honeysuckle and so forth can be the base for the whole gamut of light to strong fragrances. Pamela advised us on storage, emphasizing that perfumes should be kept in the dark, and by the time we left we had tested both delicate and heady aromas on wrists and elbow joints. There we were on our way home, trying to remember the names of the scents!

This was a light-hearted, informative talk and all ladies are welcome to join us on Monday 1 November at the Pavilion for our next talk which will be about the Stroud Museum. Kathy Quant

### Autumn Quiz

It has been 18 months since the last quiz took place at the BMI, so it was fantastic that there were 16 teams, (over 90 people) attending the quiz on Saturday 2 October. This was also the first quiz with Andy Russell as the quizmaster. Everyone agreed that he did a good job, and some of the questions were fairly challenging!

The winners on the night with a score of 74 were "No Name", just slightly ahead of the runners up "Hob Nobs" who had a score of 73.25. The winning team was awarded a bottle of wine each. The bottom team, with a score of 46 were "Us Four" claiming the losers' free drink!

A total of £213 was raised on the night which will be added to the BMI Charity Fund for 2021-22, "The Air Ambulance". Thank you to all who attended on the night and of course to Andy for arranging the quiz. Andy has agreed to run another quiz early in the New Year. This will be a post Christmas/New Year Quiz with a provisional date of Saturday 8 January 2022. Plenty of time for everyone to "swot up"!

### Call My Bluff – Wine Tasting Evening

It was great to see so many people at the wine tasting evening. The village hall was full and 6 wines were blagged very professionally by Carol, Keith and Judy. A definite highlight was listening to the songs by the TLC choir who were excellent and their music enjoyed by everyone. Their time and effort on the night were much appreciated.

Thanks to Andy Russell for organising the event and all the people who helped to make the night go so well including the hard-working kitchen team!! The funds raised (£470) will be very useful as the Newsletter currently has a shortfall of advertising revenue and the monies will directly support operating costs for 2021. The team are very grateful to those who attended and hope they had a good time.



## Twyver WI

It was so good to get together once again at our meeting on Monday evening 11th October and welcome in person our speaker, Mike Warburton, well known in financial journalism quarters, who then regaled us with 'Tales of MP's expenses and other skulduggery in high places'. Mike has written a column in the Daily Telegraph and is well respected as the go-to man for journalists rooting out expense scandals amongst MPs and has been interviewed on Radio 4. He quoted snippets from a great book - "No Expenses Spared" Robert Winnett and Gordon Rayner, and he is also quoted in the book. Most of us have heard of these expense scandals at the tax payer's expense, and it's reassuring to know the Inland Revenue caught up with them in the end!

On a different note: Mike feels women get a raw deal when it comes to state pension. Many years ago, women paid lower contributions if they had a husband who was in full time work, but of course, things have changed and many women go on working after their husbands retire or if they become divorced or widowed and it's important that they receive their entitlement. The WASPI organisation are trying to do just that. Mike was most emphatic that women should ensure they receive their pensions in full and advises all women to check out they are receiving the correct payments. His advice is: don't assume that the Government is always right, get a pension forecast and consider buying added years. Good advice for all women young and older.

Linda Munnoch

## Abbeydale Garden Club

Our speaker for the October meeting was Roger Umpelby, a professional entomologist and horticulturist. Roger delighted us with an inspirational talk entitled 'A Plant Lover's View of New Zealand' – the Land of the Long White Cloud or Aotearoa in Maori.

Roger had been fortunate to have visited New Zealand three times, whereas some of us are still on 'the waiting list' for when the country opens its doors again to foreign visitors. It is around 10% larger than the UK but whereas the UK has a population of 65 million plus, New Zealand's population is a mere 5 million! The climate is normally temperate with the North Island being almost subtropical. Here oranges, lemons, avocados and persimmons are grown whilst olives,



berries and nuts grow in cooler areas. There are however more and more vineyards springing up everywhere and now around 87,000 acres are planted in 12 distinct wine regions. White wine lovers will know just how delicious the Marlborough wines are and their Pinot Noir is also gaining an enviable reputation.

Whilst New Zealand has no official national flower, one that Roger felt could be close to having that status was the stunning Kowhai; Sophora Tetraptera. However, it is the silver fern – Cyathea dealbata, endemic to New Zealand, which appears on sporting team uniforms as the unofficial national emblem. We learned that most trees were evergreen and that the largest tree, the Kauri tree' could grow to a height of 45 metres. We also learned that 80% of flowers were white but Roger did show us some stunning lupins in every hue imaginable, much enhanced by some wonderful slides of both North and South Islands.



Next month our speaker will be Roger Turner who will be providing us with 'An Evening of Nonsense Poetry', on Monday, 15th November. All welcome. Further details from the Secretary, Val George. Andrea Dawson



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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.*




# Remembrance Day 2021 - We Will Remember Them

After last year we are still getting used to meeting people and gathering together again. During lockdown those who have lost loved ones have been unable to say goodbye in a way they would have wished. At this time of year we should all remember those who lost loved ones during and after war time.



Attached to it were the badges of four organisations: the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, the British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers, the Comrades of The Great War, and the Officers' Association. These four groups joined together to create the British Legion.

In the first world war many relatives were unable to be told where and if their loved ones had been buried. A decision was made not to bring home those who had died overseas. It was decided to bury them where they died and with their comrades in arms. This, as you can imagine, was not met with approval by all the relatives.

In Upton the families of the following men would never know what happened to their men folk. We remember Henry Panter, George Avery, Edward Ballinger, Arthur Birchall, Walter Ireland, Ernest Phelps, Ewen Cameron, Sydney Millard, Frank Spring, Reuben Lloyd, Francis Smith, Lewis Lloyd, Arthur Rice, Edwin Mills, William Smith and Alfred Davis, who all died in France or Belgium. Theo Dashwood died at sea.

Of the 37 men named on our War Memorial for the First World War, 17 families would never know what happened to their loved ones. As they have no known graves, they are all remembered on memorials at home and overseas.

The relatives of those who have a military grave would have had to wait and travel overseas to visit their last resting place.

For many families this only became possible after the foundation of the Royal British Legion (RBL), which started to organise subsidised trips to the battlegrounds. The RBL was founded 100 years ago this year. On the morning of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 1921, four men laid a wreath at the base of the Cenotaph war memorial in Whitehall.

The first Remembrance Day was on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1921 and was called Poppy Day. The British Legion made 9 million poppies to be sold to raise essential funds for the Armed Forces community. When these were sold out, people made their own. Today over 40 million poppies are made and worn.

The sorry situation of unknown graves also applied to The Second World War. From the 10 men named on our memorial, three have no known graves. They are Edward Rumsey, who died in North Africa, Raymond Farmer, killed while in the RAF, and Lawrence Benn, who died in the Far East: three more families unable to visit a grave.

It is tragic to think that many of these men may have had a grave when they were first a casualty. They had been buried where they died. If they were found later, they could not always be identified, perhaps due to later battles in the same location, or because their identity discs had either been removed or disappeared over time. They were later reburied and the grave would be marked "An Unknown Soldier of The Great War Known Unto God".

Remains are still being found today in France and Belgium and with the help of DNA more men are being given a name and a burial with a grave stone with their name engraved, thus they are unknown no longer.

*With thanks to Mike Stratford for this article.*

## Guest Suite to rent in USL



Newly available: Delightful ground floor Guest Suite. Central to the village. Lovely views. Private parking. Perfect for visitors whatever their needs. No dogs. For details call 01452 621741 or 07815 197375.



View from the french windows



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## Focus on Local Business

This month we take another look at our Village Store and Post Office and the owners Rahul and Seeta.



Firstly, the people - a delightful couple. Rahul comes from the Gujarat region in India – his parents live in a rural village there. Seeta was born in Birmingham where her parents still live. Rahul and Seeta purchased the Village Store and Post Office six years ago, and more recently bought a house in Woodland Green. They have two lovely daughters. One now attends the Village School and the younger one goes to Chipmunks.

Right from the start, they have done all they can to become part of our community. The shop sponsors the Village Show. They have made donations to the church. The shop is a Foodbank collection point. Rahul plays for the Village cricket team. For three or four years now they have joined with Upton Builders and Tru Cuts for the annual McMillan Nurses coffee morning – this is now surely one of our Village Events to look forward to each year. Most readers will recognise the huge amount of work they did in the pandemic to get groceries to people forced to stay at home.

Finally – the business itself. Their advertisement appears here every month showing the opening hours and giving an idea of what's available. We are coming up to Christmas, of course, and you will see special offers and seasonal items associated with the festivities. Pop in there for that box of chocs you crave, Christmas cards and decorations, mince pies, an extra bottle of wine. Rahul and Seeta are really keen to remind you that though they provide an invaluable service as a Post Office, it is only by selling goods in the shop that they can keep going. They make huge efforts to ensure they sell the things you need – bread, milk, groceries, stationery, newspapers. We gain so much by having our own Village Shop, please use it!

## Parish Council Report continued:

### Tree Planting in the Glebe Field

The protective shields that came with the saplings have not proved to be very robust. A number have been blown away by high winds and then chewed up by dogs and someone persists in removing the shields from the saplings.

As a result, the council have decided to invest in more robust protection and by the time you read this report, they will have been ordered, received and placed in the Glebe Field to protect the remaining saplings which continue to grow.

<b>USL</b> Village Store  Mon-Fri 7am-7pm Sat 7am-6pm Sun 7am-12pm 	<b>Your Village Store and Post Office</b> <b>SHOP LOCAL</b> We stock locally sourced fruit and veg, meat, milk, bakery goods and Fat Toni pizzas. Groceries, toiletries, snacks, sandwiches, drinks, cards and stationery and many more items. <b>SUPPORT LOCAL!</b> Rahul and Seeta Churchfield Road 01452618189
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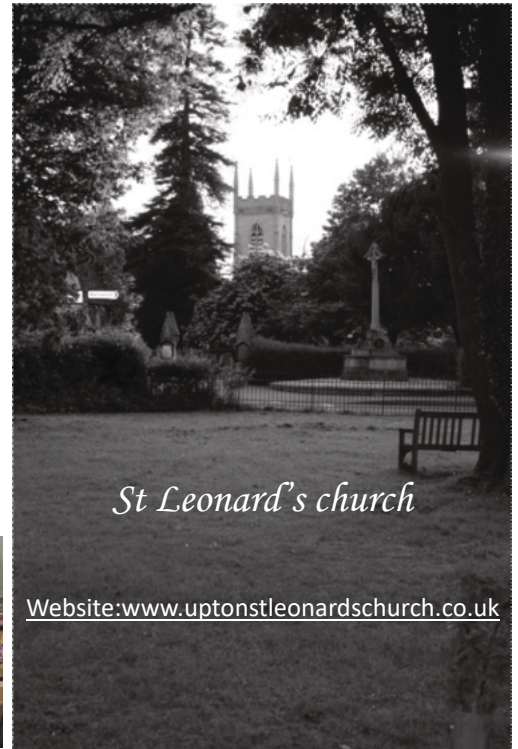


# St Leonard's Church News

## Priest in Charge - Vacancy

**Churchwarden**  
Gill Howell

**Baptism & Wedding Enquiries**  
Jenny Cunningham



*A fond farewell to  
James and Sarah*



Although we were all sorry to see James leave us a good time was had, after his final service as Associate Priest to St Leonard's, at a bring and share lunch in the Church Rooms .



Thank you James for all you have done, we shall miss you! God Bless

This month brings us Remembrance Sunday and plans are well underway to repeat our display around the Memorial and also in the memorial garden. Details will be put onto our noticeboards and in the church porch.



*Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
2021*



at

10.50 am Meet at the Memorial

For An Act of remembrance

followed by service in church

with speaker Mike Stratford (Local Historian)

*Everyone is welcome to join us on this*

*special day*



## Coffee Morning and Shoe Box Packing Day

Saturday 20th November 10.30am – 1.00pm

You are invited to a Coffee Morning being held in St. Leonard's Church.

There will be refreshments, various stalls and tombola for you to enjoy, as well as the opportunity to pack a shoe box for a child from all the lovely donations we have received. All we ask is £5 towards the transport of the shoe box. The shoe boxes will be sent overseas to children living in areas of deprivation.

***We look forward to seeing you.***

### *Shoe Box Appeal 2021*

From one shoebox in December, to date I have now received 500 shoeboxes!! This is an incredible total and is thanks to the use of local groups on facebook. The response this year from everyone has been amazing, with hand-knitted hats, gloves, scarves, puppets, pencil cases, plenty of soft toys, small toys and all the stationery and hygiene items we need to fill the shoeboxes.

This year, Upton Church is the Storage Location Centre for Gloucestershire, with up to 3,000 shoeboxes coming into Church between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November. They will then begin their onward journey to the West Midlands Processing Centre before leaving the UK. We are also a Church Collections Centre and you can bring your shoeboxes into Church during the National Collection Week which is the 15-22<sup>nd</sup> November. Thank you so much for your help and support, Jenny

### ***Tower Floodlighting 2021***

- 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 99th 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 19th birthday of my grandson Ben Davies. With much love from Nanna.
- The family of Margaret White are sponsoring the floodlights on the 19th November in celebration of what would have been her 100th birthday. Much loved and missed by us all.
- 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
- On 26<sup>th</sup> November, the Tower Lights are lit in loving memory of Dave Appleyard who passed away 3 years ago on this day- kindly sponsored by his wife Clare..



*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 the deadline for the Church Pages is the 8th of the preceding month***



*Services and Readings for November 2021*

November 7th

8.00 am Holy communion  
Hebrews 9: 24 - 28  
Mark 12: 38 - 44

10.00 am Celebration Service and Baptism  
Hebrews 9: 24 - 28  
Mark 12: 38 - 44

November 14th

10.50 am **An act of Remembrance followed  
by a service in church**  
Hebrews 10: 11 - 14 (15 - 18) 19 - 25  
Mark 13: 1 - 8

November 21st

10.00 am Communion Service  
Revelation 1: 4b - 8  
John 18: 33 - 37

November 28th

10.00 am **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
Communion service  
1 Thessalonians 3: 9 - 13  
Luke 21: 25 - 36

*Harvest Festival 2021*

Our Harvest Festival took on a new meaning this year. We decided to make donations of food to the Gloucester Food Bank and produce was brought by the congregation and as you can see we did really well and hope this will help the Food Bank. The food was blessed during the service and delivered later in the day.



The Food Bank is always in need of contributions and if you would like to donate any items you can either leave your donations at church or in the Village Shop/Post office. Most needed items at present are:

Tinned fruit	Tinned custard
Tinned spaghetti	Tinned vegetables
Tinned tomatoes	Tinned potatoes
Tinned rice pudding	Jars of pasta sauce
Single toothbrushes	Toothpaste
Shampoo	Toilet rolls
Bars of soap.	



# St Leonard's Church News

## Mothers' UNION

At last, at the beginning of September we were able to commission our branch leader and admit one new member, Gill Howell, and two other members, Sheila Thomas and Margaret Jones who had joined before the pandemic. The Reverend James Turk, Associate Priest commissioned Kate Gale as leader and she in turn admitted the three members.



Next Meeting: Thursday November 18th at St Oswald's Church Hall at 2.30pm (NOTE THE NEW COMMENCEMENT TIME) - Members' Afternoon, please bring along a favourite reading or poem to share with everyone. There will be the usual Bring & Buy Stall.

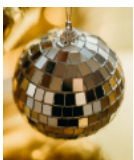
**Visitors are very welcome.**



### Thinking about joining the 500 Club?

Become a member before the end of November and your number will be included in the

### Annual Christmas Draw



to win a prize of  
**£500**



## Who's Who in the Parish Church

**Priest in Charge** - Vacancy

**Churchwarden:**

Gill Howell

Second churchwarden - 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), Pew News and Website**

Rachel Middleton



### October 500 Club Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Prize            £30.00            No. 19

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize            £20.00            No. 38



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## ARTS PAGE

This month we suggest that we should consider events of the past year including Covid and Afghanistan, noting that November is the month when we focus on peace and armistice whilst remembering war and its consequences.

This first poem is entitled “The Evacuees” and it might also refer to “Refugees” today.

THE EVACUEES by Freda Laughton (1907 – 1945)

There is no sound of guns here, nor echo of guns.  
The spasm of bombs has dissolved.  
Into the determination of the tractor.

We have discovered the grass, curled in the ditches.  
We have combed it with rakes in the hayfields,  
And coiffed it in lion-coloured stacks.

We have stroked milk, warm and gentle from the cow,  
The placid, primitive milk, before bottles  
Sterilise its mild wonder.

We have met the bland smile of eggs in the willow-basket;  
Returned the stolid stare of cheeses ripening on the shelf;  
Warmed ourselves at the smell of baking bread.

### QUOTATIONS

To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival. (Wendell Berry)

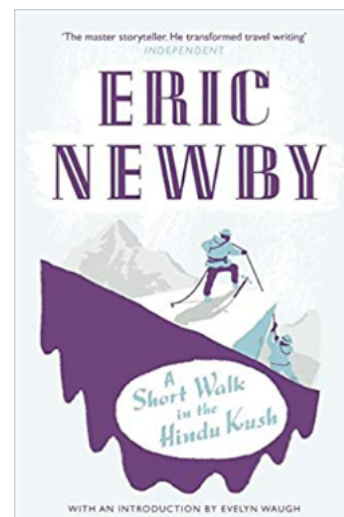
There never was a good war, or a bad peace.  
(Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790 American politician, inventor and scientist)

This world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel. (Horace Walpole 1717-1797 English writer)

The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it.  
(George Orwell 1903-1950 English writer)

THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



### BOOK REVIEW

**A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush by Eric Newby (1919-2006)**

Published in 1958 by an English travel writer, this book is an autobiographical account of Newby’s adventures in Afghanistan. Eric Newby had a career in fashion in London but decided, impulsively, to travel to a remote corner of Afghanistan where no Englishman had ventured for 60 years. He travelled with a friend, Hugh Carless, and they were poorly prepared and inexperienced. Critics describe the book as comic, intensely English and understated. It is a classic piece of old-school British exploration.

# International Men's Day

Feature by Jane Reed

International Men's Day takes place on November 19<sup>th</sup> and is a global day of observance held every year in more than sixty countries around the world. It invites every man, boy, woman and girl to come together and celebrate men and boys in all their diversity. It is also an opportunity to recognise and raise awareness of various issues which impact men and aims to encourage positive conversations around manhood and masculinity. Despite a few attempts to set up an International Men's Day in America, Australia and Malta, it was in Trinidad and Tobago in 1999 that the event really became an ongoing success.

International Men's Day has six Key Pillars:

- To promote positive male role models; not just movie stars and sportsmen, but everyday, working class men who are living decent, honest lives.
- To celebrate men's positive contributions: to society, community, family, marriage, child care, and to the environment.
- To focus on men's health and well-being: social, emotional, physical and spiritual.
- To highlight discrimination against males: in areas of social services, social attitudes and expectations, and law.
- To improve gender relations and promote gender equality through tackling issues where men and boys face disadvantage in a way that is inclusive and that does not undermine female disadvantage.
- To create a better world, where people can be safe and grow to reach their full potential, and where support initiatives help reduce the number of male offenders and prevent boys from being drawn into criminality.

The core themes of **International Men's Day UK** include raising awareness and/or funds for charities which support the well-being of men and boys. Issues addressed by this event include highlighting the fact that male suicides account for 75% of all the suicides in the UK with numbers continuing to increase. The reasons behind this are partly the traditional masculine values such as self-reliance and stoicism, with talking about mental health seen as a weakness and, still being reinforced by phrases like "boys don't cry" and "man up".

When it comes to issues around domestic violence, forced marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation, it is often thought that men don't experience these. Therefore it is so much harder for them to admit they are a victim, let alone reach out for help.

When thinking about discrimination, discrimination against men isn't what springs to mind, but how often are fathers the parent with custody of the children rather than the parent just having access. Moreover, how many men do you see working in early years and other traditionally female jobs?

Do we as a society appreciate the challenges faced by men as parents, particularly new fathers and fathers separated from their children? Some things I hadn't

realised are that 35% fewer males than females were accepted into universities in 2018, that from 1989 to 2019 boys had worse exam results than girls and that they are three times more likely to be excluded from school. Most of us are aware about men's life expectancy being lower than women's, though perhaps that will change as more women work throughout their life with similar levels of stress.

As I've been writing this feature my mind wanders back to the key pillar mentioning positive role models for men and boys. I wonder how many of the young men's first thoughts would be a celebrity or influencer. Though if you take those out of the equation, the answers would probably vary from grandfather to Scout leader, with lots in between. Who would be top of your list? It also occurred to me how lucky Upton is to have so many men contributing to the quality of village life whether it's through being part of USCAN, the village hall committee or running one of our many clubs.

I would love it if the reading of my article gave people food for thought, and possibly even started a positive conversation about men, manhood and masculinity.



This country has a strong tradition of supporting charities which results in having many wonderful charities doing amazing work with all sections of society. I knew of some charities supporting men and boys in particular, but have discovered a couple more, so below I have listed just a few of them, but have a look for yourselves to discover the variety of support available.

**Men's Sheds** are community spaces for men to connect, converse and create, they help reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly, they're fun. There are two Men's Sheds in Gloucester one in Hempsted and the other in Quedgeley. [menssheds.org.uk](http://menssheds.org.uk)

**Mankind Initiative** offers a confidential helpline available for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence across the UK, as well as abuse involving their friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues and employers. [www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)

**Dad Matters** aims to help dads have successful relationships with their families, and to support dads with anxiety, stress and mental health issues. The hope is to get dads engaged with services that have traditionally been targeted at mums, and to train & support volunteer dads to work with them. This organisation works directly with services that support dads, families and especially babies to increase engagement and knowledge across the sector. The idea is to make sure dads know how important they are, how to access support when they need it and why it's essential for baby's development. [dadmatters.org.uk/](http://dadmatters.org.uk/) and [dadmatters.org.uk/gloucestershire](http://dadmatters.org.uk/gloucestershire)



**Journeyman UK** supports boys to become the men they want to be. In adolescence boys embark on a journey to maturity during which they will encounter changes, challenges and new experiences, many of which will shape them for life. Although each path will be different and there is no one clear way through, our ancestors knew that with support, guidance and encouragement from the older men of the community, the journey to healthy masculinity was far more likely to be successful. Journeyman UK is a registered charity dedicated to supporting boys aged 13 to 17 in discovering their potential as they navigate the choppy waters of adolescence. Communities are enabled to acquire the skills needed to take responsibility for supporting their boys and young men to become the adults they want to be. [journeymanuk.org](http://journeymanuk.org)

**Samaritans** - Men who spoke to the Samaritans were clear about what they wanted from support services. Among other things, the following were all key - the opportunity to make a contribution; a feeling of inclusivity; the chance to work towards common goals, peer support and feeling like they had shared experience with other people.

[www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/middle-aged-men-suicide/supporting-middle-aged-men/](http://www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/middle-aged-men-suicide/supporting-middle-aged-men/)

**Men & Boys Coalition** is a network of organisations, academics, journalists, professionals and leaders committed to highlighting and taking action on the gender-specific issues that affect men and boys.

[www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk](http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk)

## *And now for a bit of history*



### **The Good Old Days or Were they?**

Feature by Mike Stratford



Some people refer to the past, "As the good old days" but when you consider what life was like you might change your mind. Here are just a few examples of perhaps living in Upton in the 1500/1600's.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Houses had thatched roofs of thick straw, sometimes with no wood underneath. It was one place for animals to get warm, so cats and other small animals including mice and bugs lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals, including dogs, would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs".

Things falling into the houses posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed: hence a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top. This would afford some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

For poor people your floor was dirt. Only wealthy people had slate or stone floors that would get wet in the winter. So they spread straw or thresh on the floor to help keep their footing. Through the winter more thresh would be added until when you opened the door the thresh would start slipping outside. So a piece of wood was placed in the doorway. Hence the saying a 'threshold'.

Those who had money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach

onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the drinker out for a couple of days. Someone finding them perhaps by the side of the road would take them for dead and perhaps prepare them for burial. They were then laid out on a table at home for a couple of days and the family would gather around to eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

Last but not not least: in some places churchyards started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and reuse the graves taking any bones to the bone house. Sometimes when reopening the coffins they found scratch marks on the inside where people had been buried alive. So later they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse who might be in a coma. The string was threaded through the coffin and up to the surface and tied to a bell. Someone would be tasked to sit in the churchyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for a bell. Thus someone could be saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.



Perhaps living with all the problems of today is not so bad after all.

**A mystery solved, but so sad - a village tragedy of long ago. May she rest in peace.**



A postcard collector recently contacted the School. In his collection was a postcard dated 1907 which had the picture you see. The caption says it is Group 2 of Children at Upton St Leonards School. The postcard was sent to a Miss Mourton in Cirencester, with a date stamp of 25 September 1907. The message on the back is a very tragic one:

*"What do you think of this, isn't it splendid. I did not know they had this took 'till last Saturday. It is the very same clothes she was drowned in boots and all. I only got three. I thought I would send you one, Nellie and Willie is at each end of second row. Yrs Ellen".*

Neil Eley scanned the Citizen papers for a report of the drowning of a young girl. The drowned girl was Ellen Luker, known as Nellie. She drowned in the mill pond at Stewart's Mill. You may recognise that name - Stewart's Mill Road in Abbeymead. The mill was in the area where the Abbeymead Community Centre car park now is, and if you take the footpath up the stream from where it crosses Abbeymead Avenue you can still see an old bridge and other brickwork of the mill.

The writer of the card is undoubtedly Nellie's mother, also named Ellen Luker, and, as she states, Nellie is at the left, and her older brother Willie is on the right of the second row. Sad indeed.

**TAKE YOUR TIME**

Now some people say us country folk be a slow and ponderous type,  
 Just cus we don't rush around causing all that fuss and hype.  
 We knows we am only yer the once so we means to make it last,  
 Cus being in a rush and tear wunt make the day go fast.  
 We likes to take our time with stuff & we most times gets it right,  
 For too much haste and too much pace can land you in a plight.  
 Slow and steady wins the race, that's what we bin told,  
 Too much hurry in younger life and you wunt last to grow old.  
 The things that you didn't do yesterday should not be held in horror,  
 And the things that you didn't do today will still be there tomorrer.

There's no need to rush your life away,  
 Just take your time, live for today

*Ted Gardner*

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Dates, times, venues and contacts for the Yoga, Pilates and Art classes that run every week can be found on the next page.

# VILLAGE DIARY

## NOVEMBER

1	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00p.m.
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
2	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.25a.m.
2	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
2	Tue	Tuesday Probus Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
2	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
3	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
3	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
4	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
7	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Pavilion.....	10.00a.m.
8	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
9	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15a.m.
9	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
9	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
10	Wed	Wednesday Probus Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
10	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
10	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
11	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
13	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
14	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00a.m.
15	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
16	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15a.m.
16	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
16	Tue	Tuesday Probus Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
16	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
17	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
17	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
17	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
18	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
18	Thu	History Group - "Gloucestershire Place Names" Dr Simon Draper.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
20	Sat	Race Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
21	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00a.m.
22	Mon	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15a.m.
22	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
23	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
23	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
24	Wed	Wednesday Probus Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
24	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
24	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
25	Thu	Craft and 'N' Chatter.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
25	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
28	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00a.m.
29	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
30	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.15a.m.
30	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
30	Tue	Tuesday Probus Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
30	Tues	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.

## DECEMBER

6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00p.m.
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
10	Fri	Christmas Carol Concert.....	Upton St Leonards Church	Time to be advised
11	Sat	BMI Pensioners Lunch.....	BMI.....	12.00p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
16	Thu	Craft 'N' Chatter.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
18	Sat	Christmas Draw Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
19	Sun	Carols around the village.....	Upton St Leonards Village	Time to be advised
24	Fri	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
31	Fri	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.

## JANUARY

3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00p.m.
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
8	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
10	Mon	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
20	Thu	History Group - Cotswold & Cornish Cream – Martin Fry.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.

To place an entry in the Village Diary, please contact Paula Quinn

## Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week. .

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Brickhill	07876 764425
Yoga	Fridays 10am	Pavilion	Sylvia Bennett	07921 591521
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

## Christmas & New Year Events

Christmas time brings special events in the Village. Here's a list of some, and there will surely be a longer list and more details in the **December edition**.

- Friday 10th - Christmas Carol Concert with Gloucester Brass and TLC
- Saturday 11th - BMI Pensioners' Lunch (ticket only)
- Saturday 18th - BMI Christmas Draw
- Sunday 19th - Carols around the Village
- Friday 24th - Christmas Eve entertainment night at the BMI
- Friday 31st - New Year's Eve Entertainment at the BMI

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**Photography Classes**

- Village Pride
- Reflections
- A close up photograph
- Fun on Wheels
- That looks tasty
- A face full of wisdom (black and white prints only)
- And the children's class is Ball games. (This class is for children up to the age of 16 only)

**Charity classes**

- Knit a Trauma Teddy to be given to children in distress. Pattern available from [jhlord@btinternet.com](mailto:jhlord@btinternet.com) or phone 613246
- Using any medium make an item suitable for a child's prize for the Spin-a-Wheel game at The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth

**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: Barbara Swindin  
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 Andy Russell  
 Barbara Swindin  
 Peter Wilson  
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 Linda Munnoch  
 Ann Morpew  
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**Ruby Elkins - cricket at Lords**

Last month we told of how Ruby, from the Cricket Club, was due to play at Lords. Here are a couple of pictures of the occasion. Ruby is the non-striking batter in the picture on the right.



**NOTICES**



Lynn and Dave Bateman are proud to announce the birth of granddaughter Meredith Audrey Robinson on Saturday 11th July. Welcome to the world baby Meredith and congratulations to Mum and Dad - Michelle and Liam.



We are sad to announce the death of Keith Smith. Keith and Joyce Smith were long-time residents of the Village, well known to many, both contributing greatly to Village life. Keith was Akela for the Cubs for quite a while and ran a youth football team briefly. He sang in the church choir for very many years, and was Churchwarden for a while. Joyce and Keith were founder members of the Petanque club 25 years ago. Joyce died in 2014 and Keith missed her hugely. About 5 years ago he sold their bungalow on the Wheatridge and he moved to a flat near the docks in Gloucester. Always a gentleman, Keith died in September.

**Next month's editor**

Peter Wilson



Use the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page

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## UPTON ST. LEONARDS - UP AND RUNNING AGAIN



Craft 'n Chatter ladies hard at work



Call My Bluff Wine Tasting at the Village Hall. TLC sang in the interval.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - A SUCCESS AGAIN!



**Thank You** everyone for supporting us yet again for this wonderful cause. Great turnout. Thank you for your cake donations and cash donations. With Upton Builders and Trucuts we managed to raise £824.15 altogether.  
*Seeta and Rahul at the Village Shop and Post Office*