

# Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 74

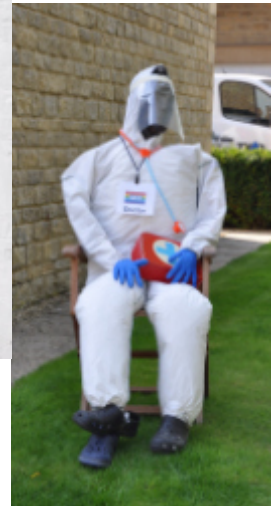
October 2020



**Superhero  
scarecrows**



*Did I tell you about the scarecrow who won an award? He was outstanding in his field!*



**Meryl, her friends, gnome hunters and sponsors, raise a huge total for charity**

The Gnome Hunt on 23 August raised over £1,100 and a sponsored hike the following weekend raised another £1,000. These were both both organised by Meryl Foster, and the combined amount has been sent to the charity Mind. There is a full story with more pictures on the back page



A gorgeous, colourful and witty display of scarecrows to lift the mood in the Village!



*And the prizewinners were . . .  
(See page 3)*

Rather depressingly, the first inside page of this month's magazine features what's not happening, and restrictions needed because of the recent surge in coronavirus cases.

## *In the BMI* - Covid-19 precautions

It's great that we can continue to meet in the BMI - an important part of Village life. But members and guests will realise that it isn't as normal there: the government guidelines must be followed. The BMI management has just sent out this reminder:

"Whether inside or out, no more than 6 people can occupy a table, and that is only if social distancing can be maintained at all times. This means that we must not see melding of tables together, clear space must be left between each group, i.e. as the tables are arranged.

It is now extremely important for us all to understand that when you visit the club, you decide to sit on a particular table and then that is where you must stay, people from different tables must not swap or mingle at

all. It is also now emphasised that there is NO STANDING at all.

You will notice that there are no beer mats on tables, we cannot use these any longer. If you feel you must have one, you can request one from the bar. When you leave the club you must dispose of it yourself, do not leave it on the table.

It is now mandatory that TRACK AND TRACE signing in is in place, no exceptions, this has worked well so far, thank you all.

I know that all of this sometimes seems picky to some of us, but I want to emphasise it is necessary. So please be wary and continue to enjoy the safe environment of your BMI. Let's all make sure that we continue to do so."



Our two WIs were planning to resume in October, but "Rule-of-Six" has set the restart back again.

## Abbeydale Garden Club

The committee of the Abbeydale Garden Club has reluctantly decided to hold no meetings in the rest of 2020. They hope to re-start in the new year and the speakers who were booked for this year will be booked for 2021.



History group meetings were also due to restart, but will not now until further notice.

However (hooray!)

**The BMI Bingo and the Probus meetings will continue - obeying the BMI rules above.**

.And you can see in the Diary (page 17) that badminton, and Pilates and Yoga classes are taking place in the Village Hall.

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## Scarecrows galore!

There were 19 scarecrows on show - it made for an entertaining (but quite long!) walk round the Village. Thanks to all those who took part - there were some fantastic designs and thoughts and much hard work. Thanks to Andrea Dawson for coming up with the idea and to Linda Munnoch for her assistance in setting the theme of 'Heroes'. Thanks also to our staff photographer Jim Browne who took all these pictures - pity we didn't have the space to print all of them in colour.

51 people sent in their votes, which is brilliant! The results are as follows.

**First prize No 5 ; the Doctor and Nurse in Woodland Green**  
**Second prize No 12, Emily Pankhurst at Beech House, Bondend.**

**Third prize No 3; the Farmer at 5 Staites Orchard**

Only slightly behind, therefore Highly Commended, was No 2, the Refuse/Recycle scarecrow at 3 Staites Orchard and No 15, Minnions at 14 Twyver Close.  
 (We will contact the top 3 to give them their prizes)



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**Parish Council**

## Parish Council Report

Villagers may have seen the new white lines at the High Street junction with Birchall Lane, Old-way and Rance Pitch (the Pound area). These show that there must be no parking obstructing the dropped curb and sight lines for the cross-roads. There are also warning signs, and the Police will be able to fine offenders parking there.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council have made tree saplings available to Parish Councils for planting. The Village Tree Warden (Alex Foster) has been asked to see what could be done – see his posting about it on the Upton St Leonards Community facebook page.

The rent paid by sports clubs using the Recreation Ground (tennis, football, petanque, cricket) has been waived for 2020 in view of the difficult situation they are coping with.

The shower heating system in the Pavilion is to be replaced (it is over 50 years old, survived the fire in 1986 and two re-buildings!). The Pavilion car park is being re-surfaced soon - this will mean no parking there for a few days when the work is being done. We will try to give plenty of notice.

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At the moment, Parish Council meetings are held online using Zoom. Villagers can join in by requesting a Zoom link from the Parish Clerk, Roy Balgobin:  
Email [usclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:usclerk@btinternet.com)  
Telephone 01452 621688 or 07977 560114

## New Nuthill Footpath

(And a mystery millstone)

In the August magazine, I announced the new footpath to Nuthill in the grounds of Bowden Hall. Bad timing, because a new gate had not yet been put in and a big fallen tree was still blocking the route. The gate arrived and the tree was cut at the end of August, so the path really is usable now! To get to it, cross the lawn in front of the Hotel and go down to the end of the lake. See the map in the August magazine. This creates a circular route to visit Nuthill avoiding walking on the Nuthill Road.

The 'mystery' millstone is pictured below. The footpath team found it a few weeks ago while clearing this path. It was completely buried under about six inches of soil, and, by a complete coincidence, was right in the middle of the new path. What's it doing there? Who put it there? It looks completely unused. I wonder if it was actually made as a garden ornament, maybe some sort of marker?



Many thanks to the management of the Hotel for allowing us to create this new path in their grounds, and to the Woodland Trust, who own Nuthill, for encouraging it and putting in the gate and cutting the tree.

How about taking a meal at the Hotel to say thanks to them, and you can make a donation to the Woodland Trust through their website.

Andy Russell and the footpath team



**Upton St Leonards Community**



The **Upton St Leonards Community Facebook** page on the web has become a very good place to get up-to-date news and information about goings-on in the Village. Anyone can see it (just search for Upton St Leonards Community Facebook).

To contribute to it you will need to become a 'member' - you will need to create your own facebook log in and then apply to join the community page.

## Litter Picking

Austin Blackburn, Alex Foster and a few others have set up a litter picking team. They are doing a fantastic job, and you can both see reports of their work and contact / join them via the Community facebook page.

The picture shows Austin, Alex and Marilyn after one of their 'picks'.



It's great to have this activity going on in our Village, and we extend thanks to others who quietly go around picking up litter frequently. Just another thing that makes this Village very special.

## USCAN "AGM" and report

The USCAN organisation usually has an AGM in the spring, to which all Villagers are invited. Of course that was not possible this year

As a reminder, USCAN stands for **Upton St Leonards Community Action Network**, and it was founded about 25 years ago as an umbrella organisation for a number of volunteer activities in the Village. Only one of the original activities continues at the moment, the footpath work, but any other volunteer group could shelter under this umbrella if it wanted to. Cliff Alderman is the Chairman/Secretary, and Owen Stinchcombe is the Treasurer.

### Report (in lieu of an actual AGM):

Cliff, Owen and Andy Russell (leader of the footpaths team) met by Zoom call for a sort of AGM.

Most of the activities of the footpath team have had plenty of publicity recently in USL Life, including elsewhere in this issue. The Parish Council is the normal source of funds for this work, and this will continue.

In 2019 the footpaths group spent

£235, which the Parish Council has reimbursed. At the end of 2019 there was a reserve of £363 in the bank.

All the more routine work of minor repairs to stiles and gates, clearing fallen branches and trees, cutting back nettles and brambles etc. carried on as normal in 2019. The footpaths group also managed the Jubilee wildlife area at the recreation ground, and lent their efforts to other works in the Village. There was an USCAN organised litter pick in early March, but see the article on the left about a new litter picking initiative – independent of USCAN but very welcome.

The year 2020 will be a bumper year for footpaths and expenditure on them – by the end of the year we hope to have two new routes to the Abbey, and the footpath group has already announced the new Nuthill path and a new path linking the Cotswold Way to the Prinknash entrance on the A46

The USCAN footpaths group publishes a booklet of walks. With the new walks that should be in place this year it is hoped there will be a complete revision of the booklet. Maybe in time for Christmas presents?

Cliff, Owen and Andy are happy to keep going as the "USCAN Executive" team.

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## USCAN Footpaths team – how it all started.

Recently, there have been some articles in USL Life on the local footpaths and the work done by the footpaths team.

Upton St Leonards Community Action Network (USCAN) was set up in about 1990 as an umbrella organisation to cover a number of volunteer activities in the Village, principally at that time the action was to persuade the boundaries commission that Upton should remain in Stroud District. There were then monthly meetings of USCAN.

It was at one of these that Don Webb, who sadly died in June this year, proposed the idea of mapping out the footpaths in the area, planning and publicising circular walks, and working with the landowners and tenants to keep the paths clear and keep stiles and gates in good order. He asked if anyone would be willing to join him in a weekly working group, and he undertook the task of contacting landowners and tenants for permission to work on the paths on their land. I offered to give it a go, and have been with the group now for 30 years! The other 'founder' members of the group were Mike Blanch, a keen rambler, and John Moorhen, another keen walker who actually lived in Abbeydale.

Initially we had no equipment that belonged to the group. We used our own shears, slashers, bow saws etc. For work on stiles and gates, Don would get wood delivered to his house and used his car to transport it to where it was needed. The group now has most of its own equipment.



You may have noticed that some of the roadside footpath signs which were very faded have recently been repainted, by Nigel Murrell. Thanks Nigel.

One objective was to replace some stiles with gates, to make access easier for those who found climbing a stile difficult. The first stile we replaced by a kissing gate was on the right at the top of Watery Lane beyond the end of the tarmac. (Incidentally, there is a guideline for stiles that says the first step should be no more than a foot from the ground and the top rail should be no more than two feet above the top step).

Don was older than the rest of us by some ten years, and he felt after a while that the work was getting too difficult for him, and his wife Audrey was becoming frail, needing more care at home. At an USCAN meeting Don asked if anyone could take over the leadership role. I am not an admin type, so was unwilling, but Mike Blanch stepped up. Thus, one chapter of the USCAN Footpaths Team ended and another began. More to follow of this story.

Nigel Murrell

## Alec Russell's retirement

Alec is probably one of the best known people in the Village! It was over 9 years ago that he took up the post of Steward at the BMI, and he and Mary, his wife, moved into the flat at the club. In his time he has introduced us to a large number of guest beers, a different one very nearly every week - he is a master at looking after and serving real ales, and has really enjoyed this aspect of his job. He and Mary have also developed catering at the club, so it became routine that for wakes, birthdays, christenings, etc. the BMI was the first option to look at (until the dreaded virus put a stop to it).

Alec retires at the end of October and we wish him and Mary a very happy retirement - much of that will be spent, no doubt, at their newly acquired house in Greece where they have so often spent their holidays.

Ευχαριστώ πολύ

PS Alec is famous for not wanting his photo taken, hence no picture!

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## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - 2020

Poppies will be on sale at Morrisons and house-to-house on 24 October - 8 November. Please give generously to help our servicemen/women and their families. Thank you to everyone who continues to help with the collection. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to help, please contact us.

Any time that you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Please contact us if you feel you can help us to help others. Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you.

House-to-House Collection - Jenny Cunningham  
Morrisons Collection - Jim Browne



*Design a front page* for the Christmas Issue of USL Life!

You may recall that we asked for this last year - we only got one response, but we used it! The idea is that this is something children can do in half-term, or when having to stay indoors. Adults can submit a design too, and the December editor will select one or more of the designs. Simply send us a scan or photo of your design..

By 10 November please.



## Hints on Stress Avoidance

(Discovered among the papers of a psychiatrist)

- ▷ Work off your stress
- ▷ Talk to someone you trust
- ▷ Learn to accept what you cannot change
- ▷ Avoid self-medication with nicotine, alcohol, too much coffee and tranquillisers
- ▷ Get enough sleep
- ▷ Take time out to play
- ▷ Do something for others
- ▷ Take one thing at a time
- ▷ Agree with somebody. Don't make life a constant battleground
- ▷ Manage your time better. You need a system working for you, not against you
- ▷ Plan ahead. Say "No" now and stop pressure piling up

- ▷ If you are ill, don't try to carry on as if you are not.
- ▷ Develop a (new) hobby. Your work, or dealing with your current activities and problems, can become an addiction. Find a counterbalance
- ▷ Remember that the answer lies with you. Nobody else can give you a less stressful life
- ▷ Eat sensibly and exercise
- ▷ Use a stress reduction technique daily
- ▷ Know when you are tired and take preventative action
- ▷ Delegate responsibility
- ▷ Be realistic about perfection



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# Arts Page

As Covid19 continues we have poems which express different attitudes to coping with life. We begin with three verses from **The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam**, written in about 1100, translated from Persian by Edward FitzGerald (1809-1883). It is considered that the main theme of this poem is the need to live life in the present.

Here with a Loaf of Bread beneath the Bough,  
A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse – and Thou  
Beside me singing in the Wilderness –  
And Wilderness is Paradise enow.

Ah, fill the Cup: – what boots it to repeat  
How Time is slipping underneath our Feet:  
Unborn TO-MORROW, but dead YESTERDAY,  
Why fret about them if TO-DAY be sweet!

The Moving Finger writes; and having writ,  
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

## FISH by D. H. Lawrence

Fish, oh Fish,  
So little matters!

Whether the waters rise and cover the earth  
Or whether the waters wilt in the hollow places,  
All one to you.

Aqueous, subaqueous,  
Submerged  
And wave-thrilled.

As the waters roll  
Roll you,  
The waters wash,  
You wash in oneness  
And never emerge.

Never know.  
Never grasp.

Your life a sluice of sensation along your sides,  
A flush at the flails of your fins, down the whorl of your tail.  
And water wetly on fire in the grates of your gills;  
Fixed water eyes.

## Thoughts

Everywhere in the world there are tensions –  
economic, political, religious. So we need  
CHOCOLATE!  
(Alain Ducasse – Michelin Star winning Chef)

The single clenched fist lifted and ready,  
Or the open hand held out and waiting.  
Choose: for we must meet by one or the other.  
(Carl Sandburg – poet. 1878 – 1967)

A Truth that's told with bad intent  
Beats all the Lies you can invent  
It is right it should be so  
Man was made for Joy and Woe  
And when this we rightly know  
Thro the World we safely go  
(Auguries of Innocence by William Blake 1757 – 1827)

## BOOK REVIEW

Without apology we return to the theme of the NHS with this month's recommendation – "Dear NHS:100 Stories to Say Thank You" edited by Adam Kay. The book includes vivid tales of broken bones, gaping wounds, burst appendixes and engorged boils. It has many famous contributors including Paul McCartney, Rob Brydon, Andrew Marr and Emma Thompson. There is humour and sadness and Mark Gatiss sums up the theme, "Nothing about this is easy to write, except that knowing there is a system of care, a net to catch us when we fall, is one of the country's greatest success stories . . . we simply couldn't survive without the NHS. It is the best of us".







## St Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)



Priest in Charge: Rev Clodagh Ingram



“Something different has been happening at St Leonard’s church, maybe you have heard the bells ringing out again on a Sunday morning? Those bells can mean only one thing, and that is that the church is opening its doors again for Sunday worship!



After a long 7 months without a Sunday morning church service we were finally able to gather as a community and partake in a communion service at St Leonard’s church. There was rejoicing and there was much to give thanks for, it was joyful to be able to gather again as a worshipping community in our beautiful church building. But it was also tinged with a sadness that things are not the same as they used to be before the lockdown, and sadness that it may be a long time before it will be again, if at all.

We are all holding so much right now, and I was acutely aware of that fact as I prepared to lead that first service after such a long time. There is still a palpable sense of loss in the community, not only the loss of all that we had hoped and planned to do this year, but some members of the congregation have also had to cope with the loss of loved ones because of Covid 19. That 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday was a time to rejoice that we were back worshipping again, but it also felt like a day to pause and acknowledge that sense of loss and hurt as a community of faith.

The first act of the morning was to light our Easter Candle, something that had been denied us on Easter Sunday this year because of the lockdown. During the Easter morning service, the candle is lit and would have been carried up through the church, reminding the people of the light of Christ's resurrection overcoming the darkness of the tomb. The candle therefore represents the risen Christ, as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death). This is central to our beliefs as Christians, that the light of Jesus can and will overcome any darkness in our lives.

With all that has gone on these past months, and continues to go on as I write this article, it seemed the right thing to do to light the candle on that 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, to remind us all that no matter what we have faced, and no matter what we may have to face in these uncertain times, the hope that is found in Jesus will overcome it.

I do not know what the future holds for any of us, whether you believe in the promises of Jesus or not, none of us is immune to what is going on right now. It could be that as you read this short article that the church has had to close its doors again due to a local lockdown. One thing I do know is that 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September, when we at last had the opportunity to light the Easter Candle, was a marker, it was a statement and a symbolic act of faith where we, the worshipping community at St Leonard’s, were reminded that the love of Jesus Christ is far bigger and greater than any trial we face on this earth. The candle reminds us that in Jesus there is always hope, there is always forgiveness, and there is always a future. We were never meant to do this life alone .... And, thankfully, we are never truly alone when we have the love of Jesus in our hearts.

If you would like to know more about the Christian faith or if you would just like to talk about anything you are going through at this time, then do get in touch with me. You would also be welcome to come along to a service at St Leonards and just take time to reflect, be still and listen. Numbers are limited during this time of pandemic and details of how to book a place at a Sunday service are published in these church pages, do join us if you can.

Take care, and God bless.

*James*

Curate: Rev James Turk

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

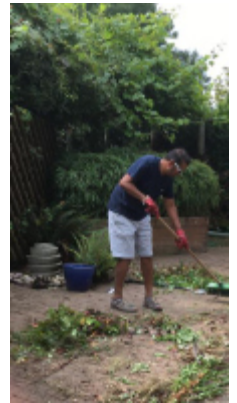
## *St Leonard's Church News*

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)



Over a period of time during the summer holidays, I and a group of dedicated parents, grandparents and friends of Upton St Leonards Primary School, set about updating the outside areas of the school.

Paint brushes, hoes, lawnmowers and brushes and all things gardening were the order of the day or week in this case.



Benches and chairs were painted in bright rainbow colours, the pond was completely renovated with a new liner and added turf so that the children could access the area, and even new fish were introduced to a new home.

The Secret Garden, which had been just that for ages, was cleared and strimmed and the pathway jet washed making it a lovely area again and a vital outside space to be used once more.

The Haven and Spiritual garden which has been an ongoing project was completed and can now be used as an outside classroom if needed. With the colourful benches it all looked really inviting.

In the reception area a mud kitchen was made with several new picnic benches and a music wall as well as some logs from one of the felled trees in the churchyard for the children to sit on.

A lot of the fencing was repainted and brightened up, but this will be work in progress for some time to come.

What was achieved in such a short time was absolutely incredible. We are indebted to the kindness of the donations that were gathered from The Lady Downe charity and the Upton PTA and also the gift of the turf from Wayne Ashby Estate Agents.



A Justgiving page was set up by Sarah Milburn and the money raised enabled us to buy the picnic benches and the paint for the benches. All the verandas covering the outside areas of the classrooms were also jetwashed which made them look so much brighter.

Even though we worked through extreme heat and incredible thunderstorms the atmosphere was one of enjoyment, fun and friendships formed.

There is still work to be done, but hopefully we can carry on as new projects are still needing attention and more funds are needed to look after this wonderful school.

*Gill Howell*

### *Notice of Annual meeting of Parishioners (AMP) to appoint Church Wardens*

Everyone on the Church Electoral Roll or resident in the village is invited to attend followed by  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)  
open to those on the Church Electoral Roll  
both to be held at St Leonard's Church on Sunday 25 October at 11.15 am

# St Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

## Tower Floodlighting

2020

In memory of Mark William Ruffell on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing, the family wanted to light the Church Tower in his memory.

Mark lived most of his life in Upton St. Leonard's, the village meant a great deal to him. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the day he was born and died, he was fondly remembered by all the family

The Church Tower will be lit on the 7<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Trevor Hall. With love and best wishes from all the family.

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

The Church Tower will be lit on the 11<sup>th</sup> October in memory of Chris Rumsey on her birthday. With love and so many happy memories from all the family.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the Church Tower will be lit up by the family of Mr Denis Devereux in his memory. He would have celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on this day. As a family we made many friends while living in the village and have many happy memories of those years.

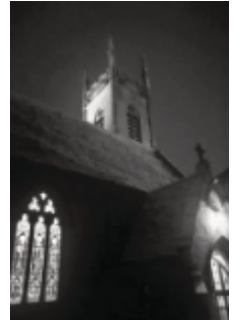
With love from all the family.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 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 14 years ago.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Church Tower is lit to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Chris and Angelina Gibbs – and very nearly 35 years of living in the village.

The Church Tower will be lit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October in memory of Terry Reade who would have celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on this day. Sadly missed and always remembered by his wife, daughter, son, wider family and friends.

*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 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.*



### Congratulations



Congratulations to Ben, Becky and Daniel on the safe arrival of Rosanna on

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September weighing 7lb 13. Mum, Dad, baby and big brother Daniel are all doing well and we all look forward to meeting Rosanna soon. With love and best wishes for a long, happy and healthy life from your church family.

*Photo with kind permission of Ben and Becky*



Congratulations and Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to

Trevor Hall  
With love and best wishes  
from

Your Church Friends and family

## St Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

### October Readings

October 4<sup>th</sup> 8.00 am & 10.00 am  
Philippians 3 4b-14  
Matthew 21: 33-end

October 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Philippians 4:19  
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am  
2 Timothy 4:5-17  
Luke 10:1-9

October 25<sup>th</sup> 10.00am  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Matthew 24:30-35

Due to number restrictions and to assist with planning on the day, please ensure you email James ([revjamesturk@gmail.com](mailto:revjamesturk@gmail.com)) to notify him of your intention to attend the service.

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

### Who's Who in the Parish Church

**Priest in Charge**

Rev Clodagh Ingram

**Curate:**

Rev James Turk

**Churchwardens:**

Keith Robbins

**Vacancy**

**PCC Secretary:** - Sarah Kent

**Church Treasurer**

Vacancy

**Baptism & Wedding Enquiries**

**Church Administrator** - Jenny Cunningham

**Safeguarding**

Dorothy Cox

**Bell Tower Captain**

Charlie Burnett

**Mother's Union:**

Kate Gale

**Church Cleaning Rota:**

Claire Appleyard

**Church Flowers:**

Jenny Cunningham

**USL Life (Church pages) and Pew News**

Rachel Middleton



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# Feature Article - Wasps

## You learn something every day!

One warm afternoon earlier in the lockdown, I was sitting enjoying a cuppa with my family in their garden (being allowed in a 'bubble' of course) when I saw the strangest thing. There was a wasp on the garden fence performing in a very bizarre way. It seemed to be bobbing up and down and I thought at first it was in the throes of dying. However, my daughter then said she had seen something on a Nature Watch programme about this phenomenon, and the wasp was apparently gleaming tiny slivers of wood from the fence, barely visible to human eye unless you peer very closely, and in my case, with specs on. How amazing we said, what tiny creatures can do, even the humble wasp has a life purpose, if only for itself! I thought no more about it until, on another afternoon mid-August, whilst wilting during the latest heatwave and moving at a slow pace, I decided to go through some old books, one being a book of questions and answers mainly aimed at youngsters which I bought many years ago for the kids, but nevertheless full of valuable information for all.

I began reading as you do and found I couldn't put it down. Amazing the facts that we think we know, and yet have probably had no inclination to bother to find out; you know the kind of thing, camels with one hump or two, what is a leap year, what makes thunder and lightning, basic stuff. Flicking through the pages I came to "Who Invented Paper"? Well, I should know that, I thought, papyrus in Egypt etc., but no, it was the ancient Chinese who are accredited – along with many other inventions such as the compass and gunpowder, all

catalysts for other innovations down the centuries.

Reading on, I had a 'jaw on the floor' moment discovering the origin of this wonderful invention and my curiosity was further sparked whilst researching information from various sources out there in the ether.

The story goes that an academic, Ts'ai-Lun, watched a wasp garnering minute pieces of bamboo, which it masticated into a paste with its saliva.

The wasp formed this mixture into a ball then, using its legs, created a flat piece which it used to build a new structure in its nest. Ts'ai-Lun replicated the wasp's actions by forming a sheet from compressed pulp he made from bamboo which was then dried in the sun and the first piece of paper was 'born'! He went on to adapt the process over time by adding bark, hemp and other materials. Other inventors have improved on the process over the years, but he is acknowledged as the first.

Papyrus is a type of reed. Strips were woven together, flattened by treading, and dried out to form a writing surface, which was used by ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans and from which our word paper is derived.

So, here's a thought . . . if it wasn't for that insignificant wasp two thousand years ago, ancestor of the fence nibbler, just going about its business, doing what wasps do, there's every possibility you would not have been reading this today . . .

Light bulb moment!

Continued on the next page





Operation Christmas Child is organised by the Samaritan's Purse international relief charity. Lots of churches, and ordinary members of the public, get involved in filling shoeboxes with small presents for children. These are dispatched to parts of the world where poverty means that children get no presents at Christmas or any other time.

If there is anyone who enjoys knitting, sewing or crocheting, there are many different items that can be added to the shoeboxes. We always need hats & gloves, draw-string bags – we try to add these to every box if possible. There are plenty of patterns for pencil cases, little bags, purses, puppets etc. During this difficult time, if anyone feels able to help in this practical way, it would be very much appreciated. A Christmas Card in each box is always something else we try to do.

## It's Shoebox Time again!

CHRISTMAS IS NOT CANCELLED FOR CHILDREN IN 2020

Last year, I had my first sponsored box and the lady who sponsored me was delighted with it. I will fill a box for you and bring it to show you for the cost of £15, plus £5 towards the transport. Some people find this easier than trying to get the different items for the shoebox.

As the shoeboxes cannot be taken into Church this year due to Covid-19, please contact me if you have a filled shoebox you would like me to collect; alternatively, you are very welcome to drop them off at my home – 55 Huntley Close, Abbeymead, GL4 4GU.

If you would like more information about how you can help, or would simply like to fill a shoebox or make a donation towards the cost of the transport for the boxes, please contact me. Thank you.

Jenny Cunningham

### Wasps (and paper) continued



Wikipedia states: Cai Lun, also known as Ts'ai Lun, was a Chinese inventor and court official of the Han dynasty. He is traditionally regarded as the inventor of paper and the paper making process in forms recognisable today as paper.

Born 50AD, died 121

Apocritas (the Latin name for a group of insects including ants, bees and wasps)? Well, that word for a start! I wonder - could this be the origin of the word 'critter'?

Wasps are vital to the ecosystem. They protect gardens and crops by controlling pest populations, and live in every corner of the world except Antarctica. Some species can even recognise and remember each other! They like yellow but are not attracted to red and they eat flies. Oh, and don't make 'em angry, remember they can sting more than once!

We have many creatures to thank for inventions in our modern world - inspired by their wings, silky threads and webs, the ability to see in the dark (cats' eyes on roads for instance, early evidence of which is found at Pompeii), SONAR, suction cups, Velcro, fluorescence and iridescence - the list will inevitably keep on growing longer in the future.

Linda Munnoch

### Postscript:

On my quest to keep you interested, what else have I learned on probing further into the lives of these

## Advent windows

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



## Prinknash – some thoughts from Jane Reed

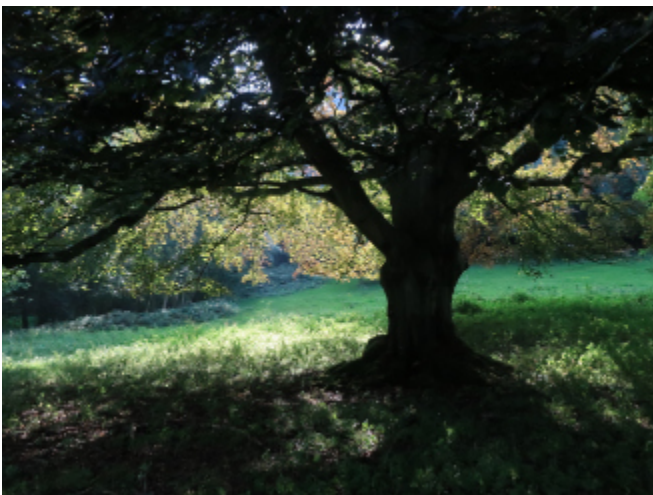
I have lived in Upton for many years, in Gloucester even longer, but this year is the first year I've actually visited Prinknash Abbey. Why it's taken so long I can't answer, though now I regret not visiting the bird park when it was open. Walking past and seeing the abandoned grounds that hint at past beauty and order seems such a waste and makes me wish I could explore that enclosed area.

When I first moved to Upton I thought the Abbey looked very out of place in such a beautiful area, but I've grown used to it and am often surprised how it's only visible from a few points.

From afar the building appears impressive and imposing; it probably was when viewed from the front gates when it opened in the early 1970s, but now it looks lonely in its abandonment. The cemetery is a strangely fascinating place with a haunting beauty and I took a few minutes to sit and contemplate life, the universe, and everything.

I've even managed to visit the café, where the staff were friendly and welcoming plus the coffee & walnut cake is delicious, as are the cheeses scones. On both my recent visits I found the café to be Covid secure, meaning I felt comfortable and happy interacting with staff.

I love the copper beech trees at the top of the field and can't wait to return, especially as I've heard that a swing has made a temporary appearance. However I think my favourite spot is the monastery garden with its mix of fruit trees, flowers, bee hives, and a small fish pond; I am looking forward to watching the garden change through the Autumn, winter, spring and into next summer, all of which will provide opportunities and excuses to practise my photography.



  
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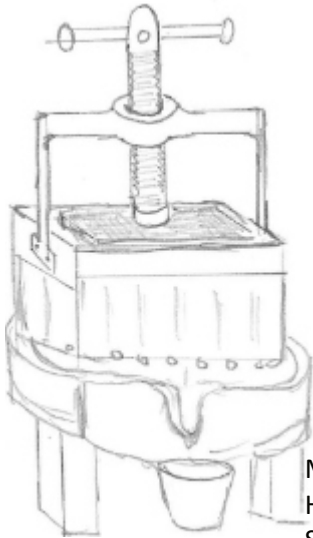
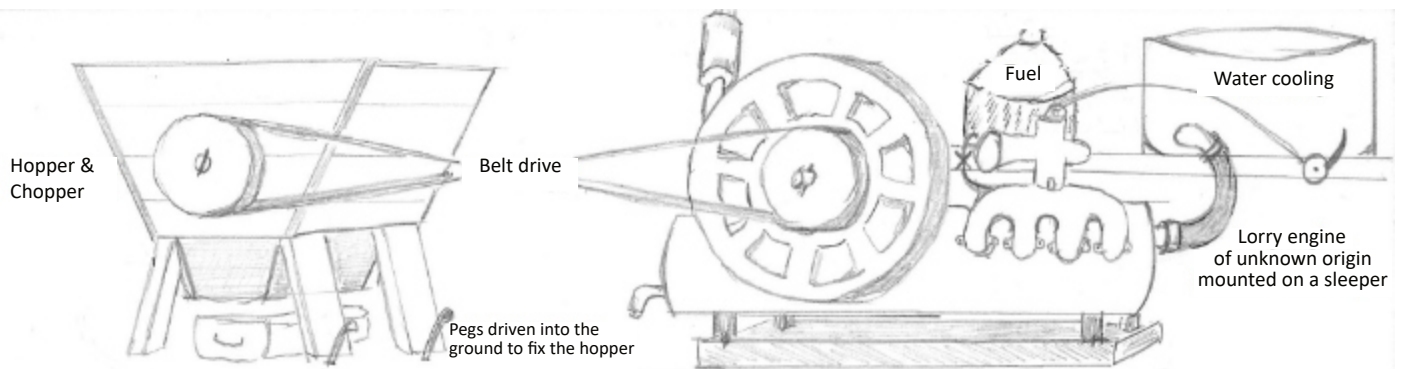
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## Ted Gardner remembers

Ted sent in a piece thanking Richard Rowles for his article on cider making in last month's magazine. Ted writes: This yer is a rough sketch of Old Bill Davis' (my gramp's) zider making machine. An old lorry engine mounted on sleepers, a huge flywheel with a belt drive to a hopper &

chopper. The engine cooling system was a tank of water on a bench next to the fuel tank. The chopped-up 'dross' dropped into an old bath tub and then into the press, covered with mats and boards. From the press the juice went into a bucket and was then jugged into barrels to be stored in the cellar until about Christmas, when it was consumed.

My gramp were a zider maker,  
He made some "hairy" stuff;  
Some of it were nice and smooth  
And some were really rough.  
*(and I mean rough)*

In the Autumn, I'd climb the trees,  
And shake them old pears down.  
My gramp said, "Don't leave them there  
A-rottin on the ground".  
*(even the pigs wouldn't eat um)*

With a shovel we'd gather um up,  
And put um in a sack,  
And let um stand in the orchard  
Till the hessian was almost black.  
*(in some cases almost rotten)*

Then they wuz brought down to engine house,  
Where they wuz mashed up good & fine,  
All them sacks took all day,  
But we didn't mind the time.  
*(it were fun)*

Then the chopped-up dross was put  
In the press & squashed down good & hard,  
Our gramp would say, "get out of the way",  
Keep the geese out of the yard.  
*(liquid gold)*

When he had made a barrel full,  
He'd fill a glass and hold it up,  
To see the sun shine through it,  
And then he'd take a sup.  
*('bout right)*

Come Christmas it was ready,  
And we could all ave a drink,  
But after just a glass or two  
You couldn't stand or think.  
*(you wuz pickled)*

I've enjoyed a glass of zider  
Since I was a lad;  
And our gramp's zider wuz the best,  
The best we ever had.  
*(sack-rot zider)*

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Regular weekly events are only shown for the first month here

# VILLAGE DIARY

Some activities are restarting tentatively in the Village Hall. The list below may not be correct however, please check with the organiser if you are not sure, the situation is changing frequently!

## OCTOBER

3	Sat	Football: USL v Longlevens .....	Rec.....	2.30pm
4	Sun	Tennis: club morning.....	Rec.....	10.00am
5	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions) .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00 and 11.00am
5	Mon	Parish Council meeting (via zoom - but you can ask to link in, see page 4) .....		7.00pm
6	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
6	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00am
6	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall.....	8.30pm
7	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
8	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00pm
9	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30am
10	Sat	Football: USL Reserves v Longlevens .....	Rec.....	2.30pm
10	Sat	Copy date for November USL Life		
11	Sun	Tennis: club morning.....	Rec.....	10.00am
12	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions) .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00 and 11.00am
13	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
13	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00am
13	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall.....	8.30pm
14	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
15	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00pm
16	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30am
17	Sat	Football: USL Reserves v Avonvale.....	Rec.....	2.30pm
18	Sun	Tennis: club morning.....	Rec.....	10.00am
19	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions) .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00 and 11.00am
20	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
20	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00am
20	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall.....	8.30pm
21	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
22	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00pm
23	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30am
24	Sat	Football: USL v Berkeley.....	Rec.....	2.30pm
25	Sun	Tennis: club morning.....	Rec.....	10.00am
26	Mon	School Half-term week begins		
26	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions) .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00 and 11.00am
27	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
27	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00am
27	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall.....	8.30pm
28	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
29	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00pm
30	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30am

## NOVEMBER

2	Mon	Parish Council meeting .....	Pavilion or via zoom .....	7.00pm
10	Tue	Copy date for December USL Life		

## DECEMBER

7	Mon	Parish Council meeting .....	Pavilion or via zoom .....	7.00pm
10	Thu	Copy date for January USL Life		

**Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary**

We have no information at the time of going to press for this edition about any of the usual Christmas parties, lunches etc., except to say that there must be considerable doubt that any will happen, sadly.

## Jacqueline Stanley

With sadness we report that Jacqueline Stanley died at the end of August. Jacqueline was known to many, and she enjoyed meeting new friends at the Monday Coffee Club. She moved from the Village two years ago to live with and be cared for by her daughter Kim.

## A legacy to the Village from John Warner

Probably not many of you recognise this scene from a field in the Village. John Warner, whose obituary appeared in this newsletter recently, used to own the



horse paddocks which are now managed by Springbank Stables, between High Street and Brimps Lane, behind Hill Farm. There was a small untidy stream running down a hedge line between the fields, and ten or more years ago John decided to remove part of the hedge and put in a series of five small lakes stepping down the hillside. The lakes and plants in the area have now matured and form a great wildlife corridor.

The lakes are on private land, so you can't access them, but there is a footpath nearby, from which this photograph was taken. Take the path off High Street opposite the end of Perry Orchard. At the third kissing gate turn right onto a track and then take the lovely path, left off the track, that goes straight up the hillside, beside the lakes, up to Brimps Lane.

What a lovely legacy to leave to the future in the Village! Thank you John.



## Giant Puffballs

Most years, in September, these fungi appear. The Sunday School field beside the BMI often has them, and there has been a bumper crop there this year. The fungi grow to the size of a football - about a foot in diameter. The picture is of four at the Sunday School field, with a mug so you can see the scale.

The giant puffball is one of our edible mushrooms - some say it is the safest one to forage from the wild because there is no other fungus that looks anything like it, it is unmistakable. You can find hints on selecting (not the biggest ones), and recipes and guidance on cooking them, on the internet.

I took one home and cooked it in butter with a breadcrumb coating, and also cut some slices into an omelette. Delicious!

Andy Russell

# Freecycle

Good home wanted for collection of assorted WW1 books - some as new, some older, free to an enthusiast. Call Christina

## Advance notice of road closure - High Street

High Street will be closed on 19 November between 8am and 4.30pm. This is to allow for works on behalf of BT Openreach.

## Football

Football has started; like cricket, in constrained conditions because of coronavirus.

The first team plays in the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Division 1. The second team plays in the Stroud League Division 2



You can see, in the diary on page 17, the club's home games.

The FA, the Parish Council and other organisations have made grants available to the football club to improve the pitch and facilities as befits a team that has seen recent success.



## The 2020 USL Cricket Season

This was, for obvious reasons, a most weird season. During lockdown we could do nothing except keep in contact with players - some organised online "fantasy cricket".

Then in June we were allowed to start limited training, either one family or one coach and one trainee, using the nets. By early July we could have up to six training together, so we organised some play on the square.

We then had a condensed season starting at the end of July, squeezed into 6 weeks, 7 weekends. There was a huge demand for places in matches;

indeed so many that we organised lots of extra games. The Saturday, Wednesday and youth teams played in hastily organised mini-leagues. Friendly matches carried on

	Won	Lost	
1st XI	5	1	and 1 abandoned game
2nd XI	1	6	
Wed XI	2	2	and 1 tied game
Coopers Edge	2	3	
Under 15	3	3	and 1 game cancelled
Under 13	0	7	:-)
Under 11	3	5	

throughout September to try and get in as much

cricket as possible. It was fantastic to see the desire to play from all the club, even though we had to play in constrained conditions - no changing rooms, frequent sanitisation breaks and, worst of all, no "cricket teas"! Captains, coaches, ground staff and parents did a great job organising and supporting. All had fun.



## 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

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The editor next month will be Peter Wilson

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## Gnome Hunt & hike

Meryl Foster and friends organised the very successful gnome hunt in August. It was great to see such a large number of families walking round the Village on a fine day, enjoying themselves, finding gnomes everywhere and getting some exercise while raising money for charity. A number of sponsors, listed on the right, added hugely to the amount raised.

Not content with that, on the next weekend, Meryl and a friend did a sponsored 24 hour hike. They started from Bath and walked 45 miles of the Cotswold Way, reaching Woodchester Mansion near Stroud! In 24 hours! A fantastic feat. (Sore feet?)

**Together these events raised £2148 for the charity Mind.**

Meryl adds: "We'd also like to thank the Police, and all who helped on the Gnome Hunt Day, and many residents who 'hosted' gnomes."

### Gnome Hunt Sponsors:

*Huge thanks to . . .*

- The Adams family
- The Bannister family
- The Barnes family
- The Bezant family
- The Browne family
- Andrea Dawson
- The Foster family
- The Hawksworth family
- The Leitch family
- Heather Rogers
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- Roseville House Dental Practice
- Marshalling Mens Minds (a mental health support group in Gloucester)
- Bath Clothing Company
- Asset Finance Co. Ltd..
- Morrisons
- Many others gave anonymously and through a Justgiving page.



A stained glass panel in the Prinknash walled garden. Picture by Jane Reed, and see her article on walking in the Abbey grounds, on page 12.