

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 111

November 2023



Autumn woods above the village

***Have your say on improving
Upton!***

See page 1

Church News
Church Roof Fund Updates
What's been happening?

Forthcoming Events in
November and December

**Remembrance Day
Sunday 12 November**



Things that go bump in the
night! – Unknown Soldier –
Gloucester Rugby Club

Editorial

First of all a big thank you to all who have contributed to this latest edition of USL Life. If there is anyone out there in the village who would be interested in writing articles for us or helping the Team in any other way, do let us know. You will also see below that the Parish Council is asking villagers to submit new ideas for improvements to the village.

Barbara



How can we improve our village?

The Parish Council have recently discussed whether there are any good ideas for improving our village as we approach 2024.

There have been some great ideas contributed from different people over the past few years, ranging from work on our Village Green (e.g. Memorial Bench/Tree, Owl/Seat Carvings) to Play Areas for Children/Adult Gym Equipment at our Recreation Ground to the Trees planted by residents and local schoolchildren in the Glebe Field. There are many more examples.

We would like to ask you as village residents whether you have any ideas which would improve Upton. The Parish Council can then consider these as we discuss what funds are required in 2024/25.

We would be grateful for any ideas you may have and these can be sent to Roy Balgobin, Parish Clerk, via email

uslclerk@btinternet.com

or popped into the Village Hall postbox

By 27 November 2023

What's been happening?

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

A great success - See back page!

COFFEE
MORNING

UPTON ST LEONARDS TENNIS CLUB

Following on from a successful season in the **Glos Dunlop Summer League 2022**, when the ladies doubles team topped division 5 to earn promotion to division 4 for 2023, their place in the division has been secured with a good team effort for a third position finish to Bredon and Churchdown.

The men's doubles team faced some strong opponents in division 6, but after a difficult start to the season, the team fought hard and finished stronger, to gain some well earned points.

Upton St Leonards have a team entered in the **Glos Dunlop League** and also the **Stroud Winter League** for 2023/2024.

New members are always welcome to join the club for social or competitive tennis.

For information usl.tennisclub@gmail.com

TWYVER WI MEETING 9 OCTOBER 2023

For this month's meeting we were invited to participate in our own fun evening of indoor curling. I know what you're thinking, ladies with tongs at the ready! But no, you would be wrong on so many levels, as it involved crouching on our haunches and mustering our competitive instincts. It's hard to describe the fun and hilarity and whoops and arms punching the air, when our 'stones' landed in the circle and gained points for the teams of Red and Blue.

The sport of Curling goes back to Medieval times in Scotland when the ponds froze over in winter and players skimmed stones across the ice. The broom used in the game raises the temperature of the ice so that the stones move more easily on the drops of water which form as a result. Our 'broom' ladies, Monica and Val did a sterling job keeping the floor free of debris, it certainly raised all our temperatures and probably our blood pressures too but what a great evening!

The game has come a long way since those times and is now an Olympic Sport. Check out Wikipedia for more facts. The indoor game is becoming popular, and the kit we used was hired through GFWI and Girlguiding Gloucestershire. We offer our grateful thanks to Nicola for organising this great evening. Overall winners were presented with prizes of Curly Wurlies, and we all agreed it had been exhilarating.

On 11th November there is an organised walk event – see the WI magazine for full details. There will also be trade tables for people to browse. This will be a fund raiser for WI 2024.

Our monthly meeting in November will be a General Meeting; anyone interested in serving on the Committee please register your interest. This will be followed by Xmas Wreath making, one to look forward to!

Linda Munnoch

See page 20 for photos of the 'Curling' Ladies

UPTON WI

The October meeting of the WI featured a talk by Pauline Wickens on the subject of 'Bach Flower Remedies.' Edward Bach (1886-1970) was a homeopathy practitioner who created his flower-based remedies in the 1930s using homeopathic methods involving multiple dilutions. He advocated a holistic approach to wellbeing and health, promoting self-discovery and self-awareness. Pauline founded the Chrysalis Healing Foundation* based in Cheltenham, and uses Bach Flower Remedies which she says, "have been a source of comfort and support", as part of her holistic approach to wellbeing.

Angela Harris has resigned as president of the Upton WI and committee members will take on the various president tasks until a new president is elected. As it happens, the next meeting (Monday 6 November, 2pm in the Pavilion) is the AGM, and as well as the annual meeting business there will be a film show by Michael Morris. All are welcome.

Kathy Quant

*www.chrysalishealingfoundation.co.uk



**Bach
Flower
Remedies**

LADIES PROBUS

As ever, Martin Fry enchanted us all at our September meeting with his display of slides set to music.

Our October meeting will be a presentation by Roger Coates on the Past, Present & Future of the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway. This is our local heritage railway line which commands wonderful views of the nearby sleepy hamlets & villages, with outstanding outlooks across to the Malvern Hills & beyond. It should be a great talk!

For our November meeting on Wednesday 15th, we are meeting in the BMI at 10am & are going to be treated a choral delight by our local TLC Choir. Afterwards, we will transfer to Bowden Hall for a pre-booked pre-Christmas lunch in their lovely dining room. You are welcome to join us at 10am for coffee in the BMI to hear the TLC choir.

Halloween



You may well be reading this just before the 31st October, or Halloween, as it is known, an event which these days seems to attract much more publicity than it ever seemed to in my youth! (Ed.) It is therefore timely to publish the article below. Once again our local historian, Mike Stratford, has written a fascinating piece. Read on!

Halloween and “Things that go bump in the night”.

Unfortunately we are heading for the nights drawing in and it getting dark earlier. At the end of October on the 31st it will be Halloween. This is said to be a Celtic festival when the souls of the dead return to their homes and evil spirits are also said to be at large. Halloween faded out as the Reformation spread through England. This was because All Saints Day was not generally recognised.

People began to make light of the darker side of Halloween in the 20th Century when “Trick or Treat” started among adults and spread to children. Many countries have different forms of Halloween. In Mexico, they have “The day of the dead”. In North America, Halloween is celebrated the most.

During Halloween, dressing up as witches is common. This of course has a real life terrible history. There were formal accusations against witches, who were usually poor elderly women. This reached a peak in the late 16th century. In the South East of England 513 women were put on trial and 112 were executed, many for very trivial reasons, often for giving herbal medicine to someone. In East Anglia there was the Witch Finder, General Matthew Hopkins. This man was a self-appointed Witch Finder, who toured the country acting as a judge. Women were sentenced after some very painful tests. Condemned to death, they were usually hanged and their bodies burned.

The last known execution took place in Devon in 1685, although accusations continued into the 20th Century. The last witch trial in the Forest of Dean took place in 1905. It was still an offence, no matter the methods or intent behind it. Although I have not found any evidence of witches in Upton, there was once an elderly lady who was said to be able to cure anything by placing slugs and snails on you.

Haunting is a favourite subject at Halloween. There are numerous places in Gloucestershire that are said to be haunted. A lady is said to walk through walls at Bowden Hall: this of course is not mentioned in the hotel brochure. In Cranham, a Grey Lady is said to walk the fields in the evening. Barrow Wake at Birdlip near Crickley Hill is said to have three skeletons walking about. A witch named Elizabeth Bastre was executed in 1786 near Cirencester and is said to haunt the crossroads where she was executed.

In May 1905 a question was asked in parliament with reference to a family called Markey, when three members of the family lost their reason. This happened in Blakeney, Gloucestershire, apparently as a result of witchcraft. Mr Markey and his wife had consulted a supposed witch about some money which they believed had been stolen. Subsequently three members of the family became insane. Local police were said to be looking into the events.

Painswick Church has 99 trees in the Churchyard. If one is added, it is said to be removed by the Devil.

Whatever you are/were doing at Halloween the advice is to “keep calm and carry on” and sleep well.

Mike Stratford

Forthcoming Events

Upton Show AGM Tuesday 7th November

The Upton Show AGM will be held in the Pavilion on Tuesday 7th November at 8.00p.m. We look forward to welcoming committee members, volunteers, exhibitors and anyone else interested in taking part next year.

We especially wish to encourage anyone who would like to join our committee. Meetings are held around 6 times a year, and its always good to have members who may have new ideas for the show.

We would also like to recruit more volunteers to help with the running of the show itself. Please come along to the meeting and find out more or contact Kate Brooks.

Upton St Leonards Village History Group Thursday 16th November

Social Evening to celebrate 25 years of the History Group
With a locally themed quiz
New members (£7.50) and visitors (£2) welcome
In the Village Hall at 7.45pm

Raise the Roof The Church Roof Fund

Fish & Chip Supper followed by a Quiz

Friday 17th November at 7.00 pm
At The Old School Room

Tickets £10 from Gill Howell

The proceeds from this event will go to the Church Roof Fund

Forthcoming Events @ the BMI

Saturday 4th November

Entertainment Night
with The Clifden Sound
From 8.00p.m.

Open to Members and signed in guests

Sunday 19th November

Sunday Lunchtime Jazz
With
"Cygnet Duo"

From 1.00-3.30p.m.

Open to Members and signed in guests



Saturday 25th November

Entertainment Night
With
"Buck and the Tasty Tones"
From 8.00p.m.

Open to Members and signed in guests

ST AUGUSTINE'S AUTUMN FETE



Saturday 25 November

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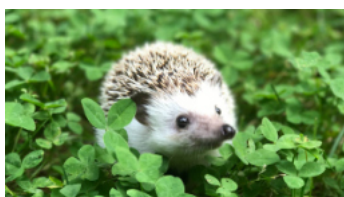
December Events at the BMI

Saturday 9 December: BMI Pensioners Lunch, 12 noon, tickets £17.

Saturday 16th December: Christmas Draw, 8pm. Open to members and signed in guests.

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve Entertainment Night with Bak2Bak, 8pm.
Open to members and signed in guests.

Sunday 31st December: New Year's Eve Party Night with Ian Oliver, 8pm.
Members only, admission by ticket (£15) purchased in advance.



HEDGEHOGS

By Jane Reed

There are sixteen species of hedgehogs living across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia. The European one is the largest at 12-15 inches and weighing 2lbs, whereas the African pygmy is the smallest at 7-9 inches and 1lb.

Our British hedgehog is the European species and is one of this country's most recognisable and well loved animals. They live across a range of farmland, woodland, and into urban areas, where they are a favourite with gardeners. These creatures can travel up to two miles when searching for food and are most active at night, resting during the day in nests made of leaves, twigs, and grasses. They live an average of four to six years, but have been known to live up to ten years! The females can have two litters of four to five hoglets per year, feeding them for roughly eight weeks before leaving them to fend for themselves. Hedgehogs are mostly insectivorous, meaning they eat beetles, caterpillars, earthworms, snails, eggs, slugs, fruit, and occasionally amphibians and small rodents. In the wild they are solitary animals, though not territorial, and are surprisingly vocal, communicating through a combination of grunts, snuffles, and squeals.

Hedgehog numbers have declined for many reasons, including loss of habitat, busy roads, pesticides, garden netting, and ponds. If you want to attract and keep them safe in your garden, ensure there is easy access for them. Leave a wild area or at least avoid 'tidying up' too much (although try not to leave out any netting), and add a ramp to any garden ponds. As hedgehogs tend to hibernate between November and mid-March, now is a good time to leave piles of leaves and branches in your garden for them. Remember to check before lighting any bonfires, not only those 5th November ones, but all through the year. I think wildlife programmes have managed to spread the word that we shouldn't be leaving out bread and milk for hedgehogs because the bread isn't nutritional and the milk upsets their stomachs. Instead, we should be providing fresh water, along with dog or cat food, when little else is available for them; this could help them gain enough weight to survive winter.

Hopefully hedgehogs will become frequent visitors to our gardens again.

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View from the french windows

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Upton Remembers An Unknown Soldier

It's remembrance time again, when we remember those who gave their lives in the service of this country. At this time we also look forward with perhaps some trepidation because of events in Ukraine and the Middle East. Remembrance means different things to different people. When Tony Blair was Prime Minister he issued a cabinet paper saying Remembrance Day should be phased out. He said it would not mean much to younger people in the future. I believe he was wrong.

I wonder what the 37 men from Upton Parish who died in World War One would think of events in Ukraine? They fought in "the war to end all wars" if only that were true. They would see parts of Ukraine exactly like the Western Front in France in 1918. Towns and villages destroyed with shell holes everywhere and men fighting in trenches. Weapons have become more sophisticated but with the same result: death and destruction of innocent people, men, women and children. As in World War Two the 10 men from Upton Parish who died were fighting against another evil regime. As in World War Two Britain has welcomed people escaping from war crimes.

Back in the 1990's I helped cut the grass in Upton churchyard. At the back near the rubbish heap was a military grave. It was inscribed 4592 Corporal E R Clarke Gloucestershire Regiment who died November 1915. I asked a couple of people who were born in Upton if they knew why Corporal Clarke was not on the War Memorial. They told me, "You don't want to know about him, that is why he is buried away from everyone else."

This made me more determined to find out who he was and why he was buried in Upton? Looking on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, it just records he is buried in Upton St Leonards churchyard.

I then obtained a copy of his death certificate which states:

Dead body found 24th November 1915 in a straw rick at Pincot Farm Upton St Leonards.

Name: Ernest Robert Clarke.

Age: 44 years.

Of 2, Victoria Square Clifton Bristol. Corporal $\frac{3}{4}$ Gloucestershire Regiment and Army pensioner.

Cause of death: Exposure to the weather.

Signed by E Waghorne coroner of Gloucestershire inquest held 26th November 1915 in Upton St Leonards.

Looking at newspaper records of the Gloucester Citizen I found a report for Friday 26th November 1915 with a headline "Soldier's death from exposure." His wife attended the inquest and said he had enlisted that year after serving in The Royal Garrison Artillery. So he need not have rejoined the Army. His battalion was stationed at Cheltenham and he had gone absent without leave.

His body was found by Henry Trinder Millard. Ernest had died in the night, as it was very cold. Was he trying to get back to Bristol? Why was he not buried in Bristol? Perhaps at the time, being absent without leave was seen as bringing shame on the family.

Until 2014 Ernest was not recorded anywhere, but since the memorial boards were mounted in the church, his name is recorded. He is remembered regardless of the circumstances of his death. He was in uniform in the service of his country.

Whoever you remember at this time, explain to a younger person that those who died did so in order that we can live in freedom.

Compiled by Mike Stratford

St Leonard's Church

Website

www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

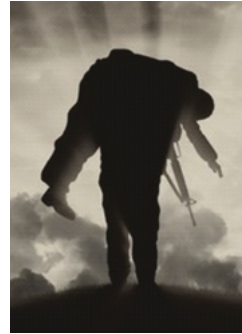


November a Month of Remembrance



The Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion works hard to support the most vulnerable in our society, be it older veterans that we care for, those who suffer from social isolation, or those who are simply overwhelmed by the challenges associated with the cost-of-living crisis.



“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends”

John 15:13.

Wearing a Poppy

Every poppy shows you care about our Armed Forces Community. Without our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to continue supporting our serving and ex-serving men and women, and their families.

It is strongly linked with Armistice Day (11 November), but the poppy's origin as a popular symbol of remembrance lies in the landscapes of the First World War. Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling.

The purple poppy is a symbol of remembrance in the United Kingdom for animals that served during wartime. The symbol was created in 2006 based on the principle of the traditional red remembrance poppy for Remembrance Day.

Locally, the RBL Poppy Appeal is supported well. You will see poppies for sale in the Village Shop, the two Hotels, BMI, Portway Farm Shop, Tru-Cut Hairdressers, as well as a display of merchandise and poppies in Morrisons.



Sunday November 12th

10.50 am Service of Remembrance

beginning at the War Memorial (10 minutes) and continuing in church

After, if time allows there will be a short communion service.



Services for November

November 5 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Celebration Service With local children Families very welcome
November 12 th	10.50 am *	Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion
November 19 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
November 26 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion

*N.B * Please note the change in time - we will meet at the War Memorial*

Churchwarden: Gill Howell

Interment and burial of ashes enquiries

Church Administrator: Jenny Cunningham

Wedding & Baptism Enquiries

Sue Downey - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Tower light dedications

Please note the deadline for the Church pages is the 8th of the preceding month

November 9th - the Tower Lights will shine in remembrance of James Bruntnell Williams, who was born on this day in 1929. With love from all the family. Forever in our hearts.

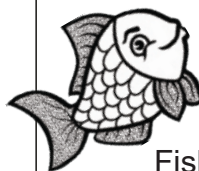
On the 12th November, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the 20th birthday of my grandson Ben Davies. With much love from Nanna.

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.

The Church Tower will be lit on the 22nd November in memory of Sally Tucker on her birthday. Sadly passed away 4 years ago, but never forgotten by all her family and friends.



Gloucester Brass
and
TLC Singers
Sunday 10th December 3.00 pm
Christmas Songs and Carols
Tickets £10 each



Fishy Friday

Fish and Chips in the Old School Room
Friday November 17th at 7.00 pm
Followed by a Quiz
£10 each

Tea & Coffee will be available but you are welcome to bring along your own liquid refreshments

Anne Herring and I have recently completed our annual count of the money in the Children's Society collecting boxes - £430. This is an amazing amount, for which the Society will be extremely grateful.

I have co-ordinated this collection in the parish since 1999 and have decided to retire, so the box collection will no longer happen here. However, I estimate that since 1999 donations have exceeded £10,000 and I want to say an enormous "thank you" to everyone who contributed, and to Anne who has helped me with the counting.

There are several ways to contribute to the Children's Society, and I hope those who wish to do so will continue to support the wonderful work that the Society does.

Rachel Ball

Operation Christmas Child – Packing day in St Leonards Church, Saturday 18th November 11am - 1 pm. Come along and pack a shoebox for £5 (everything you need is provided).



Children's Corner

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

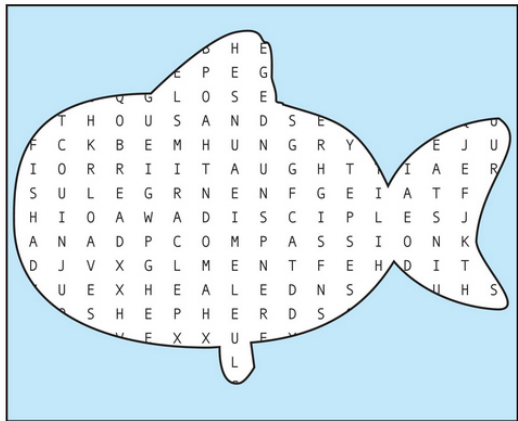
When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

John 6: 1 - 15 NIV Bible

Jesus Fed the People Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.



BREAD	FISH	MIRACLE
COMPASSION	HEALED	SHEPHERD
DISCIPLES	HUNGRY	TAUGHT
EAT	LOAVES	THOUSANDS

Mothers' Union



Members met in September for a communion service in St Leonard's Church, Upton. The officiant was Rev Liz Palin, the Mother's Union Diocesan Chaplain, and as it was St Matthew's Day, she used the apostle as her theme. There was a good attendance, and the offertory was donated to the work of the church. Afterwards refreshments were served in the School Room.

Mothers' Union Literacy and Financial Education Programme in Burundi has been running for over 20 years and a recent report charts and measures cumulative impacts over that period in areas of literacy, poverty alleviation, girls' education, sustainable savings groups, employment creation and family and community cohesion. The highlights include:

- Over 165,000 people (77% women) have participated in the programme in some of the most disadvantaged and hard to reach communities.
- Of those participants over 144,00 have learned to read and write and now have formal literacy qualification. This accounts for 2.9% of the adult literate population in Burundi.
- 7,500 participants accessed the parenting education element of the programme which has resulted in improved relationships between spouses and their children.
- 98% of participants interviewed report that their ability to now read the Bible has changed their relationship with God and given them a greater sense of belonging to their local church.

- 6,200 savings and loans associations have been created. Over 84% of those formed have continued and many replicated organically beyond the formal support of the programme.
- The economic and social impacts of the programme deliver on eight of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, alongside nurturing self-worth, value and spiritual maturing, which in turn empowers participants to take on leadership within their churches and wider communities.

Mothers' Union has worked in partnership with Five Talents, Development Services International (DSI) and Lakarmissionen (LM) to create this sustainable programme, highlighting the impact of successful partnership working. Quite an achievement for our organisation.

The next meeting will be held at St Oswald's Church Hall, Coney Hill on Thursday 16th November and will be a "Members Afternoon" when those attending will be asked to bring an Advent or Christmas reading or poem to share with the group. This will be the last time the branch meets at Coney Hill, as from January 2024 our venue will be the School Room, Upton, commencing at 2pm on the 3rd Thursdays in the month.

Kate Gale – Branch Leader

Does anyone have any artificial trees that they would like to pass on?
The Stitches Group are looking specifically for a white tree, but others would be gratefully received too! Please let Gill know if you are able to help



October 500 Club Winners

1st Prize	£30.00	No 42
2nd Prize	20.00	No 57

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Two themes play a major part in poetry – Love and Death. Most poets write about these universal themes, but many of the poems express not just one theme, but some or all of these, in the same poem: Love and Life, Death and Loss.

LIFE

**A Thunderstorm in Town by Thomas Hardy
(A reminiscence, 1893)**

She wore a new 'terra-cotta' dress,
And we stayed, because of the pelting storm,
Within the hansom's dry recess,
Though the horse had stopped; yea, motionless
We sat on, snug and warm.
Then the downpour ceased, to my sharp sad pain,
And the glass that had screened our forms before
Flew up, and out she sprang to her door:
I should have kissed her if the rain
Had lasted a minute more.

DESIRE

The Shoe Tying by Robert Herrick

Anthea bade me tie her shoe;
I did; and kissed the Instep too:
And would have kissed unto her knee,
Had not her Blush rebuked me.

Down by the Salley Gardens by W. B. Yeats

Down by the Salley Gardens my love and I did meet;
She passed the Salley gardens with little snow-white feet.
She bid me take love easy, as the leaves grow on the tree;
But I, being young and foolish, with her would not agree.
In a field by river my love and I did stand,
And on my leaning shoulder she laid her snow-white hand.
She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs;
But I was young and foolish, and now am full of tears.

LIFE, LOVE AND DEATH

Circumstance by Alfred Lord Tennyson 1809-92

Two children in two neighbour villages
Playing mad pranks along the healthy leas;
Two strangers meeting at a festival;
Two lovers whispering by an orchard wall;
Two lives bound fast in one with golden ease;
Two graves grass-green beside a gray church-
tower,
Washed with still rains and daisy blossomèd;
Two children in one hamlet born and bred;
So runs the round of life from hour to hour.

BOOK REVIEW

THE PRESENCE by Dannie Abse

Loss, grief and love are the theme of this remarkable memoir from one of Britain's most distinguished poets.

A MARRIAGE

R. S. Thomas

We met
under a shower
of bird-notes.
Fifty years passed
love's moment
in a world in
servitude to time.
She was young;
I kissed with my eyes
closed and opened
them on her wrinkles.
Come,' said death,
choosing her as his
partner for
the last dance. And she,
who in life
had done everything
with a bird's grace,
opened her bill now
for the shedding
of one sigh no
heavier than a feather.

EPIGRAMS

It is impossible that anything so natural, so necessary, and so universal as death, should ever have been designed by Providence as an evil to mankind.

Jonathan Swift 1667-1745

Love is a kind of warfare. **Ovid**

Love – quarrels oft in pleasing concord end. **Milton**

She snaps a mean garter. **Raymond Chandler**

Heiresses are never jilted. **George Meredith**



Gloucester Rugby Football Club (now Gloucester Rugby) 150th Anniversary



In September 1873 a notice appeared in The Gloucester Journal inviting those interested in forming a 'football' club to convene at The Spread Eagle Hotel in Gloucester on Monday 15th September. The Gloucester Chronicle subsequently recorded that '... about 45 gentlemen joined ...'. It was arranged to play on two afternoons a week. The first match was played on the ground of The College (now King's School) on 4th October 1873. Subsequently games would be played at the Spa Ground. Thus the Club will celebrate its 150th Anniversary on 11th October this year.

The Club has a special place in the history of the development of the game of rugby union and is embedded in the culture of The City of Gloucester, alongside The Cathedral, as perhaps the two features of the life of The City that best resonate with visitors. Kingsholm is a legendary venue with its renowned atmosphere on 'big game' days provided by the denizens of 'The Shed'.

Distinguished residents of Upton St. Leonards who have played for Gloucester RFC include Reverend Bill Phillips, Mike Teague, and Syd Millard.

Bill Phillips was one of 'The Three Clergymen' who famously played together in the Gloucester sides of the late thirties - probably a unique feature in the history of rugby union. His colleagues were the Reverend Kit Tanner and the Reverend Mervyn Hughes.

Mike Teague made his reputation as '*...a blindside player ...*' who became known as 'Iron Mike' as a result of his outstanding performances at Club and International level. He is described elsewhere as '*... an icon for Gloucester fans throughout the eighties and nineties*'.

Syd Millard played 78 times for Gloucester between 1909 and 1914; his burgeoning career was brought to an end by the start of the First World War.

Much more information about the careers of each is available in a book recently produced by The Gloucester Rugby Heritage Group (see below *).

The Club now plays its home matches at Kingsholm, after having to find a new ground in 1891 in controversial circumstances. In January 1891 a match was due to be played at The Spa Ground. On the morning of the game the ground was found to be frozen. Faced with the prospect of losing a major and lucrative fixture, officials and members fetched tons of salt in carts and spread it liberally across the pitch. Initially this seemed like a master-stroke. The ground thawed and one of the best matches of the season was played against Swansea (one of the top clubs in Wales).

After the game the real cost became apparent. The grass died. The ground was described as '*...having the appearance of a newly ploughed piece of arable land*'. The cricket club whose main ground it was, understandably, were very unhappy (to say the least). It was agreed that the rugby club should find an alternative venue for its games.

The rest is history! Gloucester RFC, as an amateur club, has morphed (with the introduction of professionalism into rugby union) into Gloucester Rugby, but the heritage of the Club remains as a vital part of the life of Gloucester and its local Clubs and those who have proudly upheld the traditions of its origins.

Clive Major
Trustee of Gloucester Rugby Heritage
(06.09.2023)

* Gloucester Rugby - The Players (published in 2023)
Kingsholm - The Official History (published in 2016)

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NOVEMBER

1	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
1	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
1	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
4	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
5	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
6	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
6	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
7	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
7	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
7	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
7	Tue	Upton Show AGM	Pavillion	8.00p.m.
8	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
8	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	8.00p.m.
8	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
8	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for December USL Life		
12	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
13	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
14	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins.		
14	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
14	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
14	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
15	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
15	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
15	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
16	Thu	History Group Social Evening	Village Hall	7.45-9.00p.m.
19	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
19	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.30p.m.
20	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
20	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.30p.m.
21	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
21	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
21	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
18	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
18	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
18	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
18	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
25	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
26	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
27	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
28	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
28	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
28	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.
28	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
29	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
29	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
29	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
30	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

DECEMBER

4	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
9	Sat	BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch	BMI	12.00p.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Sat	Christmas Draw	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Sun	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.

28	Thu	Craft Club.....	The Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00p.m
31	Sun	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.

JANUARY

6	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall	
10	Wed	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
14	Sun	Comedy Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
21	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz.....	BMI.....	1.00-3.30p.m.
25	Thu	Craft Club.....	The Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get an event mentioned in the diary

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
Pilates with Sam	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Sam Slatter	07894 757360
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Seniors Fitness	Thursdays 9.30am	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
Tai Chi	Thursdays 10.00	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

Raise the Roof The Church Roof Fund

Once again, due to ongoing fund raising and donations, we are pleased to report a positive outcome in October. Many thanks to all those people who supported fund raising events, gave generously via donations to the fund and to those people who gave generously of their time to run events. The total of the fund (including the land sale) has risen to £127683.

FUND TOTAL: £127683 Fund raising events continue apace. We had an Afternoon Tea in October, and we will have a Fish and Chip Supper this month and the Gloucester Brass and TLC concert in December. Please support fund raising events if you are able; they will be advertised in USL Life.

A committee led by Richard Sugdon is now in place and members are working hard to submit grant applications, raise the profile of the Appeal around Gloucester and assist with fund raising.

If you have a fund raising idea and feel able to organise and run it, then please contact Richard as the Committee may be able to help with certain arrangements and advertising of your event.

Various questions have been asked over the last few weeks:

Q: Can you still donate?

A: Yes, the fund is still open for donations. Details are in the USL Life October edition.

Q: What does the church do for people in the village who don't attend Christian Services?

A: A lot – e.g. since January this year there have been 3 weddings, 4 baptisms, 17 funerals and numerous interments of ashes.

Q: Does the Church support other charities alongside the Raise the Roof Appeal?

A: Yes, charitable donations are still happening alongside the Raise the Roof appeal. Recently The Foodbank has benefited from food donations and the sale of the Harvest Festival produce. This month "Operation Christmas Child" is the focus of three "packing days" in November. Back in January a donation was made to the James Hopkins Trust.

If you have any questions or want to offer your help, please let us know via email to Richard or telephone Gill Howell. Another update will be given in next month's USL Life.

PEGGY BLANCH

We are sad to announce the death of Peggy Blanch. She and her husband Mike lived in Perry Orchard for 40 years and only moved away a few years ago, but have often returned to see friends, attend church and go to other events. Our sincere condolences go to Mike.

APOLOGY

Apologies to Upton Show Trophy Winners Paul Smith and Doug Monkman for mixing up their photos and the shield in the October edition of USL Life. The photo on page 2 was Doug, not Paul!

The Black Horse in Cranham



Readers might like to know that the Black Horse at Cranham is becoming a community pub. Villagers have purchased it from the Job family. It is undergoing some decoration and renovation and a tenant landlord is being sought. It will re-open as soon as possible, and we hope USL Life will get notice of the re-opening so we can announce that.

Andy Russell

ALERT

You may recently, like me, have received a large glossy leaflet through your postbox suggesting that you might have valuables to sell. Please be aware that this was undoubtedly a scam - some of our residents have reported receiving a visit from a man requesting the return of these leaflets - a rather unusual thing to do! It was apparent that something fishy was going on and we strongly advise precaution when opening the door to uninvited callers with strange requests. **BEWARE OF SCAMS!**

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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

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Barbara Swindin
Peter Wilson

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Linda Munnoch
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Jane Reed

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Next month's editor



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We would like to say a special thank you to everyone who attended and supported us today for our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Lovely to see the whole community come together for a wonderful cause. The total raised was £1,331.
Seeta and Rahul

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