

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 123

November 2024



Aurora above Upton

Photo by Andrew Skelton

LEST WE FORGET

This year we are publishing several items reminding us of sacrifices made 80 years or so ago by members of our community and so many others in the hope we may have peace today. May these not be in vain. On page 7 Mike Stratford's article includes the names of some of those lives lost and on pages 12 and 20 there are two short poems sent in by members of the community.

What's Been Happening in Upton?

This September's UPTON SHOW was such a huge success that we are printing the entire report below and on page 19 you will find the list of PRIZEWINNERS.

Secretary's Report 2024

After a summer that was notable for its lack of sunshine, often cool temperatures and frequent rain showers, we were very lucky that it was perfect on the day of the show. The dry, warm and sunny weather undoubtedly encouraged people to come to the show, which was very well attended. In fact, numbers were nearly as high as 2021 and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the effort to enter an exhibit, bake a cake for the refreshments stand or come along in the afternoon. Overall, the show was a financial success and made up for the losses of 2023 as well as securing the future of the show for the next few years, which is fantastic.

The very mixed weather during the spring and summer definitely impacted the growing of fruit and vegetables but we still had a good display in the marquee. It was also pleasing to see a good range of baking, preserves and handicrafts and, as usual, we received positive feedback from the judges. Generally, the number of entries in almost every class were up on last year, most notably in the children's classes where we had a 300% increase in entries.

Having taken the decision after the 2022 show to dispose of the party tents, the gazebos that replaced them have been extremely successful, being both easy to store and put up. As in recent years, we had a lot of interest from stall holders, some of whom like

to bring their own gazebos, so having our own allows for greater flexibility. All reported a successful day and it is hoped they will come again next year. The tombola, teddy tombola and hot dogs were all as popular as ever and the refreshments did a roaring trade. A special thanks to Sandra Hawksworth and her fantastic team of helpers who kept the kitchen going.

Every year we receive very generous support from the Lady Downe Board of Trustees and the Upton St Leonards Parish Council, and this year both again donated grants to assist with the children's classes and costs of running the show. In addition, Morrisons in Abbeydale donated several tombola prizes, Bowden Hall sent some wonderful cakes and Walls donated the ice creams. Despite the increasing cost of the marquee hire, supplies for the hot dog stall and refreshments, these donations and the generosity of people providing cakes and biscuits has enabled us to keep the entry costs on the gate the same as the last few years. The committee has resisted increasing entry costs so far although prices for hot dogs, ice creams and refreshments did rise slightly. We are not a profit-making event and most years takings on the day and fees from exhibitors and stall-holders do not fully cover the costs of hosting the show, so we rely on grants, as well as on the generosity of all those who donate raffle and tombola prizes and give their time freely.

Particular thanks go to Cliff Alderman for judging the dog show, Jim Browne for looking after our website and Men with Sheds who helped with the setting up and dismantling of the show.

I would once again like to personally thank family, friends and everyone who helped with setting up and dismantling the show and everyone who helped on the day – we are totally reliant on people volunteering their time and energy and the show couldn't happen without you. I also want to thank my colleagues on the committee who have worked tirelessly throughout the preceding few months to make this another successful show. We even managed to recruit a couple of new volunteers to join the committee which is great news.

Finally, Sara Hemming has decided to step down from her role as Chairman. She has been a key part of the show for many years and the committee are very grateful for her invaluable contribution. The committee also say goodbye to Peter Macey who has taken the difficult decision to step down after more than 20 years. Peter was Show Secretary for many years and has been instrumental in keeping the show going and shaping it into the popular community event it is today. Thank you Sara and Peter; you will both be greatly missed.

Kate Brooks

Letter to the editor

After reading Mike Stratford's article *The Longest Day* in the July edition, I recalled that event very vividly. We were haymaking at Manor Farm. This was usually a happy event, lots of chatter and laughter, but not that night. Planes were flying overhead. I was too young to appreciate the significance. Rain threatened and the hay had to be brought in before it was ruined, so work continued and there was no jollification. *Rachel Hall*

What's Been Happening in Upton? continued

LADIES' PROBUS September's speaker was Karen Gennard of the Charity, Vision Care. This is a charity which many of us knew little about so it was very interesting to learn more. Vision Care was set-up to provide eye-care services to homeless and other vulnerable people, all within an accessible and friendly environment where they feel safe, welcome and comfortable.

For our October meeting, we will have Martin Fry as our guest speaker. Martin's screen shows of his photography are not to be missed! In November, Upton's own Mike Stratford will talk about 'The Forgotten Army', no doubt very appropriate being so near the date of the annual Remembrance Sunday. Afterwards, those members who have booked will adjourn to Bowden Hall for the Club's annual meal. Please come & join us on 20th November at 10am in BMI for coffee before the meeting.

UPTON WI In October we listened to a most engaging talk as our speaker, Pam Kidgell, unfolded her nursing career to us. Having discovered that a job in a bank was not for her, Pam answered an advert for Princess Mary's Nursing Service in the Royal Air Force. She signed on for 4 years and began her basic training alongside other girls and a few boys at RAF Wroughton in Wiltshire. The presence of the boys lightened the atmosphere considerably for the girls in a strict, disciplined environment. Being in the Forces, however, gave Pam the opportunity to spend 3 months at RAF Wegberg in Germany.

Pam's last year of training was spent at a top air force hospital, RAF Halton. Pam passed all her exams, but she soon left the RAF and was married, later joining the Gloucester Royal Hospital, where she spent the following 25 years.

Business was brief. We were pleased to record that £170 was raised for the Church Roof Fund from the nearly new clothes sale at the Autumn Show. Our next meeting will be at 2.00pm on Monday 4 November in the Pavilion. Martin Fry will speak about Cotswold and Cornish Cream. There will be music! *Kathy Quant*

TWYVER WI Our October meeting was most informative. Jane Stewart of St John's Ambulance and her colleague, Cosimo, set up the hall with 'dolls' and equipment to give us a lecture and demonstration on Emergency First Aid, concentrating on reacting to a cardiac event.

Defibrillators were laid out on the floor with the mannequins and for the next hour we were shown how to react to patients, and how to deal with using the different types of machines. During the demo members were invited to participate in gaining skills in resuscitation and acquainting themselves by using the 'dolls' as a learning tool.

What an invaluable evening and something we hope we never need but a good knowledge to have as you never know when you might be called upon for help. St John's Ambulance run courses on first aid, check out sja.org.uk. There are also YouTube videos of how to use this equipment online, if any of you out there are interested in gaining such a valuable skill.

The next meeting will be on 11 November. All welcome.

Linda Munnoch

UPTON ST. LEONARDS TENNIS CLUB Two men's teams were entered in the Gloucestershire Doubles Summer League this year, and both teams topped their divisions, 6a and 6b, with dominant performances, proving too strong for their opponents and so gaining promotion for next season.

After enjoying two successive promotions to reach division 3, the ladies doubles team fought hard but finished down the table in what proved to be a very closely contested division.

The Gloucestershire Mixed Doubles Winter League is now under way and after being promoted last season, finishing second in the table, the Upton team now hope to continue their success this season in division 3.

The tennis courts have very recently been repainted and if anybody wishes to join teams to compete, enjoy some friendly social tennis, wants information on memberships or just book a slot on the courts, please email us at

usl.tennisclub@gmail.com

You will receive a warm welcome.

Janet Fisher

What's been happening? continued

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

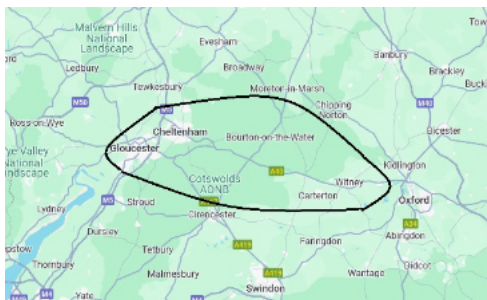
Despite the damp weather, this year's event was a huge success and raised

£1174

A big thank you to Upton Post Office and Upton Builders.

THE GREAT THUNDERSTORM

At the end of September there was the day we had thunder, lightning and heavy rain from early afternoon until about 7pm. Looking south, we could see bright skies, so I thought it would be a quick storm. Looking north, the skies were black, with flashes of lightning. When it didn't clear quickly, being a typical nerd, I went onto a website that shows where lightning is occurring, almost in real time. An oval area covering Gloucester, Cirencester, almost to Oxford and over the north Cotswolds (see the diagram) was peppered with strikes. But there was no other lightning in the whole of the UK. This was maybe 3pm. I wish I'd taken a screen shot of it.



The storm carried on overhead (still we could see bright to the south and black to the north) and I looked again at the website at maybe 6pm. The picture was the same: covering us, but nowhere else in the UK.

What I believe was so unusual was that it went on for so long without moving away, and that no other parts of the UK had thunderstorms during this period.
Andy Russell

EVENTS AT THE BMI

“Over the Hill” played at the BMI once again on Saturday 29th September, and members who attended said that it was a very good night's entertainment.

The autumn quiz took place on Saturday 5th October. There were 14 teams in total and we welcomed our regular quiz master Andy Russell. He promised that it would be an easier set of questions! They were slightly simpler and very enjoyable. The winners on the night were the “No Brainers” with a total of 138 points. Well done to them. A total of £160 was raised on the night for the two charities, “Charlies” and “Gloucester City Homes”.

The next quiz will take place on Saturday 11th January.

THE PAVILION GETS A NEW LOOK

The Parish Council has embarked on extensive works to refurbish the Pavilion. In the last couple of years the entrance, stairs and hall carpets have been replaced, and there was new vinyl in the kitchen. This year, the rendering on the outside of the upper floor has been completely re-done by a contractor, getting rid of the unsightly cracks. The large sign on the wall was repainted - that was David Hunt's work. More recently the interior of the lobby stairs and all upstairs has been re-decorated (again by a contractor) and the outside woodwork painted. The kitchen has been tidied up considerably and looks so much better. Gradually the outside metalwork is being repainted.

Unfortunately it has proved to be too expensive to re-surface the car park, sorry. The Council will be considering, however, how to fix the pot-holes at the car park entrance.

NB: The lounge and kitchen is available for hire. Rates are £10 per hour for meetings, with discounts available for frequent hire, and £50 for a child or adult party. Contact me to make a booking.

Andy Russell

Forthcoming events

Entertainment at the BMI

All events open to members and signed in guests.

Saturday 2nd November

Entertainment Night
for members and signed in guests
with

"Bak 2 Bak"

From 8.00p.m.



Saturday 16th November

"James Bond" themed "Casino Night"

from 7.30p.m.

Tickets available @ £15

(Including £10 worth of chips to play on the night)

Saturday 23rd November

Entertainment Night

with "Michael Ian Brown"

from 8.00p.m.

Music at the Church

BMI PENSIONERS' LUNCH

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

TICKETS @ £23 PER PERSON
FOR BMI PENSIONERS WHO WERE IN RECEIPT OF
THEIR
PENSION BEFORE 31ST JANUARY 2024 AND PAID THE
BMI PENSIONERS RATE AT THAT TIME.

MENU

CURRIED PARSNIP SOUP
ROAST TURKEY WITH ALL THE TRADITIONAL
ACCOMPANIMENTS
CHRISTMAS PUDDING AND BRANDY SAUCE
COFFEE OR TEA WITH HOMEMADE SWEET MINCE
PIES

ALSO INCLUDED:

A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK ON ARRIVAL
2 GLASSES OF WINE WITH LUNCH
A FREE RAFFLE
ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY "KENNY"

Upton St Leonard's Church
Sing-a-long-a-CHRISTMAS
29th November, 7pm
**With Gloucester Strings
Ukulele Group
& Twyver Ladies Choir**
*Tickets £10 on the door with
complimentary mulled wine*

LifeStyle course with Millie Barnes in 2025

Jan 13th & 27th, Feb 10th & March 10th

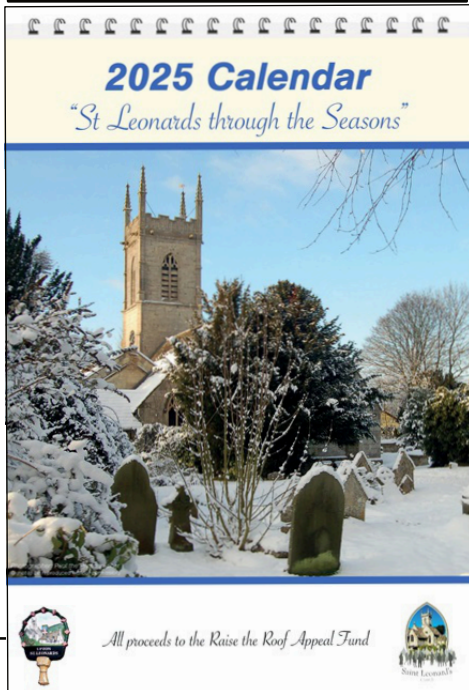
7-9pm each evening

in the Sports Pavilion.

More Details in the January edition.

Forthcoming events continued

NOW AVAILABLE!



Afternoon teas are bookable by contacting the Katkinz Happy Pawz page. 12.50 pp
There will also be Cakes & Drinks available for drop ins.

Join us and play our 2 tombolas, browse our new goods, lucky boxes, Secret Santa & our new kids' toys stall.

2025 Calendar "ST LEONARDS CHURCH THROUGH THE SEASONS"

Now on sale!

The calendar is now on sale at £7.50 each, from Upton St Leonards Post Office and the Portway Farm Shop - many thanks to both outlets. You can also buy calendars at St Leonard's Church. A cardboard envelope is enclosed with each calendar, making it very easy to post to relatives or friends, possibly as Christmas presents.

If you are unable to get out to get a calendar or two and you would like to have one please email us with your name, address and phone number and we'll deliver one or more to you.

We want to thank our sponsors, whose kind donations have paid for the printing of the calendar. A huge thank you to Brotherton Accountants, who were very generous and sponsored seven pages of the calendar, Tucks Estate Agents, who kindly sponsored four pages and Naylor Powell, who kindly sponsored the remaining page.

A big thank you to our local, amateur photographers who have allowed their photographs to be used in the calendar and to "Paul the Photographer" who donated a photograph to use on the front cover and inside - thank you to him too.

The very kind contributions of photos and the sponsorship means that 100% of sales will go into the Raise the Roof Fund, so please be generous and buy calendars for your own use and for your relatives and friends too.

Remembrance 80 Years On

By Mike Stratford

Every year at this time we remember those who have given their lives in the service of this country. This year we seem to be living in a world of wars. In Europe a war started by a fanatic leader with distorted ideas of conquest: we hoped not to see such a leader again after 1945. In the Middle East different religions harbour deep seated hatred for each other. In all cases, war means death and destruction for innocent people. It's 110 years now since the start of WWI in August 1914 but closer to us in time is WWII.

In this country 80 seems to have been an important number to remember. Looking back to 1944, there were many battles on land and at sea. There are too many to record here but all are important. June 1944 Operation Overlord or the D-Day invasion of Normandy, when 150,000 allied troops landed on June 6th. The landing depended on deceiving the Germans on the place and time. This was known as Operation Fortitude and was helped by Bletchley Park breaking the German high level code. In February 1944 the first Colossus machine arrived at Bletchley Park, which speeded up the decoding process. In fact, the staff at Bletchley were reading Hitler's orders before his generals! By 1945, there were 10 Colossus machines: the first computers operated by WRENS from the 10,000 helping to win the war in complete secrecy.

We should never forget the contribution of women in war time. Taking over jobs usually done by men, nursing at home and near the front line where many were killed. In 1944 women were serving in uniform and volunteering for very dangerous missions. On 6th July 1944 four women were executed by the Germans for being members of SOE (Special Operations Executive) working under cover in France. They were Sonia Olschansky, Vera Leigh, Diana Rowden and Andree Borrell. From 1941 to 1945, 470 agents were sent to France. Among them were 40 women, of whom 13 were killed. We should not forget these very brave women.*

Another event to remember from 1944 occurred in Norway. Concern was growing that the Germans were working on an Atomic Bomb. They were using deuterium (or heavy water) which, when added to U-238, produced fusion. The water was produced as a by-product at the hydro power plant at Rjukan in Telemark. A plan to destroy this plant was planned for late 1943 using British engineers and Norwegian troops trained in Scotland. The gliders carrying the Royal

Engineers crashed in the mountains – many were shot by the Germans. It was left to the Norwegian troops dressed as British soldiers to attack the plant, which they did. This stopped production until the equipment was replaced. After a bombing raid, the Germans decided to transfer all the heavy water to Germany by rail. To do this, the train needed to cross Lake Tinnsja by ferry. A resistance worker by the name of Knut Haukelid was ordered from London to sink the ferry. He placed a bomb on the Ferry "Hydro" – this sank the ferry on Sunday 20th February 1944 with the loss of 14 Norwegians and 4 Germans. The film "Heroes of Telemark" does not, unfortunately, tell the correct story.

We should remember the Revd. Edward (Bill) Leigh Phillips of the 12th Parachute Battalion who made his 13th jump into Arnhem on 17th September 1944. He was captured tending the wounded and became a prisoner of war until May 1945. He was the last remaining Army Chaplain to have been at Arnhem. He lived with his wife in Woodland Green and they are buried together in our Churchyard. Also in Upton we should remember four men from Upton who lost their lives in 1944:

John Ellery, aged 21, a member of the RAFVR 600 Sqdn killed 21st February in Italy.

Daniel Miles, aged 20, a member of the Army Catering Corps killed 29th June in Egypt.

Frederick Hale, aged 39, a member of the Dorsetshire Regiment killed 2nd October at Arnhem in Holland. This year it is 80 years since the ill-fated Operation Market Garden.

Lawrence Benn, aged 44, a member of the Forgotten Army killed 7th October near Rangoon in Burma. The Kohima Memorial in the hills near the India-Burma border bears one of the most moving epitaphs ever inscribed for fighting men. It reads: "When you go home, tell them of us and say for your tomorrow we gave our today".

The reason for all these sacrifices was so that we could live in peace – this is now being put at risk by the current world situation. My parents had good reason to remember 1944 too, for this was the year that I arrived during an air raid.

*** See also page 20 for a tribute offered to Violette Szabo, one of the SOE women** (submitted by Kathy Quant).

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Rev Helen is available Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday



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Dear Friends

As we enter November and the season of Remembrance, our hearts are heavy with the conflicts and struggles that persist across the world. We are prompted to reflect on the sacrifices made by countless individuals in the past and to hold onto the hope for a more peaceful and just future.

The act of remembrance is a powerful and enduring tradition that binds us together as a community. It reminds us of the bravery and selflessness of those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces, often in far-off and dangerous lands. We honour their dedication to preserving peace and safeguarding our freedoms, and we recognise their hardships.

Remembrance is not just about the past; it's also about the present and the future. In our prayers and reflections, we consider the men, women, and children whose lives are shaped by war, whether as victims, displaced people, humanitarian workers, or armed forces. Their

sacrifices, their physical and emotional burdens, and the toll that war takes on them and their families weigh heavily on our hearts.

In these times of uncertainty and conflict, we need to maintain hope. We hope for an end to violence and division, for the safe return of those far from home, and for the healing of wounds, both seen and unseen. We hope for a world where the lessons of the past guide us toward lasting peace.

As people of faith, we know that hope is not a passive act but an active one. We are called to work towards peace, justice, and reconciliation in our own lives and within our community. Our faith teaches us that hope can be a powerful force for change even in the face of despair.

Together, as a parish community, we can be a beacon of light and a source of inspiration for a world in need of peace.

Rev Helen Champion

Christmas Songs - Sing along



Complimentary

With the Ukulele Band

In church on

Friday 29th November

At 7pm

£10 on the door



Christmas Tree Festival

29th November

Your trees can be decorated in church from

22nd - 27th November

All lights must be battery operated

Please contact Gill or Sheila if you would like to display a tree

Open the Book



The Open the Book Team were pleased to begin a new regular visit to the school to tell the children bible stories. Since covid the previously regular weekly visits had become a thing of the past.

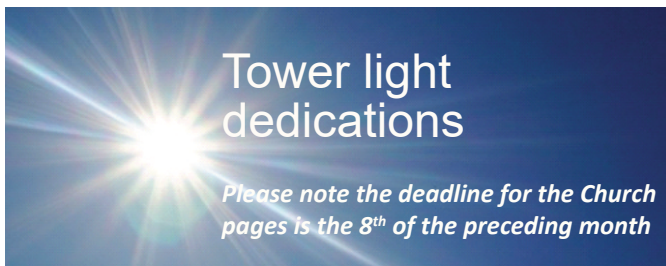
With the school's 'Value' for the Autumn term being courage, we told the story of David and Goliath. Armed with an arsenal of makeshift weaponry, spears made from broom handles, a catapult,

polystyrene rocks, swords of silver paper, wooden daggers and a breast plate (which didn't stand the test of time), the team went off to do battle.



Dave, sorry, Goliath died spectacularly after being hit by a 'rock' and collapsed convincingly to the floor, much to the delight of the audience who burst into spontaneous applause. There was a huge cheer from cast and pupils at David's victory then it was all back to normal, the children to their lessons, the younger members of the team back to work and the older ones for a well earned cup of tea and a sit down! And I know at least one of them went to sleep!!!!

It's great to be back!



If you or your family wish to sponsor the lights in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or for any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. Please note that the deadline of the Church News 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 22nd birthday of my grandson Ben Davies. With much love from Nanna.

The Church Tower is lit in loving memory of Mike Kelly on the 15th November. Loved and missed by wife Pam and all the family.

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 5 years ago, but never forgotten by all her family and friends.

Services for November 2024

Nov 3rd 8.00 am *Holy Communion*

 10.00 am *Celebration Service*

Nov 10th **10.50 am** **Holy Communion*
Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial
Followed by a short service in church.
Communion will be held afterwards

Nov 17th 10.00 am *Holy Communion*

Nov 24th 10.00 am *Holy Communion*

**Please note the later time for the service
on November 10th*



Tuesday Morning Prayer

9.30 am

In the Rectory

Bondend Road

Everyone is welcome

Thank you to everyone who supported the
Tombola Stall
at the recent Macmillan Charity Coffee morning.

A total of

£172.00

was raised for the roof fund.

Thank you also to the organisers of the event for
inviting us along.

Who's Who in the Church

Parish Priest:

Rev Helen Champion

Churchwarden:

Gill Howell

Interment and burial of ashes enquiries

Church Administrator:

Jenny Cunningham

Wedding & Baptism Enquiries

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Sue Downey

PCC Secretary

Kay Hutton

500 Club Winners for October

First Prize  No. 76

Second Prize  No. 26



Mothers' Union

September brought our annual Communion service held at St Leonard's and this year we welcomed our new Priest-in-Charge Rev Helen Champion to officiate. She used the theme of "Hope" and Judy Jackson did the reading, Katie Moore led the intercessions and the offertory was donated to the church.

November is always a "Members Afternoon" and on Thursday 21st at 2pm in the Old School Room, Bondend Road, everyone will have been asked to bring along a photograph of themselves under the age of five and to speak a little about their "Early Years", where they were born and their earliest recollections. It should make for an interesting time, and all are welcome to come along. Refreshments are served afterwards and might even include cake! If you want further details, please

contact me.

From Saturday 25 November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and concluding on Sunday December 10, which is Human Rights Day, is the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Throughout this campaign, Mothers' Union will be joining with over 6000 organisations from over 185 countries to raise awareness of and call for an end to gender-based violence and abuse in all forms and in all societies. Gender based violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It can affect anyone at any time, and it takes many forms. It can be part of a damaging cultural norm or hidden behind closed doors; it can be very difficult to ask for help.

Kate Gale – Branch Leader

Operation Christmas Child



The Church will be open on

Tuesday 12th November

11.00 am - 1.00pm

and

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Thursday 14th November

1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Coffee & Cake

5.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas music

Please come along and pack a gift box for £5 or to drop off boxes already made up.

Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and cake before or after you pack a box.

We look forward to seeing you



The Poppy

Ever since the sin of Cain

Battle has been earth's other name

And where Mars, God of War, once

Brandished his sword and shield

A flower was born in these now peaceful fields

We call this bloom a poppy,

Symbol of our thanksgiving to those slain

Marching to their final moments

of earthly suffering and pain

Their priceless gift staining the petals blood red,

they cry "we gave our best"

And these precious souls are now forever glorious

in their heavenly rest.

Val Doll



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Information

Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service

The county council, in partnership with the NHS, provides the Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service, which lends free equipment to people for as long as they need it, for example, after a hospital visit or to maintain their independence. Equipment ranges from hospital grade beds and wheelchairs, to crutches and perching stools.

Equipment handed back to the council is cleaned and fully refurbished before being loaned to anyone else, and anything damaged beyond repair is recycled.

Residents can return equipment at multiple locations around the county, or they can arrange a free collection from their home.

Call 01452 520438 or fill out a short form on our website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/return-equipment

Drop-off locations:

Any equipment can be returned to our Hempsted site within working hours (8.30am until 4.30pm).

Smaller pieces of equipment like walking sticks, walking frames and crutches can also be dropped off at libraries and county council offices across the county including:

Libraries:

Gloucester or Hucclecote

County council offices:

- Shire Hall Members Car Park, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG or Stroud Locality Office, Redwood House, Beeches Green, Stroud, GL5 4AE.

Notes from the Parish Council

Parking

There has been Inappropriate parking in Six Acres (and other places) relating to school drop-off and pick-up times. Residents are finding cars parked over their drives so they cannot get out, cars parked on pavements and also such that visibility is impacted. Residents have deemed this as dangerous. Some receive abuse from inconsiderate drivers. Not all these incidents are school-related. Some are delivery drivers too.

Flood Management

The Council is pleased to report that recent flood management appears to have significantly reduced the flow of the Twyver into the village and prevented flooding.

Help If We Can

This is a charity which has quite a connection to Upton St Leonards and it was one of the recipients of donations made at Richard Stephenson's memorial service. Steve Smith writes:

The charity actually had its first meeting at my then house in Lady Downe Close, 15 years ago. It started as a group of blue light staff (both serving and retired) and also lots of military retirees. The group now includes lots of other professions and callings and its aim is to raise money for good causes.

During these 15 years we have raised many thousands of pounds for mostly small groups of people, but others as well. We have members that are specialists who help those in need (computers for instance) and we have those who give talks to groups. For instance, we have a former Warrant Officer from the RAMC who collects bits and pieces from WW1; he goes to WI Branches and schools.

Each year we visit the Western Front in Belgium and France and always attend and take part in the Menin Gate Service. A number of us are members of the Last Post Association that runs the this daily memorial Service at the Menin Gate.

It was here we met Danny (Rich) Stephenson some years ago. He was a lovely man, who visited the Western Front with us on several subsequent occasions. We were delighted that he supported us and a number of us were at his memorial service in St Leonard's Church recently.

We run at least one event a month ranging from quiz nights to trips away (Birmingham Christmas Market is the next one on Saturday 16th November) and we are staging a Last Night of the Proms and have resurrected the Quedgeley Show for next year.

Anyone wanting more information, or who might want to go with us to The Western Front next May (or Birmingham Christmas Market in November) is welcome to make contact.

Steve Smith - Chairman

This month we consider thoughts of the arrival of autumn and our recommended reading takes us to the Lake District, but not to the track beaten by tourists.

Everlasting Longing by Deng Su from the Song Dynasty of China 960 – 1279

The hills near by and mountains high extend with
misty water as far as the sky; the longing maple leaves
turn to red dye.

Chrysanthemums sigh; chrysanthemums die.
You don't come back when wild geese westward fly,
a screen of breeze and moonlight left before my eye.

Autumn Ploughing by John Masefield 1878 – 1967

After the ranks of stubble have lain bare,
And field mice and the finches' beaks have found
The last spilled seed corn left upon the ground;
And no more swallows miracle in air;

When the green tuft no longer hides the hare,
And dropping starling flights at evening come;
When birds, except the robin, have gone dumb,
And leaves are rustling downwards everywhere;

Then out, with the great horses, come the ploughs,
And all day long the slow procession goes,
Darkening the stubble fields with broadening strips.

Gray sea-gulls settle after to carouse:
Harvest prepares upon the harvest's close,
Before the blackbird pecks the scarlet hips.

Autumn

By Ian Crichton Smith

The sun shines on my desk.
Such joy, such joy it is
to work as if at music
on such clear autumn days.

When the rowans all in red
bend over water and
above the arranged dead
there is no breath of wind,

and eternity is this
tranquillity and poise
of orange coloured trees
and flame red bare displays

as if a visible fire
were an image of itself
both fact and its idea
trembling in double leaf.

Thoughts

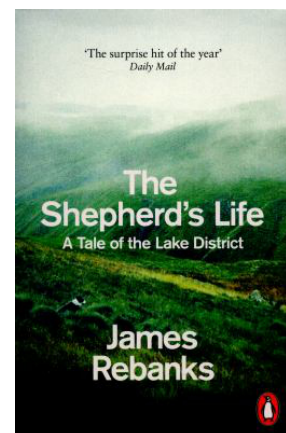
If you shed tears when you miss the sun, you also miss the stars.
(Rabindranath Tagore 1861 – 1941. Nobel Prize winner)

It seems to me that we all look at nature too much and live with her too little.
(Oscar Wilde 1854 – 1900)

BOOK REVIEW

The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District by James Rebanks. Published 2016

The first son of a shepherd, who was the first son of a shepherd himself, James Rebanks and his family have lived and worked in and around the Lake District for generations. In this book James takes us through a shepherd's year. The book is absorbing and funny and stresses the importance of maintaining a connection to the land.



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

VILLAGE DIARY

NOVEMBER

2	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
3	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
4	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
5	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
5	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
5	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
5	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
6	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
6	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
6	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
12	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden waste for those with brown bins		
12	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
12	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
13	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
13	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
13	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
13	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
16	Sat	Casino Night	BMI	7.30p.m.
17	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
18	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	BMI	7.30p.m.
19	Tue	Recycle and food waste week		
19	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
19	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
19	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
20	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
20	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
20	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
20	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
21	Thu	History Group	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
		Katherine of Aragon – Gillian White		
23	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
24	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.30p.m.
25	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
26	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
27	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
27	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
27	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
27	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
28	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

DECEMBER

2	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
7	Sat	BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch	BMI	12.00p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
14	Sat	BMI Christmas Draw	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Tue	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
25	Wed	Christmas Day		
26	Thu	Boxing Day		
31	Tue	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.

JANUARY

6	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Fri	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Thu	History Group – “My father Dennis Wyatt” – Edward Wyatt	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
30	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to have 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
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.45pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Tai Chi	Thursdays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	
Pilates with Sam	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Sam Slatter	07894 757360
Seniors Fitness	Tuesdays 10am	Pavilion	Ian Preston	07306 334222

(Note: the Seniors Fitness class has moved to Tuesday mornings)

Learning Taiko

‘Go with the flow’ I’ve been told many times, and when you do it’s often strange where life takes you! So, in September, I did just that, after attending the Taiko concert in church. During the interval I found a like minded person, Mary Russell, enjoying the evening as much as me. Before brain and mouth had fully engaged I had agreed to go along with her for a lesson with Pete that Saturday!

The euphoria of this decision had worn off when that Saturday rolled round and, I must confess, I was rather hoping Mary had forgotten. She had not. On that first session, the ambitions of my ten year old inner self were satisfied at long last! I got to play a drum!

You see, in junior school, I always coveted a turn on the drum, but this position was usually given to Francis Brown. I never got to play, and remained faithful to my trusty triangle. Truth be told, I bore a grudge all these years!

All I can say is, it was fabulous! It was very therapeutic. strangely relaxing and very cathartic. Pete was patient with my lack of coordination, which I hope will improve over time, (so does he!) and I came away feeling very pleased with myself.

Will I go again? Absolutely. Thank you Pete, Mary and Rachel Ball for encouraging me and fulfilling an old childhood ambition. Eat your heart out Francis, it’s a very big drum !!!!!

Rachel Middleton

See back page for photo

UPTON SHOW SEPTEMBER 2024 PRIZE LIST

The Eacott Perpetual Challenge Cup:	Paul Smith
The John Millard Perpetual Challenge Cup:	Paul Smith
The Christine Rumsey Memorial Cup:	Anne Hemsley
Upton St Leonards Show Perpetual Challenge Cup:	Becky Evans
The Robert Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup:	Paula Quinn
The Stan Hooton Perpetual Rose Bowl:	Paul Smith
The Royston Gardner Memorial Salver:	Paula Quinn
The Dinkie Gardiner Memorial Rose Bowl:	Paula Quinn
The Ethel Edey Memorial Cup:	Julie Winstanley
The Rumsey Memorial Trophy:	Anne Hemsley
The Joan Finch Memorial Salver :	Moira Pratt
The Bob Ayland Memorial Shield:	Anne Hemsley
The Abbeydale Garden Club Shield:	David Shelley
The Joseph T C Edey Salver:	David Hoare
The Fred Ball Memorial Trophy:	Adrian Keene
RHS Banksian Medal:	Paul Smith

Children's Awards

The Evelyn Rumsey Children's Cup:	Isaac Payne
The Juvenile Cup:	Owen Wood
Ethel Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup:	Lillian Wood
RHS Junior Competitors Award of Merit	
a. Ages up to 11 years	George Lawrence
b. Ages 12 to 16 years	Owen Pearse

WELCOME

We welcome into the village Chris and Ann Tranter, **the first residents of the Bondend Farm development.** Also, In **Perry Orchard**, we welcome the recent arrival of Chris and 'M' Lester, as well as our latest newcomers, Phil and Caroline Wilson. All have moved here to be nearer members of their families.

If you have new neighbours, and they would like their arrival to be mentioned in USL Life, please let us know.

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:

This month's editor:	Barbara Swindin
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Company Secretary:	Cliff Alderman
Treasurer:	David Morris
Feature writers:	Linda Munnoch Ann Morphew Jane Reed
Church pages:	Rachel Middleton
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Next month's editor - Peter Wilson



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Macmillan Coffee Morning



Mary and Rachel have a go at Taiko! See page 18

Shoebbox Appeal



Some Seniors still keeping fit by walking. Here are a few Twyver Walkers out and about by the canal near Hardwicke.



Written for Violette Szabo

The life that I have
Is all that I have
And the life that I have is yours.

The love that I have
Of the life that I have Is yours, and
yours and yours.
A sleep I shall have

A rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause.

For the peace of my years
In the long green grass
Will be yours, and yours
And yours.

Leo Marks

During world War 2, the SOE (Special Operation Executive agents) each used a poem as the basis for coded messages and this was the one that Violette Szabo was given. Violette was captured, tortured and executed in Ravensburg concentration camp in 1945, but she never broke her code.

(Submitted by Kathy Quant)