

Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 62

October 2019



The Upton Show 2019

The pictures here and on the back page were taken by Jim Browne. Comments were collected by Christina Caldwell.



"The afternoon was bright and sunny, the food and flower arrangements in the marquee were especially attractive. Next, on to enjoy coffee and cake in the village hall, it was so busy there and very crowded, there was almost a queue for the seats. Then on to the book stall to buy three books to take home to enjoy."

"You can't beat this, a warm sunny day, lovely music and I'm looking forward to tea and home baked cake."

"It's very great to see familiar faces and catch-up with other people's news. I haven't seen so many smiley faces in one place for a long time."

"I do a bit of crochet so I like to see what other people do, there's plenty of ideas here, my favourite is the miniature teddy on the rocking chair"

"Hard to believe the size of these pumpkins and the rhubarb is huge, mine never comes up to that size."



Our show pictures and quotes continue on the back page

Trophy winners are listed on p16

ALSO IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- October is Entertainment Month! see pages 2 and 3.
- Opportunities for volunteering, p5
- Feature: Who was Lady Downe? p14

Entertainment month!

There is a fantastic selection of events in the Village this month . . .

Upton St Leonards WI presents an evening of singing and fun at the

UKULELE EVENING

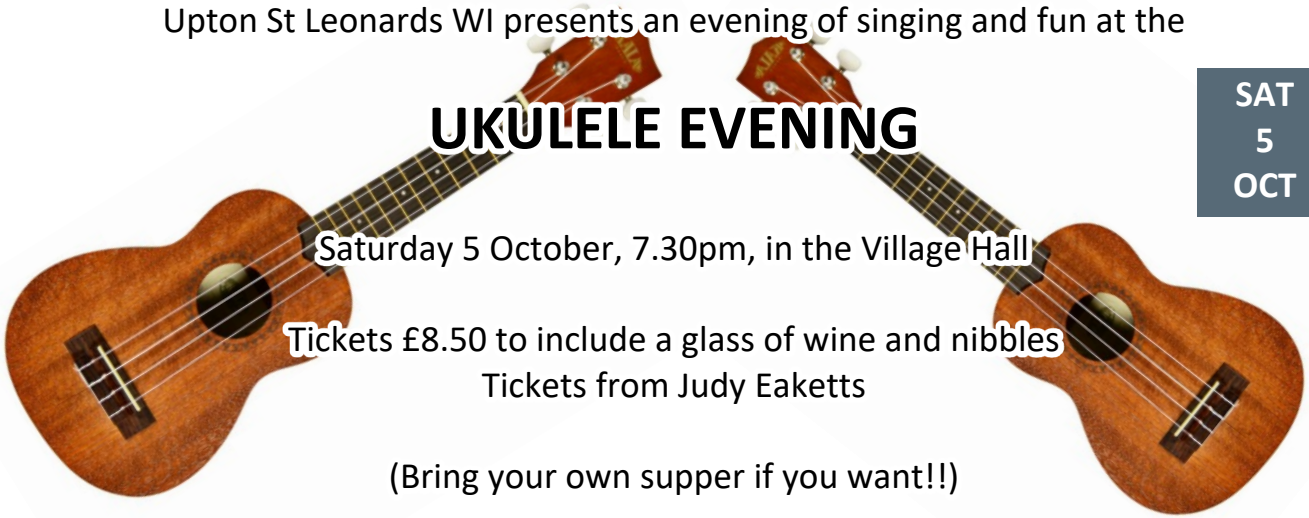
SAT
5
OCT

Saturday 5 October, 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

Tickets £8.50 to include a glass of wine and nibbles

Tickets from Judy Eaketts

(Bring your own supper if you want!!)



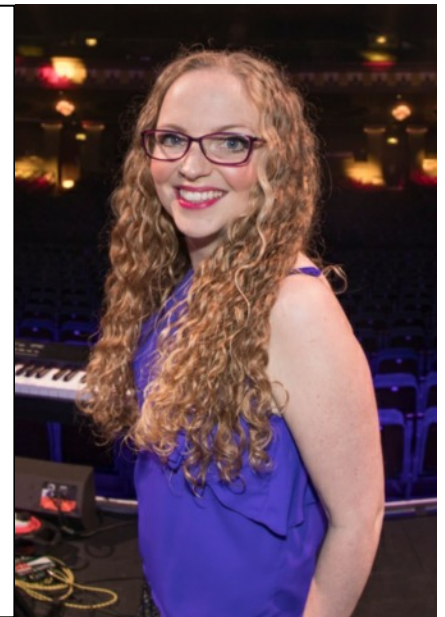
A concert by the award winning international Christian
singer-songwriter

FRI
11
OCT

CHLOE REYNOLDS

Friday 11 October, 7.30pm, in the Church

Tickets £5 from Sarah Kent



The UpStagers invite you all to join them at a

Murder Mystery Evening with supper

24, 25 and 26 October in the Village Hall

Two course supper with choice of main course and sweet. Bar available.
Doors open 7pm, Murder at 7.30pm

THU,FRI,SAT
24, 25,26
OCT

Tickets £15 from Ann Pearson

SUN
6
OCT

SILVER SUNDAY

Sunday 6 October, 2-4pm, in the Village Hall

An afternoon tea party with live music by the Poppy Sisters
Get up and dance!
Tea and Cake will be provided.

Limited tickets. Please book by calling Jackie Lord



SAT
12
OCT



RACE NIGHT @ THE BMI

Saturday 12 October - 8.00pm

featuring **Mike's Famous Wooden Horses**

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All profit on the night for the BMI Charities for 2019-20:
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Some events in November . . .

Bonfire Night at the Village Hall

Tuesday 5 November, from 5.30pm, with the bonfire lit at 6.30pm

Fireworks, hot food & drink, games & tombola

Adults £4.50, Children £2.50, Family discount



Entertainment night at the BMI

Saturday 9 November, 8pm - late

Dancing to the music of the ever popular

>>>> Ian Oliver <<<<



History Group

A talk on Mary, Queen of Scots

Thursday 21 November, 7.45pm, Village Hall

There'll be lots of Christmas and New Year events

. . . Details in the November and December issues of USL Life



Clocks go back in the very early hours of Sunday 27 October

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Opportunities - Can you help?

Village Day 2020 - 6 June

We've had some fantastic Village Days in the last few years, and in 2020 we hope to have another. We will be celebrating 100 years since the Village Hall was built.

So this is a great opportunity for you to give your time to be involved in organising the day. It's a one-off task, not a continuing commitment. Join the 2020 organising committee and, for example, take on responsibility for one aspect of the celebrations. Very rewarding to think you helped to make it happen.

Talk with Keith Pearson



UpStagers

Your local Drama Group which has been providing entertainment in the Village Hall for the past 14 years needs an influx of new members urgently, or we may have to call it a day, sadly.

Anyone who would like to give amateur acting a try, or other behind the scenes work, would be very welcome.

Club night is Wednesday each week at 7.30.

For more info call Ann Pearson, or why not just come along and meet us at the Hall?



There are lots and lots of opportunities for volunteering in the Village

Make the most of your talents and skills, give to your community and have a great time joining in. You get back much more than you put in!

Here are some ideas:

- Many of the existing organisations need just an extra person to share the work. It could be simple secretarial work in the background, or help with setting up / clearing away / serving refreshments.

- Keeping the Village tidy, occasional light work e.g on flowerbeds, litter picking at particular well-used places.
- Maybe you could make a weekly visit for an hour or two to someone who can't get out very much. If you already do this, add one more person to your visit list!

Some contacts who can help you find opportunities:

Keith Pearson

Andy Russell

Catherine McLean keeps a list of contacts for Village organisations.

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What's been happening?



Bells and Brass

Towards the end of August people had a chance to try out bell ringing and playing a brass instrument. The Church was open every morning for a week, with refreshments served. This was mainly the idea of Charlie Burnett, our bell tower captain, and Dave Knight of Gloucester Brass. Enough people turned up to make it a very worthwhile event, and there are one or two now considering taking up bell ringing and brass playing, as a result.



TWYVER WI

Our skittles team did well during the summer and reached the Gloucestershire WI semi-finals and although we didn't win we didn't disgrace ourselves.

Our speaker this month was Peter McNeile, seasoned racing professional whose credits include Director of Sponsorship at Cheltenham, Racecourse Management and Horse Trials. Having been in the business for nearly 50 years he has met and rubbed shoulders with a fascinating group of people.

Steeplechasing as we know it today started off when, in 1752, in County Cork, Ireland, two men decided to have a horse race over four miles from Buttivant to Doneraile, using the church steeples as their landmarks, and the Irish have been stalwarts of the racing fraternity ever since. Horse racing in this country can be traced back to Charles II although it has been known as the 'sport of kings' since the time of the Ancient Greeks.

Racing at Cheltenham began back in 1898 when Prestbury Park was bequeathed and became the world famous home of the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Racing fell out of favour during the war years and virtually shut down. However, due to the introduction of international travel, horses bred in Ireland were brought over to race and became the life blood of the sport. Author Kate Fox wrote a book called *The Racing Tribe*, and being a social anthropologist developed a report on what she observed during her time studying the various cliques around the race tracks -- recommended reading for those of you who follow the racing fraternity. It's nice to know that the jockeys are known as *The Warriors*, as they are the brave souls galloping towards high dense fences at 30 mph and many have suffered injury in the pursuit of a win but 90 percent do it for the love and excitement and the thrill of the race - not the money.

Next meeting is Monday 14 October at 7.30, all welcome.

UPTON ST LEONARDS WI

"I'm deaf not daft"

Speaker Merlene Watson's talk title, above, sounds amusing but in her case being deaf for 40 years is no laughing matter. Alongside her husband Paul and her 'hearing dog' Grace, Merlene gave startling statistics of 1 in 6 adults having hearing loss. For younger generations using headphones, stereos and listening to loud music at rock concerts etc. Will lead to many struggling with hearing loss in 10 years time. A member of heavy rock band, Black Sabbath, living in Broadway, is stone deaf. This disability is invisible, isolating and removes confidence and independence.

When speaking to a deaf person, face them - it helps them to read your lips. Speak normally with clarity without raising your voice, and don't speak too slowly as it distorts the shape of your lips.

If you think you are losing your hearing, get help. Friend or foe, hearing aids take time to get used to and need checking annually. In public places, village halls, doctors surgeries etc a loop system should be installed and working, making sound accessible to all impaired people. Living a full and happy healthy life is what we all look forward to, so if you struggle with loss of hearing seek help, check out local support groups, venues with activated loop systems and find out about lip reading. Don't ignore your symptoms and hide away. Deafness is tiring, know your limits and keep positive.

This was a very informative, well explained subject, not easily understood by many of us. Grace was obedient throughout the talk and performed for some treats.

We meet again on Monday 7 October for an "Introduction to Fused Glass" presented by Liz Spurway. All are very welcome.

HISTORY GROUP - THE STORY OF STROUD MUSEUM

September's talk was a real box of goodies! Curator Alexia Clarke first talked briefly about how museums came to exist, as part of the movement to educate and entertain workers, "organising" their free time so they didn't frequent pubs and other undesirable places. She then told how the Stroud Museum was founded in 1899, and how it progressed to its location in Stratford Park. She passed round the room a dozen or so items from the museum, asking us to try to work out what each was, its age, value. It was a great pleasure to handle and discuss the objects, ranging from dinosaur teeth to a mystery 1960s kitchen utensil(?), purpose unknown! One of the objects she brought is pictured above. Do you know what it is? It's the size of a large pair of scissors or pliers. Answer on p19!



BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT - 2019

This year's judging has taken place, and the judge writes:

"Both winners were exceptional in their respective locations. They were very well kept with a good variety of produce. Good composting was also evident. It has been a troublesome gardening year with extremes of heat and wet, but the winners showed that high standards can be achieved despite difficult conditions."



And the winners were . . .

Perry Orchard Allotments: Angela Marks

The Stanley Allotments: Rachel Perry



CLOSURE OF PRINKNASH BIRD & DEER PARK

The bird & deer park closed - for good - in early September. The animals and birds have all been found new homes. You can read about the closure at the park's facebook page: @thebirdanddeerpark

Prinknash Lower Lodge, Portway, is up for sale. It is believed this is the first time this building has been on the open market for sale. The estate agents Hamptons admit it is in need of much renovation and restoration.



Building work will soon begin at the Bondend Farm site, which has seen no activity since planning permission was granted some years ago. New Dawn Homes are planning a November start. 15 houses are being built on the site.

The builders are required to abide by a series of restrictions on access, storage, contractor vehicle parking, delivery, unloading, dust, etc. You can see details of these on the Stroud District Council planning web site. Look e.g. for reference S.13/1844

Arts Page

This month we welcome Autumn and there is no lack of poetry on this subject.

To Autumn, by John Keats (1795 - 1821)

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun,
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er brimm'd their clammy cells.

Autumn 1964, by John Betjeman (1906 - 1984)

Red apples hang like globes of light
Against this pale November haze,
And now, although the mist is white,
In half-an-hour a day of days
Will climb into its golden height
And Sunday bells will ring its praise.

The yellowing elm shows yet some green,
The mellowing bells exultant sound:
Never have light and colour been
So prodigally thrown around;
And in the bells the promise tells
Of greater light where Love is found.

Fall, leaves, fall, by Emily Bronte (1818 -1848)

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

Some thoughts on Autumn

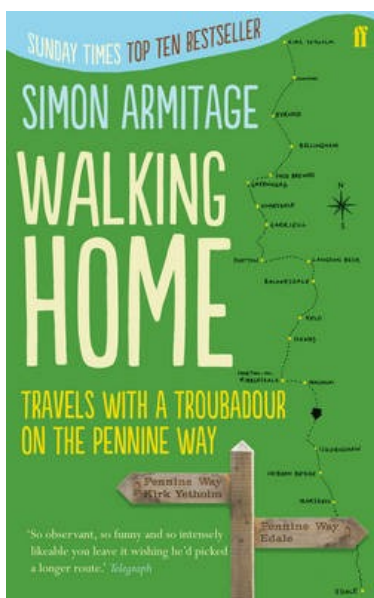
Out in the deep wood, silence and darkness fall, down through the wet leaves comes the October mist; no sound, but only a blackbird scolding, making the mist and darkness listen. (Peter Levi, ex-Oxford Poetry Professor)

Behold congenial Autumn comes, the Sabbath of the year. (John Logan 1748 - 1788)

A London Clubman's view of the country in Autumn:
"a damp sort of place where all sorts of birds fly about - *uncooked!*" (Joseph Wood Krutch 1893 - 1970)

BOOK REVIEW

Walking Home - Travels with a Troubadour on the Pennine Way by Simon Armitage - Poet Laureate



In summer 2010 Simon Armitage decided to walk the Pennine Way. The challenging 256 mile route is usually approached from south to north, from Edale in the Peak District to Kirk Yetholm, the other side of the Scottish border. Armitage lives in Marsden near the beginning of the walk and he decided to 'walk home' by starting the trek at the northern end of the route. He walked through beautiful and bleak terrain, across lonely fells and into the howling wind. Travelling as a 'modern troubadour' without

a penny in his pocket, he stopped along the way to give poetry readings in village halls, churches, pubs and living rooms. His audiences varied from the passionate to the indifferent. He passed round a sock at the end of each evening, asking people to give whatever they thought he was worth.

Walking Home is a story about Britain's remote and overlooked interior - the wildness of its landscape and the generosity of the locals who sustained him on his way. We heartily recommend it to you.

We would welcome your thoughts on the books we recommend, together with your recommendations for future Book Reviews.



St. Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Priest in charge: Revd Clodagh Ingram

Curate: Revd James Turk



Revd James Turk writes

Change is in the air...You can smell it and if you look closely you can see it. I write this article at the beginning of September and the air is cooler, the leaves on the trees are just beginning to change colour and there is a smell

of woodsmoke in my neighbourhood. A sure sign that Autumn is coming.

I am entering a new season in my own life. I am a couple of months into my third year of my curacy at St Leonard's and as part of my training this year I must go on a placement which will take me away from the parish and my parish duties for all of October and most of November. The purpose of the placement is to offer me the opportunity to explore future ministerial roles and contexts, and to provide further preparation for posts of responsibility and generally broaden my experience.

I have chosen to do my placement at Leyhill Prison, a category D prison in Tortworth, South Gloucestershire. I will join the chaplaincy team there for a time and, as I am being released from parish duties at St Leonard's, I hope to be able to fully engage with the chaplaincy and the vital role they have at Leyhill.

I am a little apprehensive, but also excited. This placement, and the planning for it, has also made me acutely aware that my time at St Leonard's is temporary. I am here not only as your priest; I am still a curate and I am here also to learn. This is a training post for me, but amidst all the experiences and being part of this community and all the joy that brings, it has been easy to forget that fact.

As I enter this new season and new experience I am reminded of a famous passage from the Old Testament.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" Ecclesiastes 3:1

As Christians we serve a God of seasons, but God doesn't measure seasons with clocks and calendars, but through truth and revelation. Whenever God gives us a fresh word or a new experience, we feel we have just stepped into a new season, and there is a purpose for the process.

There are seasons we don't want to go through. But through those seasons we inevitably learned something, and we wouldn't have learned them if we hadn't gone through that season.

There are seasons we have gone through, that we just don't know why we had to. But, again, there is a reason for that season.

And if you are going through a season right now that feels uncertain, or if life feels extremely tough right now, it doesn't mean that God is finished with you, it doesn't mean that God doesn't care or that he isn't close. Because even when we go through times of change the love of God is constant and nothing on earth or in heaven can change that fact. Every single one of us is loved more than we can ever imagine, even if our current situation makes us feel alone and as if no one cares.

Timing is important. All our experiences are appropriate at certain times. The secret to not feel apprehensive about changes in our life is to discover, accept and appreciate God's perfect timing. Change is inevitable, it comes with being human and being part of God's plan for us. And if we remember that it is God's plan, then we need not feel apprehensive about change.

James

Church Calendar for October 2019

Sun 6	8.00 am	Holy Communion service
	10.00 am	Celebration Service
Mon 7	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 8	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 -12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 9	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Sun 13	10.00 am	Communion Service
Mon 14	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 15	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 -12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 16	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Sun 20	10.00 am	Communion Service
	4.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Mon 21	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 22	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 -12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 23	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Sun 27	10.00 am	Communion Service
Mon 28	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 29	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 -12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 30	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer

St. Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Upton St Leonards School - Haven & Spiritual Garden

Recently I got together with fellow Governor Sarah Kent, her husband Ant and with some help from my fellow churchyard team (Jenny and Sheila), and two members of USCAN, to tackle the overgrown state of the Haven and the Spiritual Garden at the School.

We spent two days jet washing the paving stones and the benches, then started to cut back all the greenery that surrounded the Haven and the outside growth.

We have spent many hours also painting the fencing and have nearly completed our task there. The finishing off will need to be done in the half term holiday as the children will need to use it.

We were also indebted to Phil, a friend of ours who took away bags and bags full of greenery and disposed of it for us.

It was really a worthwhile project to see a lovely area of the school grounds come back into use. One of the difficult jobs was persuading Mr and Mrs Toad that they belonged in the wildlife pond area and not the water feature of the Haven!! but we got there eventually. We are also going to tidy up the Secret Garden which is next to the Haven and is a lovely area for the children to go into.

My aim was to integrate the members of our church family with the School, and to assist in bringing back this lovely area to be used by the children.

I know Mr Allen the Headmaster is extremely pleased with the results; let's hope the children will be as well.

Gill Howell

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Children's Society Box Collection 2019



Ann Herring and I have completed the annual counting of money in the Children's Society boxes held by Upton people. This year the total was £344. This is a wonderful result and will, I know, be much appreciated by the Children's Society, on behalf of whom I want to thank all who have contributed towards the wonderful work they do.

If there is anyone who would like to hear more about the Society, or have a collection box, please do contact me. I will be delighted to hear from you.

Rachel Ball

School Holiday Bell ringing Experience

We had at least one person on each day during the week and on one of those days we had 14 people spend two hours with us - everyone seemed to enjoy themselves very much. Quite a successful event for the first year attempt to bring people to the Church and experience bell ringing in earnest and make some good sounds with brass instruments too.

The week that the event took place in August was about right, i.e. towards the end of the school holidays. The event could be organised to occur each year but with an expanded theme around 'music and sound' and so we may introduce singing and have more brass band representatives to bring other types of instruments too and that includes hand bells. So keep an eye on the USL Life magazine for this type of event towards the end of the 2020 Summer holiday period.

I would hope that we have been able to encourage local people to take up the next steps of learning to ring Church bells - 2 people may continue and one certainly has - but we can accommodate more at our practice evenings each Wednesday evening (7:30-9:00 pm). The brass band may have recruited two young people which will be excellent news if confirmed.

Time will tell but seeing a spark in the eyes of those genuinely interested has been most encouraging - however small a number.

Thank you - to all those who came to the event and I hope that it proved to be a 'memorable experience' for you.

Charlie - Tower Captain



St. Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

War Graves in the Churchyard Can you help with information?

Readers will no doubt remember that two new wooden plaques listing the names of casualties from World War One were erected on the South Aisle wall of the church and were dedicated last November. Perhaps less well known is that St Leonard's Churchyard is an official Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Cemetery. There are five graves with the standard CWGC headstone – three from World War 1 – Corporal Ernest Clarke died 24 November 2015, Private Renford Hooper died 27 September 1920, and Private William Webb died 25 June 1921. We have some information on these three.

However we have little information on the two graves from World War 2 – for Aircraftman Stanley Port died 8 May 1941 and Corporal James Ramsey who died 18 March 1943.

Corporal Ramsey's headstone has recently been replaced and this is usually done by CWGC at the request of the family. His CWGC record shows that he was the "Son of Thomas and Martha Ramsey, husband of Mary Ramsey of Upton St Leonards" but no specific address is quoted. Are any of the family still in Upton or does anyone know of the circumstances of James' death?

The details held by CWGC of AC1 Stanley Port are few. He was a member of a RAFVR (volunteer reserve) Squadron operating Barrage balloons as defences against German aircraft. Our researches show he was born in Dover in 1914, son of Joseph and Annie Port. He married an Upton girl, Lavinia Johnson, before the war, and lived in the Village in High Street. He was serving at a Balloon Squadron based in Hull, and died in a fire following an air raid on the city on the night of 7/8 May 1941; his body was brought back to Upton and buried in St Leonard's churchyard. But it is strange to note that he is not named on the original WW2 plaque in church or on the memorial.

If any local residents can shed more light on the two WW2 servicemen mentioned above we would be interested to hear from them, via the Editor. There is now a temporary Register that we have made, located in the Church Porch, giving details of the graves, plus a map, and a temporary sign on the church gate - as we are waiting for the CWGC to produce their standard Register and sign.

Thank you.

Roy Roberts – PCC Member
Mike Stratford - Chairman Upton History Group

Tower Floodlighting

Clive and Julie Winstanley are sponsoring the Tower Lights on the 3rd October in celebration of their dear grandson Kai's 4th birthday.

The Tower Lights are lit on the 4th October in memory of Rich on his birthday. Sponsored with much love by Mum and Libby.

On the 10th October, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Derek Brinkley who passed away four years ago on this day. Kindly sponsored by his son, Alan.

On the 11th October the Tower will be lit in memory of Chris Rumsey on her birthday. With love and so many happy memories from all the family.

The family of Mr Denis Devereux wish to light the Tower of St. Leonard's Church on the evening of his 98th birthday, October 12th. As a family, we lived for many happy years in Upton St Leonards and we remember the 'golden moments' we shared together. We never stop thinking about him and loving him. He is greatly missed by us all. From Jane, Barry, Richard, Yvonne, Nan and all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On Thursday 17th October 2019, the Church Tower Lights are being sponsored by Ruth Edgington and family, in loving memory of Michael William Edgington, who passed away on this day 13 years ago.

If you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday/anniversary/ Baptism or in remembrance of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will help us too. Please note that the deadline of the Church Pages of USL Life is the 10th of the preceding month.



St. Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest in Charge:

Revd Clodagh Ingram

Curate:

Revd James Turk

Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Vacancy

PCC Secretary

Sarah Kent

pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

Deanery Synod Representative

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers

Jenny Cunningham

Tower Floodlights

As reported in the September issue of USL Life the new tower floodlights have now been installed and are in full working order. Our church tower can now be seen far and wide as a landmark to the village.

The photo shows Ben Hicks installing the lights, ably assisted by his 'apprentice' Daniel.



Many thanks to both of you.

Never too young to get involved in the family business!

If you would like the tower lit to celebrate a memory or event please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details

Mother's UNION

The next meeting is on

October 17th

2.00 pm

St. Leonard's Church

All are welcome

Operation Christmas Child

The shoe boxes will have been collected and in Church on Sunday 17th November and everyone is welcome to bring their shoe box along for a blessing and for us to remember the children who will eventually receive the shoe boxes.

For more information, please contact Jenny Cunningham on 615858. See also page 19 of this edition.



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Spring Show - April 2020

OK - so this edition is full of reports on this year's Upton Show. But the Spring Show organisers are publishing their PHOTOGRAPHY classes, giving you time to get snapping! The classes will be:

- Village pride
- Reflections
- A close up photograph
- Fun on wheels
- That looks tasty!
- A face full of wisdom (black & white only)

The children's photography class is entitled "Ball games"

There will be a charity class in aid of the Donkey Sanctuary entitled 'Make an item suitable for a children's raffle' in any medium

Rich Barnard's Last Cricket Game



Rich (aka Max or Mac) Barnard says he is putting away his bat and whites for the last time, and there was a game, Upton v Painswick, at the Rec on Sunday 16 September, to mark the occasion. Lots of past and present players from both cricket clubs were there for a great afternoon.

Max started playing for Upton in the late 1960s, that's more than 50 years ago. He was skipper of the Upton second team in the days when, in 2003, they reached the dizzying heights of runners-up in the top Division in the county for 2nd teams. For the last 12 years he played his cricket at Painswick. The pictures show the spectators, and Max bowling in the match.



Portway Farm Shop celebrates 30 years of service to the Village

In July the Portway Farm Shop celebrated 30 years since it opened its doors. It was a great occasion with a barbecue for customers and all associated with the shop and its success.



Facebook: @PortwayFarmShop

USL Life wishes the Farm Shop all the best for the next 30 or more years!

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Feature Article

Who was Louisa Lady Downe, and how did she come to be a benefactor in Upton St Leonards?

In fact, we know very little about Lady Downe's background. She lived with the Brooke Hunt family at Bowden Hall, but, as far as we know, is unrelated to them.

She was born Louisa Maria Welstead, we believe, in about 1780, in Bishopsgate, London, though my researches to date have not turned up a baptism record. We know nothing at all about her family and childhood years, except, it is said, her father was George Welstead (and we have no further information on him).

In 1815, aged about 35, she married John Christopher Burton Dawnay, 5th Viscount Downe. The picture (by Gainsborough) shows him at age 17. He was aged 51 when the wedding took place, and still a bachelor, according to the marriage register. The marriage took place in the parish church of Snaith, Yorkshire. The Downe family owned property in the Snaith area, notably Cowick Hall. One can only guess, with so little background, how Louisa Welstead met John Dawnay, but one can surmise that, like so many of the landed gentry, Viscount Downe spent much of each year in London. His peerage was an Irish one, which meant he was not entitled to sit in the House of Lords, but he was elected MP for Petersfield (Hampshire) for a time and for Wootton Bassett, so clearly a much travelled man.

They had no children. In 1832, John Dawnay died, and his younger brother the Reverend William Henry Dawnay inherited the Viscountcy and the estates.

His widow, Louisa, now titled Dowager Viscountess Downe, seems to have been "adopted" by Charles Brooke Hunt and his family, and at the time of the 1841 census she was living with them in Cambridge.

When the Brooke Hunt family purchased and moved to Bowden Hall in the 1840's she came with them, and

lived at Bowden Hall until her death in 1867.

We assume that she inherited her wealth from her husband. We believe she had no living relatives. The Brooke Hunts had wealth of their own (they moved in the 1870s from Bowden Hall to Peers Court, Stinchcombe). Lady Downe died just before this move and had by then, or through her will, made large contributions towards the building of the Village School, now "Chipmunks", next to the Church, and set up the endowments which have resulted in the Lady Downe Trust today.

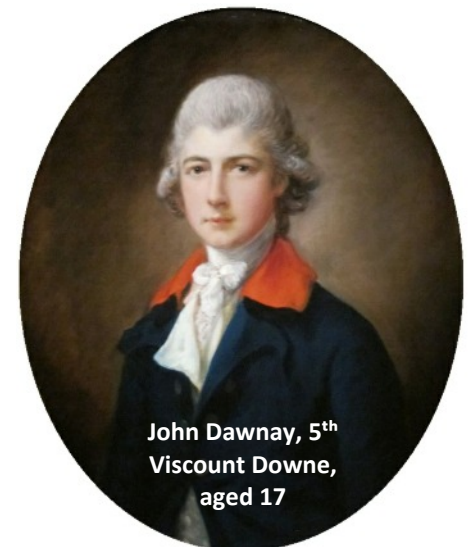
The endowments were in the form of fields held in trust, and income from the rent of those fields was set to make funds available to the school and schoolchildren. The field rents were not large, and so the amount available to the school was quite modest. However, in the late 1970's the land was sold for building and now lies under a large chunk of Abbeydale. As prime building land, its value shot up. The capital raised from the sale of the land has been invested and is the principle which gives a large amount of interest each year for distribution by the Lady Downe Trust.

The late Ken Herbert, Mike Stratford and I have spent quite a while trying to find out more about Lady Downe, but we have come up with nothing. It is most strange and unusual that people of high social rank cannot be traced. There are normally announcements in journals such as the Gentleman's Magazine, and parish records tend to be rather better preserved for people of rank than for others.

A recent discovery I made was that, like many of the landed gentry of the time, both Charles Brooke Hunt and John Dawnay invested in the sugar plantations in Jamaica, so there are records for both of them of compensation paid when slavery was



This photograph of Lady Downe hangs in the School entrance lobby



John Dawnay, 5th Viscount Downe, aged 17

abolished in the early 1800's. This is one possible connection (the only one I can find) between the Brooke Hunts and the Dawnays.

Andy Russell

PS - A number of documents on the peerage record that John Christopher Burton Dawnay, 5th Viscount Downe "married, firstly, unknown daughter Scott, daughter of Major John Scott of Balcomie and Margaret Dundas. He married, secondly, Louisa Maria Welstead, daughter of George Welstead of Apsley, Sussex, on 31 December 1815". It is apparent to me that all these documents are quoting a single source - they all use more or less these words, and it is unclear which of the documents is the original source, or where the original source is. The

documents also say there were no children of either marriage.

I believe the source(s) quoted above is/are wrong about the "first" marriage. Major John Scott's family is well researched and there is no known daughter who married John Dawnay, Viscount Downe. There is, however, a daughter Lucy, who married Francis Stuart, Lord Doune, 10th Earl of Moray. The similarity Doune - Downe is obvious, and at some point someone has made, in my opinion, the wrong association, which has been repeated through multiple quotations. The sources claim that the first Lady Downe died in 1798, which is the actual date of death of Lucy, Lady Doune.

However, there is no doubt that 'our' Lady Downe is the "second" wife named above, Louisa Maria Welstead. And, as stated above, the church record of this marriage states that John was a bachelor.

PPS - The peerage entries, above, name George Welstead as her father, and say he is "of Apsley in Sussex". There isn't and never was such a place in Sussex, though there was an Apsley House. The Apsley clue has led nowhere in my research.

PPPS - There is another photograph of Lady Downe - it shows her in a pony and trap visiting the school. Many of us can remember seeing this photograph, but we don't know where it now is. Do you?

The Lady Downe Charity

The Lady Downe Trust is an endowed foundation whose benefits are restricted to the residents of the administrative parish of Upton St Leonards in Gloucestershire, as it was in 1966 prior to later boundary changes (parts of what is now Abbeydale, Abbeymead and Coopers Edge are included).

Eligible individuals can apply for help in the relief of hardship and for the educational development of young people under the age of 25.

The Trust also provides support for the village school and other schools attended by resident children, and to local charitable organisations supplying educational or other benefits to residents.

If you wish to apply for a grant from the charity and think you are eligible, please contact the Secretary Mrs E.J. McGrory, The Coach House, Well Close, Cooper's Hill, Glos, GL3 4RZ.

Bonfires

We received a note recently from a Villager concerned about garden bonfires. Thankfully, with the recycling now available, there are far fewer bonfires to cause a nuisance. But if you must light a fire, PLEASE, PLEASE be considerate of your neighbours. E.g. talk to them first, check the wind direction and weather forecast, think about what time of day would cause least nuisance, etc.

Fireworks

It's that time of year. A reminder that livestock and other animals can get extremely frightened by fireworks and can injure themselves trying to run away.

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Upton Show - this year's trophy winners

Congratulations to these excellent people!



Paula Quinn	Eacott Perpetual Challenge Cup - Most points in show
Paula Quinn	John Millard Perpetual Challenge Cup - Most points in vegetable, fruit and flower classes
Doug Monkman	Christine Rumsey Memorial Cup - Most points in vegetable classes 16 to 24
Anne Hemsley	USL Perpetual Challenge Cup - Most points in classes for preserves & pickles
Paula Quinn	Robert Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup - Most points in rose classes
Anne Hemsley	Stan Hooton Memorial Rose Bowl - Most points in vegetable & fruit classes
Peter Macey	Royston Gardiner Memorial Salver - Most points in flower classes
Paula Quinn	Dinkie Gardiner Memorial Rose Bowl - Most points in flower arrangement classes
Paula Quinn	Ethel Edey Memorial Cup - Most points in home cookery classes
Anne Hemsley	Rumsey Memorial Trophy - Most points in the handicraft classes
Kate Brooks	Joan Finch Memorial Salver - Winner of the First Prize in Class 140 (a soft toy)
Phil Keene	Bob Ayland Memorial Shield - USL allotment holder with most points in vegetable & fruit classes
Doug Monkman	Abbeydale Garden Club Shield - Club member with highest points in the show
Claire Ellis	Joseph T C Edey Salver - Most points in the photography section
Arthur Hemming	Fred Ball Memorial Trophy - Most points in the special novice classes for vegetables, fruit and flowers
Paula Quinn	Banksian Medal - Most points in vegetable & fruit classes and flower classes (excluding winners in the past 2 years)
Anne Hemsley	Tray of a variety of vegetables - Sponsored by Upton Village Store
Paula Quinn	Vase with a variety of flowers - Sponsored by Upton Village Store
Anne Hemsley	Best in show - Vegetables
M Herbert	Best in show - Flowers

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Blake Winstanley	Evelyn Rumsey Children's Cup - Most points in children's classes, aged up to 7
Hannah Bannister	Juvenile Cup - Most points in children's classes, aged 8-11
Francesca Hughes	Ethel Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup - Most points in children's classes, aged 12-16
Arthur Hemming	RHS Children's Certificate of Merit - Most points in young gardeners' classes



Paula Quinn
Most points in the show,
and 6 other trophies

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

VILLAGE DIARY

OCTOBER

1	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
1	Tue	Needles and Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
1	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30pm
1	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
2	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
2	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
2	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
2	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.00pm
3	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
3	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
3	Thu	USL WI Workshop.....	Pavilion.....	1.00pm
3	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
3	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
3	Thu	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	8.00pm
4	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
5	Sat	Ukulele Evening.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
6	Sun	Tennis club morning.....	Pavilion.....	10.00am
6	Sun	Silver Sunday.....	Village Hall.....	2.00-4.00pm
7	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
7	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
7	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
7	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
7	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
8	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week/Garden Waste for those with Brown Bins		
8	Tue	Needles and Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
8	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30pm
8	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
9	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
9	Wed	Healthy Living.....	Pavilion.....	7.00pm
9	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
9	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
9	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.00pm
10	Thu	Copy Date for November issue of USL Life		
10	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
10	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
10	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
10	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
11	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
12	Sat	Race Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
13	Sun	Tennis club morning.....	Pavilion.....	10.00am
14	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
14	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
14	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
14	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
14	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
15	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
15	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
15	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30pm
15	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
16	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
16	Wed	Healthy Living.....	Pavilion.....	7.00pm
16	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
16	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
16	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.00pm
17	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
17	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
17	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
17	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
18	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
20	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion.....	10.00am
21	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
21	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
21	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
21	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
21	Mon	Abbeylea Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45pm
22	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week and Garden Waste for those with brown bins		
22	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
22	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30pm
22	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
23	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm



23	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
23	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
23	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.30pm
24	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
24	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
24	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
24	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
24	Thu	Upstagers Murder Mystery.....	Village Hall.....	7.00pm
24	Thu	Ramblers.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
25	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
25	Fri	Upstagers Murder Mystery.....	Village Hall.....	7.00pm
26	Sat	Upstagers Murder Mystery.....	Village Hall.....	7.00pm
28	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
28	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
28	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
28	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
28	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00pm
29	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
29	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
29	Tue	Brownies.....	Pavilion.....	5.30pm
29	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
30	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
30	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
30	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
30	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.30pm
31	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
31	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
31	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
31	Thu	Get Together Club - Sausage and Mash.....	Village Hall.....	12.45 for 1.00pm
31	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

NOVEMBER

4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
5	Tue	Bonfire & Fireworks.....	Village Hall.....	5.30pm
9	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
10	Sun	Copy Date for December issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Centre.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45pm
20	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.15.am
21	Thu	History Group - Mary Queen of Scots.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.00pm
25	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00pm
25	Mon	Lady Downe Trust.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	7.30pm
28	Thur	Get Together Club.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	2.00pm

DECEMBER

2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
7	Sat	Pensioners' Lunch.....	BMI.....	12 noon
9	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
10	Tue	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
12	Thu	Get Together Club Christmas Lunch.....	Bowden Hall.....	12.00 for 1.00pm
14	Sat	Christmas Draw & Carols.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30- 9.45pm
24	Tue	Christmas Eve Entertainment.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
31	Tue	New Year Entertainment.....	BMI.....	8.00pm

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

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POPPY APPEAL 2019

The usual sale of poppies, at Morrisons and house-to-house in the area, will be during 27 October to 10 November. We need as much help as we can get. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to help, please contact us.

Thank you to everyone who continues to help with the collection.

House-to-House Collection - Jenny Cunningham

Morrisons Collection - Jim Browne

Please give generously to help our servicemen/women and their families.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

runs again this year, and it gives you the chance to donate shoeboxes filled with small gifts for poor children in parts of the world where there is little cheer at Christmas.

You will be very welcome to the Gloucester "launch" for the 2019 shoeboxes. This is at Southgate Evangelical Church on Thursday 10 October at 7:00-8:30pm, Southgate Street. At the launch you can see videos to experience the joy the shoebox brings, and meet those who have distributed the boxes. Lots of ideas of what to put in the shoeboxes, gifts and good places to shop for them. You can support Operation Christmas Child purchasing Christmas Cards.

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: Andy Russell
Editors: Andrea Dawson

Andy Russell
Barbara Swindin
Peter Wilson

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Christina Caldwell
Linda Munnoch
Ann Morphew

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The editor for our November issue will be Barbara Swindin

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The mystery object from Stroud Museum, shown on page 7 is a pair of sugar nippers, used to break chunks off sugar loaves.

Computer playing up?

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Upton Show 2019 - more



"Wouldn't miss it! I come every year, whatever the weather."

"We saw the poster in Morrisons and thought we'd come along. Thought these sort of events were long gone, this is great and what splendid weather!"

"Can't wait to get on the Bouncy Castle!"

"It gives us all a chance to meet and chat to friends from the village whose paths have not crossed ours since the last Village Show!"

"I love to come and see what other people grow, my garden keeps me sane."

"The best competition was the 'Decorated Shoes' but I didn't agree with the judges, I think they must have been old."

"I liked the Cubs entries of 'My little book of Football' and I thought the best one was 'Advice on how to take a Penalty'."

"I did a drawing called 'My Nanna's Cat Poppy' because I loved my nanna's cat; he's dead now and I think I might win the Trophy."

"I always like the children's entries; & look at those veg!"

"Thank goodness there's still days like this, it's a sane thing to do. I know it's a lot of hard work as well so I'm all the more grateful. Thank you."

"Just look at how much colour there is in this marquee with all the stunning flower displays!"

"The quality of the Photography Entries is pretty high, I'm impressed!"

"The best thing is seeing the children with parents or grandparents, all the different ages together. Look at the children doing handstands on the grass!"



"The only bit of sanity I've had this week, nobody's mentioned the 'B' word so neither will I."

"Pity there are not more seats outside."

"Have you seen the infestation of miniature spiders, makes me itchy!"

"Such a long queue for a cuppa."

"We always come early because of the parking."

"The cakes are always the best exhibit; that 'beetroot and chocolate cake,' I was salivating! I love homemade."

"Fabulous live music; thanks to the players"



Thanks

Thanks to all those who made the 2019 Upton Show a success once again. The committee who planned and executed it all, those who prepared the site, helped putting up the marquees, setting out the tables, and taking it all down again after, those who served teas and manned stalls, those who provided cakes, food and items to sell, tombola items, teddies, those on the gate. Thanks to all who sent in entries, **and THANKS to all who attended in the afternoon.**