

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 86

October 2021



The BEST Show for many years!

The numbers attending the 2021 Upton St Leonards Show were definitely up on previous years and at one point the queue to get in went all the way back to the church. We heard reports that it was getting near over-crowded! It was wonderful to see so many people clearly enjoying themselves as well as supporting the Village, a real community event. The Show committee and the helpers are to be congratulated.



Church News

Revd James Turk, who has been the Associate Priest at St Leonard's Church, is moving on to another post. James has been with us since 2017, and since the end of 2019 James has been the sole priest at the church. His departure leaves a big hole, and once again St Leonard's Church enters a period with no Priest-in-charge. James will be very greatly missed.

In the church section, page 9, James has written a farewell to us.

Services will continue of course, with various visiting clergy leading them, until a new appointment is made.

Show Reports

Upton Show 2021


After 18 months of village events being cancelled, on 11th September we were finally able to welcome everyone back to Upton's Annual Show. The weather was just right – dry, warm and sometimes sunny – the bouncy castle went up and all the months of planning came together for a fantastic afternoon. Despite this summer's unpredictable weather there were plenty of fruit, vegetables and floral entries and people had clearly been putting their spare time during various lockdowns to good use, as entries of jams & chutneys, baking and handicrafts were all up on 2019. It was particularly pleasing to see so many people exhibiting for the first time and despite their show day nerves did very well, with a number winning first prize in their chosen classes.

The family dog show proved particularly popular, and it is the first time this has been held for many years. It was great to see so many dogs taking part and all the dogs (and their owners) were very well behaved. The winner of the "dog that looks most like its owner" was a particularly popular choice; thanks to Cliff Alderman for judging the dog show at short notice.

One of the most popular sections at the show is the flower arranging category, and once again there were some very beautiful and creative displays. The photographic section is another favourite and this year was no exception. It's interesting to see how the various subjects are interpreted. A lot of thought must go into producing such good images.

There was an interesting selection of stalls too, selling everything from honey to decorated flower pots, and the sound of Jon Allbon on his guitar provided a musical backdrop to the afternoon.

Kate Brooks - Upton Show Secretary



So many people have given up their time, donated tombola prizes, baked cakes for the refreshments and supported the event in many different ways; too many to name individually but here are the thank-you's. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set things up and to everyone who stayed after the show to take it all down again, to everyone who helped in any way at the show, everyone who donated something, everyone who exhibited something and to all the wonderful people who turned out on the day with family, friends and dogs to support the event – we couldn't have done it without you. My personal thanks must also go to my fellow committee members who have been so fantastic since I took over as Show Secretary and really made this a day to remember.



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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

Paul Smith

John Millard Perpetual Challenge Cup - Most points in vegetable, fruit and flower classes

Anne Hemsley

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

Paul Smith

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

Julie Winstanley

Ethel Edey Memorial Cup - Most points in home cookery classes

Marion Croose

Rumsey Memorial Trophy - Most points in the handicraft classes

Jeanette Kirkpatrick

Joan Finch Memorial Salver - Winner of the First Prize in Class 140 (a soft toy)

Paul Smith

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

David Hoare

Joseph T C Edey Salver - Most points in the photography section

Nicola Bradbury

Fred Ball Memorial Trophy - Most points in the special novice classes for vegetables, fruit and flowers

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Ethan Payne

Evelyn Rumsey Children's Cup - Most points in children's classes, aged up to 7

Lily Ellis

Juvenile Cup - Most points in children's classes, aged 8-11

Francesca-May Hughes

Ethel Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup - Most points in children's classes, aged 12-16

Fantastic effort today at the Upton show, well done to the organisers for such a fab day, it was so well supported by so many people. So much fun today thank you so much.

Totally agree, fantastically supported by everyone ... well done everyone that helped and organised however little or big ... great afternoon.

Comments on the Show, from Facebook

Just wanted to thank the organisers of the show yesterday for a really fantastic day. You have such a lovely community in Upton St Leonards and some very talented people winning prizes in the competitions.



Entries in Class 191 - Vegetable monster!



Dog show

As mentioned elsewhere, for the first time for many years there was a Dog Show as part of the Village Show. Some proud owners posted on facebook, so we have on the left Kia, winner of the "Best Bitch" class, and her owner Jane Barber told us: "we do not normally enter shows, it was just because we were there we thought - why not enter Kia". On the right we have an entry in the "Dog that looks most like its owner" class. Stan was runner-up, and yes, he does look like his owner Dean Payne, or vice-versa!



Have you got your ticket yet for . . .



Call my wine Bluff!

An evening of wine tasting and fun, no experience necessary

Village Hall, Saturday 9 October, 7.30pm

Tickets £12 (including nibbles)

There will be tables of about 6 people, but don't worry if you are on your own or just a couple, we will put you with others.

Each table is a team, trying to guess what wines are served. Each wine is one of three described by our blaggers, one of whom will be telling the truth. Can your table sort out which blaggers are bluffing? There will be six wines served over the evening, two red, two rosé, two white. A small prize for the table that gets the most correct.

In the interval, we will be entertained by our own TLC singers.

It's a great evening of fun, no one takes it seriously! Lots of wine and chat as well.

The event is organised by USL Life, and is raising money for the magazine.

Tickets from Andy Russell
or any of the USL Life editors

We have a magnificent trio of blaggers: the brilliant Carol Vye (of UpStagers), the irrepressible Judy Jackson, and the impeccably honest (ahem!) Keith Ardron. The cool and calm Duncan Lord will preside as MC.

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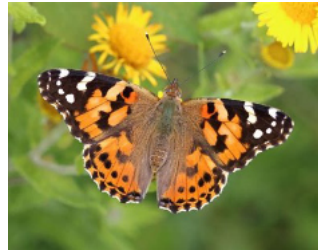
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Upton WI

The tea and strawberries event, in president Angela Harris' garden last month, raised £141 for Breast Cancer research.

A new Pilates Class for Upton WI members is starting in October for 6 weeks.

Judy Eaketts has resigned after many years service to us as Treasurer. She was heartily thanked.

Lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer inspire us to think of beautiful visions of butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and moths. Our first speaker this year, Ged Cassell, enthralled us with colourful pictures of these fascinating insects. The main difference between butterflies and moths is that the former love the sunshine and have long slender antennae, folding their wings vertically at rest, whereas moths fly mainly at night, have blunt, feather-like or bristle-like antennae, and wings are folded flat when resting.

We treat nettles as something to avoid and chop down, but they are vital in the life-cycle of some of our most well-known butterflies - including Red Admiral, Peacock, Painted Lady and Tortoiseshell. They lay their eggs under the leaves and the nettles protect the caterpillars from grazing animals.

Wild-flower meadows, hedgerows and gardens are havens for all kinds of insects, and many readers will know that Buddleia is a particular favourite of butterflies.

Dragonflies have inhabited the earth at least since the Carboniferous era 300 million years ago. Beautiful to look at with their iridescent wings, hovering. They are territorial and aggressively scare off rivals. Damselflies are similar to dragonflies, just as colourful but smaller with slimmer bodies.

You can help these beautiful insects to survive by planting more cottage-style plants, native shrubs* rather than exotics, leaving a corner of weeds, nettles even, and by not using chemical sprays near those parts of your garden.

(*Buddleia isn't a native species but obviously butterflies have taken to it!)

The next meeting is Monday 4 October at 2pm in the Pavilion. The speaker will Pam Slater on the subject of her 'Cotswold Perfumery'.

On Monday 11 October we are serving a ploughman's 'Harvest Lunch' from 12.30pm, in the Pavilion. This is for anyone! The cost will be £7.50. Come and enjoy lunch and a chat in a different setting. For catering purposes, please let Angela know by Monday 4th if you intend to be there.

Kathy Quant

Twyver WI

Twyver WI had its first face-to-face meeting in the Village Hall, on 13 September, eighteen months after its last gathering! Chairs had been placed in a circle which was more inclusive than in rows (and yet socially distanced) and President Monica welcomed the members present and 3 new guests.

It was very much a sociable evening with Prosecco and home-made scones (kindly baked by our Treasurer Penny Owen), jam and cream, to enjoy, following a discussion on what the members would like to do over the forthcoming year. There were plenty of ideas and a variety of activities were put forward for consideration, but mostly there was that familiar 'hum' of chatter and friendship which epitomises WI so well.

Next month, on Monday, 11th October the speaker will be Mike Warburton. A regular contributor to Radio 4's Money Box, as well as to the national press, Mike is senior tax partner at leading financial and business consultants Grant Thornton.

Everyone welcome!

Andrea Dawson

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Fred Monks writes about another volunteering opportunity

SkillZONE in
Tuffley



Some of you may know of Skillzone. Perhaps your children have been on a school visit or maybe you went on a visit yourself with the Tuesday Probus group. SkillZONE is part of the Fire and Rescue Service located in the Tuffley Lane Fire Station. It's a unique safety education centre with an indoor "village" and activities to help children and adults learn to stay safe at home, online and out in their community. The village features rail, road, home, online and other aspects of safety education which are delivered in real life settings where practical. For example within the Skillzone village we have a full size house and a real double-decker bus. The first word uttered by most visitors to our village is WOW!

Skillzone has a small permanent staff supported by volunteers. There are currently two volunteers from Upton, that's myself, Fred Monks, and Janine Black. I've been involved since Skillzone opened 10 years ago and act either as a lead guide or a session guide. Janine joined us more recently as a session guide. The role of the lead guide is to set up the village for the visit, welcome the visitors and then allocate the visitors to smaller groups for the session guides to take around the village and present the safety messages.

I've found volunteering at Skillzone to be both challenging and rewarding and the people I have met, both fire service staff and fellow volunteers, have been really friendly.

If you think you would like to volunteer with SkillZONE you can apply online at www.skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk or email at emma.riches@glosfire.gov.uk.

Sadly, there will be no firework display or bonfire at the Village Hall this November.

As reported a few months ago, changing and stricter regulations meant the traditional Guy Fawkes bonfire could no longer take place. It has just been announced that there won't be a firework display either this year, caused by difficulties in ordering the fireworks. Large-scale displays had to be ordered a long time in advance, when Covid uncertainties meant the Hall Committee could not take the risk of having to cancel.

A fireworks display IS planned for November 2022.



The UpStagers are getting on with work on their Panto, "Dick Whittington" under the direction of



Carol Vye (with her back to us in the picture). They meet every Wednesday in the Village Hall, and though the panto is cast, if you are interested in helping, e.g. costumes, scenery, backstage, or acting in a future show, do go along.



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Craft 'n Chatter - report

The picture shows Craft Ladies enjoying themselves at our Craft 'n Chatter meeting. It's interesting to see what some of the ladies are making. We introduced craft items - decorated book markers, Christmas serviettes - all to make and take home, and we will continue in the Christmas table theme with Santa cutlery holders. Our latest venture is to knit hats and blankets for the charity ICU premature babies. Knitted samples will be on show. Pink, blue and white DK wool needed. Bring your scissors in your craft bags next meeting and choose your material to make your cases to keep them safe. An interesting session of Silk printing will be shown and explained to you all. We also



encourage the ladies to mix and chat during the meeting over a cuppa. Many thanks for helping to get the 4 new cushions covers started for the very long church pew in the school room. A very useful and comfortable addition when finished! If you are interested in coming along and joining us, meeting some old and new friends and learning some new skills, just contact us for information.

See you at the next meeting on Thursday 28th October.

Anita Owen
Diana Rosewell

Probus

The article below was written by John Lovell from the Upton Twyver Probus Club.

Why don't you join?

I had just retired when a friend asked "Why don't you join the Upton Twyver Probus Club?"

I had many questions.

What is Probus? "It's a club for men of retirement age which meets every other Tuesday morning at the BMI Club at Upton St Leonards. We meet between 10 to 10.30am for a coffee, then enjoy a talk from a visiting speaker and afterwards – if you want to – enjoy a pint at the bar."

"But I don't live at Upton", was my next question. "You don't have to. We've got members from Abbeydale, Barnwood, Churchdown. Birdwood, Painswick to name but a few", my friend replied. "Next question?"

"Well, how much does it cost?". "£5 per annum for membership of the BMI and then £30 per annum for the club. Not bad for 26 meetings."

Apart from a speaker what else do they do? "We

arrange trips out and enjoy occasional club meals with our wives and partners", was his quick response.

All questions answered, I gave it a go and I've thoroughly enjoyed my last 11 years as a member.

I found the existing members an easy going and friendly bunch who welcomed newcomers and the talks have covered a huge range of topics – locally, nationally and internationally.

We always finish at around 11.45am (when the bar opens) although many members hang around to chat further to the speaker and each other and, of course to enjoy a pint.

If you want to know more, our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 5th at the BMI (and fortnightly after that). There is no obligation to join. Why not come and see what you're missing?

We'd like to take this opportunity to advertise all the Probus clubs which run in the Village. There are three: the Ladies' Probus Club meets monthly in the BMI on a Wednesday, the Upton Twyver Club meets fortnightly on Tuesdays in the BMI, and the Upton Probus Club (aka Wednesday Probus) meets fortnightly on Wednesdays at the BMI, alternating weeks with the Upton Twyver (aka Tuesday Probus) Club. All these clubs have vacancies and will welcome new members.



Gloucester Goes Retro

Sorry if you missed this! We are told it was a brilliant event, held at the August Bank Holiday weekend. However one of our team took a couple of pictures, spotting a well known Upton St Leonards resident magnificently kitted out in his 1960s Teddy Boy gear. Look out for the event next year!



Said well known resident is, of course, our Village poet. The drawing on the right is also by Ted and accompanied his poem "The Last Teddy Boy in the Village" which we printed in our March 2017 edition. Here is his latest poem:

THE VILLAGE SHOW

T'other week it was our Village Show, folk came from far and wide,
To walk around the big marquee and view what was inside,
There was fruit and veg and handicrafts and flowers of every hue,
With a grand dog show & fancy dress & lots of things to do.

The biggest spud, the longest bean, the heaviest pumpkin too,
The kids made hand prints and spud prints and vegetable monsters, boo!
There were pots of jam and home preserves and pickles for all to see,
With home made bread & fancy cakes all cooked to a recipe.

The ice cream soon went,
Money well spent,
And the hotdogs didn't last long.
With a teddy bear tombola,
That soon sold out,
And everything went for a song.

With the judging done,
And the prizes gone,
And the winners given a cheer,
The committee agreed
That success meant a need
To do it again next year!

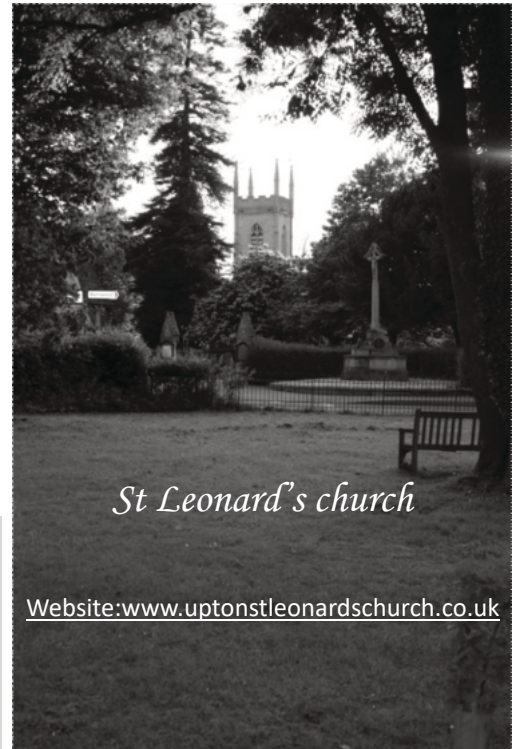


Ted Gardner

Priest in Charge - Vacancy

Churchwarden
Gill Howell

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Jenny Cunningham



Farewell to James

Sunday 3 October sees the last service led by James Turk, who has been Curate and Associate Priest at St Leonards since 2017. James writes:



In 1974, Terry Jacks released the record "Seasons in the Sun". you may remember the song. As I was only 2 when it was released I do not remember the original release personally, but I am told it was the hit of the summer. I came across the song much later in life and the refrain has always struck

a melancholy note with me. None more so than at this time of my life.

"We had joy, we had fun,
We had seasons in the sun,
But the wine and the song,
Like the seasons, have all gone."

My season with you at St Leonard's has come to an end and I will be leaving in early October to take up a new role within the diocese and joining the ministry team in the Hardwicke, Elmore and Longney benefice. Of course, any move comes with a huge sense of sadness because people and relationships are always left behind, and that is also the case for me as I prepare to take up this new role.

I joined the St Leonards community as Curate in July 2017 and the past four years have been the most extraordinary time for me and for my family. We have met such wonderful people and even though for me there was some doubt and uncertainty when first arriving in 2017, those doubts have been unwarranted.

There have been so many 'firsts' for me during my time at St Leonard's, this had been the place that I presided at my first baptism, my first wedding and my first Holy Communion. These are huge life events not only for the people involved, but also for me as a priest in the Church of England. Therefore, St Leonard's will always have a special place in my heart, and in the hearts of my wife Sarah, and my sons Oliver and Joshua. No matter where God takes us in the years to come, our time in this beautiful part of the county will always be special to us. The friendships and relationships that have been forged through our shared faith and worship, but also forged in no small part through negotiating adversity, which came in the shape of the illness, and subsequent resignation, through that illness, of Reverend Clodagh Ingram, and of course the shared experience and impact on church life of the Covid pandemic.

All these experiences have shaped me as a person and as a priest. But even more important are the people that God has placed before me during my time at St Leonard's. The wedding and baptism families that come for their big day, the bereaved families that come looking for practical support with funeral arrangements, but also looking to make some sense about their loss and looking for comfort. And there are the everyday experiences of leading a worshipping community and working and worshipping alongside the congregations, the PCC and Churchwarden.

There have been so many memories and experiences, sad and joyful, and these have forged lasting

Continued over the page

St Leonard's Church News

relationships that I hope will continue even though my family and I have moved to a different parish to spend another 'season' with a different community.

The Bible tells us that "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The point of this message is that God has a plan for all people. Thus, he provides cycles of life, each with its work for us to do, and the challenge is to 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 fear change.

When Terry Jacks wrote Seasons in The Sun, the lyrics suggest an ending with little hope of anything more to come. But with God there is always a new season to look forward to, and even though for us a season is coming to an end, as Christians we know a new one is about to start. So go well my friends, have faith and trust in God's perfect timing. As I move into this new role Upton St Leonards, the village, and the community of faith that I have been part of, will never be far from my thoughts and always in my prayers.

God bless you all.

James

October 3rd will be James' last Sunday with us and following the 10.00 am service there will be a bring and share lunch in the school room. There is a list in the church for you to fill in whatever item (s) you would like to bring along

Tower Floodlighting 2021

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

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

On October 12th, the Church Tower will be lit up by the family of Mr Denis Devereux in his memory. He would have celebrated his 100th 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 17th October 2021, 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 15 years ago.

On Tuesday 19th October, the Church Tower will be lit for Colin Freshney on the third anniversary of his death. Loved and missed by Maureen and family

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

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



Services and Readings for October 2021

October 3rd	8.00 am	Holy Communion Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 & Mark 10:2-16
	10.00 am	Celebration Service and Baptism reading to be confirmed
October 10th	10.00 am	Communion Service led by Michael Garland Hebrews 4:12-end & Mark 10:17-31
October 17th	10.00 am	Communion Service led by Rev Gordon Ripley Hebrews 5:1-10 & Mark 10:35-45
October 24th (Bible Sunday)	10.00 am	Communion Service led by Charles Minchin 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5 & John 5:36b-end
October 31st	10.00 am	Communion service Hebrews 9: 11 - 14 & Mark 12: 28 - 34

Archdeacon's Visitation

*St Oswald's Church,
Coney Hill Road
October 7th at 7.30 pm
Licensing of Churchwardens*

Everyone welcome

Church Flowers

We all enjoy the flowers in church which are prepared by our team of volunteers each week. If there is a special occasion, a birthday, an anniversary or maybe a loved one to remember and you would like to make a donation towards the flowers, I would love to hear from you. Thank you so much, Jenny.

Tea & Natter

The first tea and natter was held on Thursday 2nd of September and proved to be a great success enjoyed by all. The second Thursday there were 28 people who came along to enjoy the company and of course a cuppa and biscuit.

**Please come along and join us in the Old School Room
We meet every Thursday afternoon
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm**

Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Gloucester Trussell Trust Foodbank, with contributions of food through both the Church, our Village Shop and cash donations. It is always very gratefully received when I deliver to their premises.

People often ask me what they need most. At the present time they are in urgent need of the following.

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

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Dorothy Cox



Who's Who in the Parish Church



Mothers' UNION

Kate will be licensed as Mother's Union leader during the 10.00 am service on October 3rd

The Branch planned to celebrate our founder, Mary Sumner's Day on Monday 9th August with an Afternoon Tea in the leader's garden but as the weather forecast was for rain, members had their teas delivered in boxes. Margaret Jones was first to receive hers. Perversely the day stayed dry after all!

The next meeting is on Thursday 21st October 2pm (venue to be confirmed) when the MU Trustee, Maggie Pollard will be talking on AFIA - Away From It All scheme which gives needy families a break and is funded by Mothers' Union. All are welcome to come along



A warm welcome to Ella Rose who arrived on Sunday 29th August weighing 8lb 9oz
 Congratulations to Mum and Dad, Jade and Keith also to Nanna and Grandad, Sarah and Darren
 Not forgetting Great-granny Jenny
 Ella is Jenny's second great granddaughter to arrive this year

Priest in Charge - Vacancy

Churchwarden:

Gill Howell
 Second churchwarden - Vacancy

PCC Secretary

Sarah Kent

Church Treasurer - Vacancy

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Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

USL Life (Church pages), Pew News and Website

Rachel Middleton

.....●●●●●●●●●●.....

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Arts Page

This month we look at close relationships experienced through life.

NEWLY BORN TWINS by Helen Farish

(In separate incubators one of the twins was dying. Against doctor's orders, a nurse put them together.)

The strong twin, the one with nothing pulling her back, she slung her newly born arm over the one who was wanting to leave, and stabilised her heartbeat, made everything regular in the body of the one who'd already had enough.

The strong one, she will think she is God, that she can pull back life from where it was wanting to go. It will be harder for her than for the one who already knows about separation, loneliness, where they can make you want to go.

THE MOTHER by Anne Stevenson

Of course I love them, they are my children.
That is my daughter and this my son.
And this is my life I give them to please them.
It has never been used. Keep it safe, pass it on.

THOSE WINTER SUNDAYS by Robert Hayden

Sundays too my father got up early and put his clothes on in the blue-black cold, then with cracked hands that ached from labour in the weekday weather made banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking. When the rooms were warm, he'd call, and slowly I would rise and dress, fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him, who had driven out the cold and polished my good shoes as well. What did I know, what did I know of love's austere and lonely offices?

HOME by Dennis O'Driscoll

when all is said and done
what counts is having someone
you can phone at five to ask

for the immersion heater
to be switched to 'bath'
and the pizza to be taken from the freezer

THOUGHTS

Life is monstrous, infinite, illogical, abrupt and poignant. (Robert Louis Stevenson)

The young can't believe in the youth of their fathers. (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

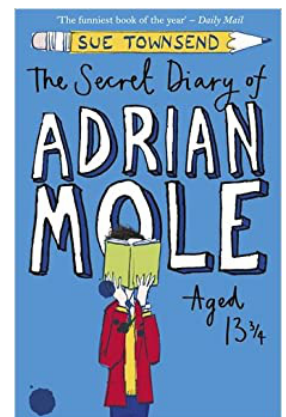
Why is it that we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral? It is because we are not the person involved. (Mark Twain)

BOOK REVIEW

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend

Published in 1982, this is the first book in the Adrian Mole series of comedic fiction. The book is written in a diary style and focuses on the worries and regrets of a teenager who believes himself to be an intellectual. The story is set in

1981 and 1982 and refers to some of the events of those years, such as the Falklands War and the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer as well as the birth of Prince William. Adrian is a fierce critic of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, listing her as one of his worst enemies. Much of the humour in this book is a result of Adrian's misunderstanding of events. The book featured on BBC Radio 4 and as a stage play and on television.



The Flower Show - a history

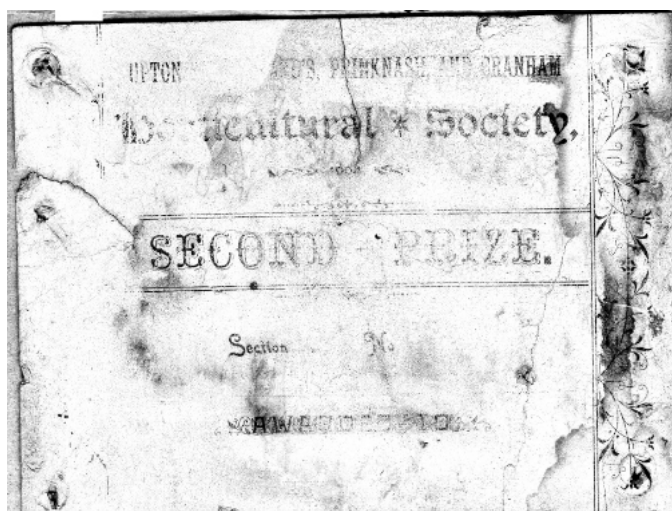
We asked Mike Stratford (who else!) to re-tell some of the history of the Upton Show, formerly known as the Flower Show. This is what he came up with.

I have been looking back at the history of the show over the years. The records I have access to go back to 1892. I have recorded some aspects of each show including the names of some of the prize winners. Many of the names will sound familiar to those who were born in Upton or have lived here for some time.

The show was based on three Horticultural Societies in Upton, Prinknash and Cranham.

I am sure the show dates back before 1892, probably founded around 1850 when Lady Downe gave land to the village for the foundation of the first allotments. Also villagers who at the time had very large gardens would grow a great deal of their own food. Classes in the show have changed a great deal over the years. The changing location of the show has also meant the show has got smaller.

In the past, classes included rabbit hutches made by boys, wood carving, best kept garden, honey in a comb, a domestic pet and a collection of vegetables. Houses employing an under-gardener, e.g. Bowden Hall, Kimsbury House, The Rectory, and St Leonards Court, were excluded from vegetable and flower competitions. How many readers have an under-gardener today?



A prize ticket from the 1901 show. The text reads:

UPTON ST LEONARDS PRINKNASH AND CRANHAM
Horticultural * Society
May 1901
SECOND PRIZE
Section No
AWARDED TO

Over the years the show has hosted running races, fireworks, a gymkhana, dog show and almost always a band.

To record full details of all the shows would require a volume of numerous pages so there follows some short details of past Flower Shows.

1892 at Bowden Hall. This was the first year Cranham was included. The band was from Leonard Stanley, Mr Souray of Highnam Court was a judge.

1893 at Prinknash Park, home of Mr & Mrs Dyer Edwards. The treasurer was the rector Rev E Scobell. Among the accounts the police cost 18 shillings and gate receipts were £4 13s 11d. Among prize winners were P, H, W, R, & A Barnfield, W Major, W Gardner, E Poole and T Hannis.

1894 at Bowden Hall. There were running races for boys and girls under 15. The band was the 1st Gloucester Royal Engineers Band. During the afternoon Mr Burt lectured on bees and bee-keeping, for which he charged 15 shillings and 9 pence.

1895 at Prinknash. It was attended by 800 people, there were fireworks in the evening. A class for any article made at home by a girl under 18 years was won by L Robbins. The number of prizes any person could win was limited to six.

1896 There was no show held because of a smallpox outbreak.

1897 The show was planned for Bowden Hall but due to the death of John Dearman Birchall it was held at Prinknash Park instead.

1898 Bowden Hall

1899 Bowden Hall. The show secretary was Bowden Hall head gardener Mr Keen. Eastington Band played for a cost of £4.0.0.

1900 and 1901 Bowden Hall and the Painswick band played.

1902 A Flower Show and Coronation of Edward VII Garden Party was at Bowden Hall with a procession around the village.

1903 Bowden Hall. The Kings Stanley Band played for £5.0.0., a subscription was received from Mrs Bellows.

1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909 all Bowden Hall.

1911 No show was held because of the Coronation of George V.

1912, 1913, 1914-1918 No Shows

1920 Bowden Hall. The show chairman was Mr John Millard, and the Upton Band played, conducted by Melville Jordan. The band charged £10 10s 0d.

1921 Bowden Hall. Among the expenditure items was 1s 5½d for needles and thread, 1s 0d for flour for paste. Tea for the band cost £1 5s 0d.

1922, 1923 Bowden Hall

1924 The show held at Matson with 600 entries.



The picture above shows the committee of the 1925 show, with 32 members!

1925 Bowden Hall holds its last show as the estate is later sold. The band is the Gloucester Carriage & Wagon Works Band who charge £10.

The show was then held at various locations and was not held after the war until the 1950's. For some years Arthur Cridland hosted the show at Commelines Farm, with a gymkhana, tug-o-war and other attractions. In 1970 it was held in the grounds of St Leonards Court. In 1975 it was held at Lake House Farm, Valley Lane, the home of Mr & Mrs Wickens. This show then included a gymkhana

and dog show.

Another year it was held on the Stanley and before the show the marquee blew down in a storm.

In recent years the show has been held in the grounds of the Village Hall, with chairmen Mike Long and Robert Seex. Currently the chairman is Dr T Harbottle.

The show relies on many people to organise it and get it up and running. A great deal of this work falls on the secretary. In 1998 Peter Macey took over from Barbara Sproston as secretary of the show, and for 22 years Peter was the mainstay of the show, only stepping down last year.

In the 1960's a Spring Show was started which was to be a smaller event housed in the Village Hall. For many years this was organised by Evelyn Rumsey and Mrs Barbara Sproston who were also members of the main show committee.

Upton's Flower Show is a popular community event that has been held for at least the last 130 years. Long may it continue.

Mike Stratford



Do you enjoy arranging flowers?

We would love to welcome you to the team of volunteers who arrange our church flowers. There are 2 flower arrangers each time, and it would be no more than 4 times a year that you will be arranging the flowers. Please contact me if think you can help – many

thanks.

Jenny Cunningham

On page 11 there is a further message from Jenny asking for donations towards the cost of church flowers.

Letter to the Editor

I am sure that many of us older Villagers will greatly miss the Get Together Club, and are sad that it has had to shut down. The club has been running for very many years. My mother, Daisy Staite, was one of its original members, and like many since, including Trevor and I, she always looked forward to the meetings, seeing friends, having some food and refreshment and a chat.

Heartfelt thanks from us to those who have run the Get Together Club over the years.

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Royal British Legion POPPY APPEAL 2021



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

VOLUNTEERS: Secondly - Jim Browne and Jenny Cunningham organise the poppy sales and display at Morrisons. Jenny writes: "We need as much help as we can get, to cover the dates from 30th October – 14th November. Any time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Please contact us if you feel you can help us to help others. Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you."

Contacts: Jim Browne
Jenny Cunningham

USL Life Annual Wayzgoose

Members of the USL Life production and distribution team enjoyed the Annual Wayzgoose, this year held in Andy



Russell's garden. (A wayzgoose is a fancy historic name for an annual party for workers in a printing press). Luckily the weather was kind - we were able to use the garden; it would have been an uncomfortable squeeze if it was held indoors. The party celebrated the end of the 7th year of publication of USL Life, and Chairman Peter Wilson was full of praise for the team effort that makes this magazine possible. Well done all!

If you'd like to join the team, in whatever capacity, do please contact one of us - many of the team names appear on page 19.

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

VILLAGE DIARY

OCTOBER

2	Sat	Autumn Quiz Night	BMI	8.00pm
3	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis courts.....	10.00am
4	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
4	Mon	Upton WI. "Cotswold Perfumery".....	Pavilion	2.00pm
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
5	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
5	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15am
5	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
6	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
6	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
7	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00pm
9	Sat	Call My Bluff Wine Tasting	Village Hall	7.30pm
10	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis courts.....	10.00am
10	Sun	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
11	Mon	Harvest Lunch (Upton WI) - pre-booked only, see page 5.....	Pavilion	12.30pm
11	Mon	Twyver WI. Speaker: Financial consultant Mike Warburton	Village Hall	7.30pm
12	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
12	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15am
12	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
13	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
13	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
14	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00pm
17	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis courts.....	10.00am
18	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
19	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
19	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15am
19	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
20	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
20	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
21	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00pm
24	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis courts.....	10.00am
25-29		School Half Term		
25	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00am
26	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
26	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.15am
26	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
27	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
27	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
28	Thu	Craft 'n' Chatter	Old School Room	10.00am
28	Thu	Tea and Chat	Old School Room	2.00-4.00pm

NOVEMBER

1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion	2.00pm
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
8	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
10	Wed	Copy Date for December issue of USL Life		
14	Sun	Remembrance Sunday		
18	Thu	History Group: "Gloucestershire placenames"	Village Hall	7.30pm
25	Thu	Craft 'n' Chatter	Old School Room	10.00am

DECEMBER

6	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion	2.00pm
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
10	Fri	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	BMI Pensioners Lunch.....	BMI	12.00pm
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
16	Thu	Craft 'n' Chatter	Old School Room	10.00am
17	Fri	Last day of term at the School		
24	Fri	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
31	Fri	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm

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

Weekly courses

Village Diary continued

This section lists the courses that run every week. Do join up for your own enjoyment and wellbeing! The people who run these courses have been really hard hit by Covid, and will enthusiastically welcome your backing to get going again.

USL Life has got some of these a bit mixed up in recent months. We have checked and double checked, and really hope we have it right this time.

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



PORTWAY FARM SHOP

Have you visited the Portway Farm Shop yet to see the new enlarged space? I think you will be surprised at how well they have done the enlargement. It looks really inviting and there is a much larger range of meat and produce. Well worth a visit to investigate.

As well as all the meats you'd expect from a well stocked award-winning butchery they say: "We've got Sausages, Burgers, Steaks and Roasts. We've got Pies, Quiche and Pizzas. We've got Bread, Pastries, Cakes, Eggs, Flour, Cake Mixes, Jams and Chutneys. We've got Fruit and Vegetables, Milk, Cream and Yogurts. We've got Coffee, Juice and Cordials, Pasta, Oil, Dressings and Mayonnaise. Callum, Rebecca and Toby look forward to seeing you."

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Cricket Club report

The 2021 season has finished, and the club has had mixed fortunes. The weather didn't help with most of May washed out and quite a few other rain cancellations. Top of the honours board must be the 2nd XI which finished first in its Division, winning 10 games, losing 2 (and 6 games were cancelled or abandoned). The First team won a few games in the first half of the season, but often was not competitive in its Division and only narrowly avoided relegation (Won 4, lost 9, cancelled 5). The Wednesday team was disappointing, conceding half their games for lack of players. We managed to play 4 Sunday friendlies, and that side of the club is slowly growing.

We had lots of very enthusiastic players in the youth section, putting out teams at ages Under 9, Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15, and many of the older youth players featured in the adult games. Each junior team won a few games. It was great to see the ground buzzing on Thursday practice nights with so many youngsters and a really good number of adult coaches. Girls cricket is growing fast, and we had 5 girls playing and practising regularly. Not enough to have a girls team, but they have all enjoyed being treated no different to the boys.



If we can find a venue, youth training will carry on indoors through the winter, but the school sports halls we use for this are still unavailable (at the time of writing) as an after effect of the pandemic.

Stats are always important to cricketers! Our best batsman was once again someone known to most readers - Rahul Odedra, from the Village Shop. Rahul was also second in the bowling stats.

The old green roller became unusable as its gearbox seized up. We were very fortunate to find a replacement at a remarkably low cost. Almost on a whim, we put the old one up for sale on Ebay, expecting nothing. It sold for nearly 3 times the cost of its replacement, and 33% more than it cost us 10 years ago. Remarkable!

Ruby Elkins plays a match at Lords

Ruby is one of our cricketing girls (she is also a granddaughter of the late Janet and Tony Morris of the Village). We thought she was a talented cricketer and nominated her for trials for the County. Gloucestershire has a particularly strong squad of girls at the moment in its county age group teams, and Ruby didn't make the cut. *However*, her talent was noted and she was selected to play for the Cotswolds area in an MCC sponsored competition aimed at increasing access to cricket for girls. From the Gloucestershire Cricket Board newsletter I quote:

"Gloucestershire Cricket Board are extremely proud of a group of girls from our wonderful county. **They have reached the MCC Foundation Finals, which will be played at Lords on Monday 20th September.** When this group of girls came together (aged between 11-15) on a winter's day in early 2021 for trials, not in their wildest dreams could they have ever imagined they would be playing the final at 'the home of cricket', Lords, in September. The Cotswolds Girls Hub navigated their way through four rounds, having the great fortune to play the quarter and semi-finals at Winchester & Harrow School respectively."

Printing schedules mean we can't quite finish this wonderful story. We hope to do so in the next issue.

Andy Russell

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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Next month's editor

Barbara Swindin



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Some of the flower arrangement classes - always a favourite with visitors to the show.

Winners in Class 90: Flower arrangement in a frame in the style of an Old Master.



Upton Show 2021



Pictures taken by Jim Browne

