

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 98

October 2022



Climate Change Cost of Living

Last month we headlined Climate Change - and on page 2 you can read more about local activities. This month our focus is on the cost of living, and we start with help coming your way.

What has been announced?

Cost of living payments



Energy grant for all households
£400



8m lowest income households
£650



6m receiving non means-tested disability benefits
£150



8m pensioner households
£300

Source: HM Government



→ **£400 Energy Bills Discount** — Households will see discounts off their energy bills from October, with the discount made in 6 instalments to help families throughout the winter period. You will not receive the £400 directly but your energy bills will be reduced by £400 over the winter. Your energy supplier is responsible for making the reduction. There are special arrangements for those who use pre-payment meters.

→ **£650 Cost of Living Support for lowest income households and £150 disability benefit** —The £650 is being paid to people already receiving one or more of a range of benefit payments, and is added to those payments. Disabled people receiving non-means-tested disability benefits will receive £150, which could be in addition to the £650 if they receive other benefits.

→ **£300 Pensioner Households additional winter fuel payment** — Pensioner households who already receive the winter payment addition will receive £300 more in November or December.

→ **The £150 Government Council Tax Rebate** has been paid by now in the vast majority of cases. If you live in a property in Council Tax Bands A-D you have probably received a £150 council tax rebate. Stroud District Council was responsible for making these payments. Stroud District Council is now running a scheme for discretionary payments for households that did not meet the criteria for the original £150 payment, but have individual circumstances meaning they are less able to adapt to increasing cost of living costs, assessed and ranked by priority. You have to apply for this.

Information gleaned from

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-61592496>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-energy-bills-discount-to-support-households-this-winter>

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-energy-rebate-information-from-central-government>

PS There is a fascinating short talk by BBC reporter Ros Atkins on what links the cost of living crisis, climate change, China, covid and the war in Ukraine. Search BBC's iPlayer to see it.

And in Upton St Leonards?

The help shown above makes some difference to all of us. Grants and discounts will help, and we can also help ourselves - for example by ensuring that our houses are well insulated. Are there any residents with skills and knowledge of house insulation who can volunteer assistance to Villagers?

The Lady Downe Trust can help, see right.

You can help others . . .

(Continued on next page)

Can The Lady Downe Trust help?

Yes. It is anxious to do all it can to help people struggling with the cost of living crisis. If you are a resident of Upton St Leonards Parish or some neighbouring areas*, and are experiencing financial hardship, the Trust may be able to help.

To apply for a grant, please complete an application form which you can download from the website:

www.ladydowne.org

*The website also lists the eligible areas of Abbeymead, Abbeydale and Coopers Edge.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

COST OF LIVING

(Continued from page 1)

Ways you can help others

A very practical piece of help, if you are comfortable with the internet etc. is to assist those who aren't. So much of the information to do with coping with the cost of living crisis, e.g. what grants are available, grant application forms, can be found on the net and this source of

information and help is inaccessible to people not net-savvy or without internet connections.

The foodbank is being called upon by those in need more and more. You can volunteer to help at the local foodbank. You can make donations of goods and cash to the foodbank.

If you have skills and knowledge to do with house insulation and reducing heating costs, join Peter Wilson's local Climate Change team, announced in last month's issue.

SCAMS

Be very aware of scams in these topics. People have already been duped into believing that e.g. a phone caller can help you get your £400 fuel grant, and then getting hold of all sorts of personal details such as bank account details. Page 1 shows how these various grants will come to you. Phone calls and texts about them are scams. Again, you can help neighbours by warning them about the scams and reassuring them.

What's been happening . . .

A lot of the normal activities have restarted, and we can restart our reports on them

Upton WI Report

The speakers at the September meeting were from the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC).

All air ambulances in England are charity funded.

GWAAC was founded in 2007. It receives no money from the Government or NHS, but around half of its Specialist Paramedic costs are funded by South Western Ambulance Service. GWAAC runs one helicopter, based in Almondsbury.

GWAAC staff have the skills to save lives and they can use their helicopter to speed transport to hospital, providing emergency care. The GWAAC service covers Bristol, Bath, N and N E Somerset, the whole of Gloucestershire and parts of Wiltshire by air *and road*.

Ian Cataloni, our enthusiastic speaker from GWAAC, described how the Charity is totally reliant on public donations. Its staff respond to an average of over 5 incidents per day, 2,000 per year. The team of highly skilled doctors and paramedics are on call 365 days a year and they describe their task as "taking the hospital to the patient". Their chief pilot Pete is an ex-Navy flyer. Ian had important stories of lives saved and critical injuries and illnesses attended to, sometimes in difficult weather or terrain conditions. He was ably supported at our meeting by GWAAC volunteers Jane and Emma, and encouraged all of us to support GWAAC. There was a very warm round of applause for this very special talk.

We meet again on Monday 3 October, 2pm in the Pavilion, for a talk on Hedgehogs. All are welcome.

Cathy Quant

Twyver WI

Our first meeting after the summer and by the time we began with our usual intro of Jerusalem the skies were already darkening - Autumn is with us. We were glad to see each other.

Fiona Field is no stranger to the group, we last saw her a short time ago at the May meeting. She's an accomplished artist, teacher and lecturer who gave us an insight into her life dedicated to her art.

This time, she was back in her teaching capacity armed with pencils, rubbers and beautiful prints of her drawing of the Gloucester Cathedral in sepia, for us to colour.

'Colouring In' is usually deemed a childhood pastime but she assured us that we need to think differently about this art form as there is more to it than initially meets the eye. To get a perfectly coloured piece of art it's all about pressure, good pigment and blending. Oil based pencils work best but can be expensive – cheaper versions can be picked up if you know where to look, and good quality paper is a plus but not necessary – the important thing is to enjoy it, so don't be daunted to have a go. If it's good enough for David Hockney

Fiona was artist in residence at Gloucester Cathedral at one time, and her beautiful paintings can be viewed on her website :

<https://fibromby.wixsite.com/website>

The cheerful chatter and laughter which ensued during the evening was congenial, creative and relaxing and although there were some reservations to begin with, we all agreed it had been a most enjoyable and informative gathering.

The next meeting is 10th October, all welcome.

Linda Munnoch

BREAST CANCER CHARITY AFTERNOON TEA

What a lovely fun afternoon we had in August whilst raising money for such a deserving charity.

The Old School Room was crammed with people having a good old chat and eating yummy cakes all made by people of the Village.

A few groups I would like to thank are

- The ladies from the Church who gladly helped and let me have the use of the School Room - you worked like Trojans.
 - The helpers in the kitchen
 - The Queen of Raffles (you know who you are).
 - The local Businesses and Villagers who donated wonderful raffle prizes, so gratefully received.



I can't thank everyone individually but I was so over the moon with the afternoon and the generosity of everyone. You will be pleased to hear that we raised just over £500.

Carol Evans



USL LIFE MAGAZINE IS 8 YEARS OLD

There was a brief message on the front cover of the September edition that we had passed that milestone and we'll soon be publishing our 100th edition!

It's been an exhilarating time, and many people have commented on what an established and useful part of Village life this magazine now is. **So it's a great time to thank all our advertisers, who fund most of our costs, and the Parish Council, who cover the remaining costs.**

We also need to thank all those involved in its production and distribution.

The Annual Wayzgoose

Many of the team that produces the magazine - editors, feature writers, proof readers, distributors, the Board of Directors, behind the scenes admin, celebrated with a Wayzgoose (*that's a trade term for an annual party for print shop workers*) in August, held this year at Pete & Jo's house.

History Group report

At the September meeting, with more present than for very many years, we heard a talk about the River Twyver, given by Paul Drinkwater of the Gloucester Civic Trust. He had done considerable research and field visits recently. He told us how the Twyver had been diverted by the Romans to give a water supply to their city of Glevum, how there had been up to 9 or so water mills along its very short length, how it was diverted again by the Royalists in the Civil War, trying to deny water to the Parliamentarians besieged in the City. He described the various culverts under the City and where it now emerges into the Severn.

Very interesting! The next meeting is on November 17, when Mike Stratford will talk about Nurse Edith Cavell. All welcome.

Cud Hill Viewpoint

I hope you can see in this photo that the information board at the Cud Hill Viewpoint is looking very sad and dilapidated. Does any Village organisation or person want to look into replacing it? Contact me or the Parish Clerk.

If you've not visited this viewpoint, I encourage you to do so. It is right by the road (Severnlease Lane) so you don't have to walk or climb. From there you get magnificent views up the Severn Valley, the Malverns, Bredon Hill. On a fine day you can see Worcester Cathedral!

Andy Russell



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What's coming up . . .

Entertainment Night

at

The BMI

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Ladies Probus

What an August meeting we had! A member, with amazing talent, displayed many of the patchwork quilts plus other items she had made, all with accompanying background stories. 'How does she do it?' the awestruck audience asked each other.

Our September speaker, Mr Howard Pitts, will be telling us 'All about Bees'.

The October meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 October at 10.30am in the BMI where the TLC Choir will sing for us. Please come & join us. Afterwards many members will adjourn to Bowden Hall Hotel for a pre-booked luncheon.



The UpStagers

present their latest production



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at

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Refreshments available

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Gates open at 5.30pm Fireworks at 6.30pm

Adults £4.50 Children £2.50

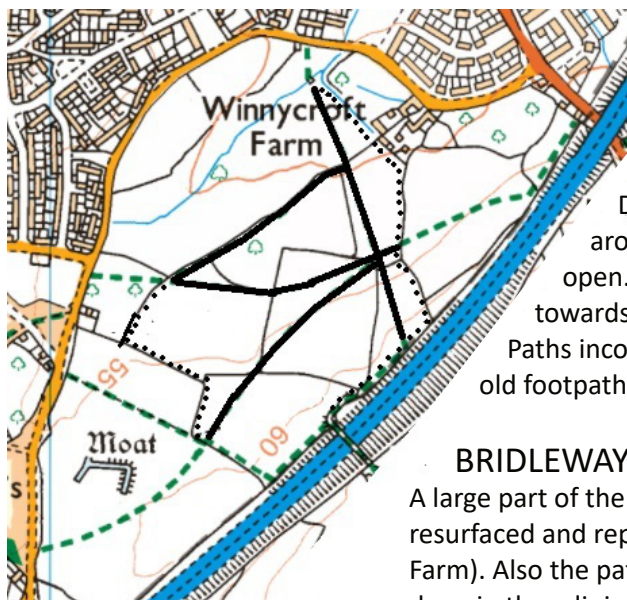
Family ticket, 2 adults & 2 children £12.00

Hot food and drinks available

Various games and Tombola



From the Parish Council



FOOTPATHS CLOSED

Because of the new building works at Winnycroft Farm, a number of footpaths have had to be closed for the time being. The map on the left shows solid lines for closed paths. Dotted lines indicate alternative routes being made available around the site. The dashed lines show the footpaths remaining open. Basically, to get to the moat and beyond you need to turn down towards the motorway and walk alongside that. Paths incorporated into the new housing site will eventually replace the old footpaths.

BRIDLEWAY REPAIRED

A large part of the bridleway that skirts the Coopers Edge housing has been resurfaced and repaired by the landowners - many thanks to them (Whitley Court Farm). Also the path should be less muddy in the winter because of the clearing done in the adjoining ditch. This work was started in October last year, but was stopped by the neighbouring Tewkesbury Borough Council. When it became clear that Tewkesbury had no jurisdiction over land in Stroud District (oh yes!) the work restarted! The Parish Council were instrumental in getting the stop removed.

FLOODING RISK – UPDATE FOR RESIDENTS

As we move into Autumn, rain will be expected on a more regular basis; good for the parched gardens of summer but not so good when it appears as “heavy” rain, perhaps. The lower half of the village on the boundaries of the River Twyver (and to a lesser extent the Sudbrook) remains in a Flood Risk category as designated by the Environment Agency(EA). The agency has recently written to residents likely to be affected, encouraging them to sign up to the EA’s Flood Warning Service. Registering with EA is highly recommended (gov.uk/check-flood-risk).

Since our last update, a successful workshop was hosted by Gloucestershire County Council’s Flood Risk Management team (FRMT) and their consultants Hydrock who had been conducting local geo surveys. Many residents provided questions and comments which have been passed to the FRMT and consultants. Heavy rain can be just as impactful as actual flooding, as experienced following the thunder and rain on the evening of 16 August. This time there was no over-topping of the

culverts in Bondend Road, and rainwater road drains generally coped (apart from Bondend by Upton Mill – a long-standing problem with Highways). However, the consequential mix of rainwater into the combined foul drains led to sewage overflows at the M5 end of Staites Orchard. The foul/rain mix overflowing into the Twyver at that point was serious enough for our ever-helpful County Councillor Sue Williams to raise the matter at her level with the County Council and Severn Trent – the Twyver of course flows through Abbeymead and into Gloucester City itself, so not just an isolated issue for us.

To consolidate ongoing inputs from residents and to act as a focal point for FRMT and Gloucester County Council, the Parish Council has recommended the re-formation of the Parish Flood Working Group which did such valuable work as a result of the major floods of 2007; more details of this group to follow. In the meantime, do please look at the advice the EA offers, sign up to their Warning Service and prepare your properties and selves as best you can. Take care.

Roy Roberts – Parish Councillor

GLEBE FIELD TREES

The very hot summer weather had been harsh to the trees that we planted at The Glebe Field last year, with large cracks in the ground and roots being exposed.

As a result, in August, some of the Footpath Team and others agreed to help with strimming the long grass around the trees, watering the trees (and the Jubilee tree) and placing some compost to enrich the soil and fill the cracks

round each sapling.

My thanks to Andy, Alan, Dave, Julie, Sara and Jo for their help and hard work on the day. I am sure it will make a difference to the trees’ health and survival as they mature and grow stronger.

Despite lots of watering, the oak planted in the field to mark the Platinum Jubilee doesn’t look well at all. We may have to replace it.

Pete Wilson - Parish Councillor



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Aliens are Coming!

You don't usually wake up on a Monday morning (29th Aug) and hear on the news that Praying Mantises are on the move north and could be heading our way!

At a time when some of us were praying for rain, others for world peace and some for a win on the lottery to cope with soaring bills, it seems appropriate that we have some help from the animal kingdom – no?

Praying is the correct spelling by the way, not preying, although they are notorious predators. I'm not sure if they will be welcome guests as they consume a wide variety of other insects which are necessary to maintain the bio-diversity of our ecosystem. Let us know if you spot one and just be aware they can bite so not a great idea to keep as a pet then. Educate yourselves about this fascinating species – no doubt, we'll be hearing of more strange and wonderful creatures heading our way, thanks to global warming.

Linda Munnoch

Downsizing, De-cluttering

or just GETTING RID OF STUFF. Part Two.

Dealing with Paper, Adventures with Shredders.

Buy a shredder, it proves much too small and quickly overheats.

Buy another one - this is supposed to sit across a waste paper bin and has a more powerful motor. This does not work, the motor does not fit securely across any of my waste paper bins and the bins are not strong enough to cope with the motor in action.

Finally buy a large efficient shredder which works extremely well until it jams solid when inadvertently fed with a sticky backed returns label.

Cope with that then carry on shredding until bin is full.

Then face the problem of emptying the mountains of shredded paper into a biodegradable bag to put out for collection. Seal the bag then face the problems of spills. Do not try the hand held vacuum cleaner, shredded paper jams that up and it's very difficult to extract piece by piece; resort to good old dustpan and brush.

Put everything away and delay any more shredding until the whole process can be faced again.

After all these adventures there has been no downsizing, no real de-cluttering, but

Some stuff has been GOT RID OF !

Ann Morphew

Piano accompanist needed for mixed choir

Can you help, or do you know someone who can?

The Silver Singers meet on Thursdays from 10.45am to 12.00noon at St Mary's Hall in Gloucester. Originally set up by Age UK, we have been singing around Gloucester for many years, and offer an opportunity to sing on a regular basis. Singing is a good social activity for older people and is very good for maintaining breath control. We have members still singing in their 90's. Unfortunately, our current pianist is unable to continue pending an operation, and we really need some support in order to continue. If you, or someone you know, could offer to help each week for a couple of hours, please do get in touch. I live in the village and if you contact me, I can give you further details and put you in contact with the musical director. Janine Black.



Horses in the Churchyard

As part of the period of mourning for the Queen, a few Village horse riders asked if they could somehow be involved at the Church. See the next page.



St Leonard's Church News



Priest in Charge Vacancy

Interim Minister: Rev Philippa Donald

Philippa's parish days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday. Please feel free to leave a message for her on other days and she will respond when she is next in the parish



St Leonard's church

Website: www.uptonstleonardchurch.co.uk

Churchwarden - Jill Howell

Baptism and Wedding Enquiries - Jenny Cunningham

Floral Tribute

by Simon Armitage - Poet Laureate

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearly in September mist.
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
A promise made and kept for life – that was your gift –
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.

Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.



Remembering our Queen, Elizabeth II

For the 10 days following the death of our Queen, Elizabeth II, a table of Remembrance was set up in the church. The Diocese sent a commemorative picture of the late Queen which was printed and placed in a black frame. T lights were available for people to light, in memory of the late Queen, and a Book of Condolence to write in. The church was open from 10.00am – 6.00pm each day, and many people came in to light a candle, or write a comment or sit for a moment of personal reflection and prayer.

On 11 and 18 September the services in Church reflected the period of mourning for the queen.

On the 18th there was a most unusual ceremony when six horse riders from the Happy Hackers, representing the Fell Pony Society, of which the Queen was patron, assembled beside the tower to hear prayers and sing the National Anthem as part of the 10 o'clock service. See opposite page for pictures of this event.



The candles and book of condolence

Dear friends in Upton St Leonard's,

October already? Where has the year gone? Time and the season of Autumn march on, reminding me of the many things up ahead I have to do, and of how the time is ticking away for me to get them done. And please would nobody tell me how many days it is to Christmas!!



Jesus said "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring enough worries of its own." (Matthew 6 v 34) Or to put it another way, as the proverb says "Take one day at a time."

I smile when I see this verse because I am, by nature, a worrier! But the passage of the Bible that this verse comes from tells us clearly in 3 different ways, why we should not worry.

- First, we are told not to worry about the details of our daily life – what we eat, what we wear and so on. God knows we need these things. God can clothe the flowers so beautifully, when they are here one day and gone the next, and we can trust him to provide for us, his children. When we pray the Lord's prayer we say, 'Give us this day our daily bread' and we are asking God to help us to have enough to eat, but also to feed us spiritually, from his word, the Bible.
- Second, we are told that worrying cannot add any more time to our life. My husband Ian, who used to be a consultant physician for the elderly at Gloucester Royal, tells me that the statistics show that worriers live longer than those who don't worry, thus creating more time to worry! So that's not good.
- Thirdly we are told not to worry about tomorrow because today has enough things to worry about. Someone once said "Worry is like a rocking chair – a lot of motion but no progress."

Worry can immobilise us, it can consume our thoughts, it can damage our health, it can stop us being productive and of course it can stop us trusting God.

For those of us who are natural worriers – and some of you reading this letter will know what I'm talking about - we like to know what is happening next, and where we're going and all the details involved. It makes us feel safe.

But unfortunately, life just isn't always like that, is it? Every day brings new challenges and sometimes great difficulties. That is certainly true of parish ministry. I never know what is going to come up each day as I seek to minister to and look after our congregation and those in the parish and community.

We have to trust in God and in his promises to be with us, and to give us the strength for what he calls us to do.

So I try to put each day into God's hands and I ask for his presence and his Holy Spirit to go before me, and I try to trust that He is with me and will guide me through whatever comes.

I pray that each of us will have the courage to trust each day to God and to give our worries to him.

With love from your friend,

Revd Philippa x

On October 2nd
at our 10.00am service we will be celebrating Harvest
on the village green.

There will be familiar Harvest hymns and readings and after the service everyone is welcome to come to the schoolroom for coffee and cake, and there will be an auction of Harvest produce. Proceeds will go to the Gloucester Food Bank.

Do come and join us!

Tower Floodlighting 2022

On the 10th October, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Derek Brinkley who passed away on this day in 2015. Kindly sponsored by his son, Alan.

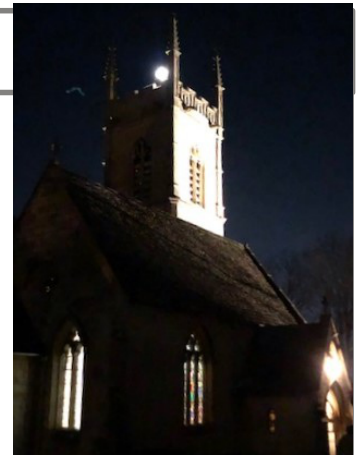
The Church Tower will be lit on the 11th October in memory of Chris Rumsey on her birthday. With love and so many happy memories from all the family.

On the 17th October 2022, 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 16 years ago.

On Tuesday 19th October, the Church Tower will be lit for Colin Freshney on the 4th anniversary of his death. Loved and missed by Maureen and family.

If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or for a loved one's life or any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham. 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 any donation this will help us too. If you would like to sponsor the Church Tower Flood Lights then please contact Jenny Cunningham .

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



Services for October 2022

Oct 2nd	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship <i>Harvest service on the village green</i>
Oct 9th	10.00 am	Holy Communion.
Oct 16th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Oct 23 rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Oct 30 th	10.00 am	Morning Worship

If you are unable to come to church and you would like to receive Holy Communion at home at any time, please contact:

Rev Philippa



The Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal is getting ready for it's collection date of

November 14th - 21st 2022

Contact Jenny Cunningham for further information



September 500 Club Winners



1st Prize

£30.00

57



2nd Prize

£20.00

8



St Leonard's Church News



Diocesan Mothers' Union members met in the Millennium Hall, Shurdington on 9th August for their annual picnic to celebrate their founder, Mary Sumner on her designated day. As it was during the heat wave, the event was held indoors.

On Monday 5th September Branch members met in the School Room for Afternoon Tea followed by the "Wave of Prayer" service when the Diocesan link Branches were remembered: Khartoum in Sudan; Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; Bari & Ilesa in Nigeria and Dugapur in India. There was a raffle in aid of the Mothers' Union Summer of Hope Appeal.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th October at St Oswald's Church Hall, Coney Hill at 2.30pm. It will be a "Member's Afternoon" and they are requested to "Bring & Share a Poem"

Kate Gale - Branch Leader

The Art of / to Ageing

*I wake up each morning and jump out of bed,
Well more of a roll, it has to be said,
I check myself over to see which bit aches;
As each year goes by the longer it takes.*

*I rub my stiff neck, shoulders, back and my knees;
My perfume for today will yet again be Biofreeze!
Then come the pills, both prescribed and there's more,
But for the moment, at least, I can remember what they're for*

*It takes longer each day, to shower and to dress,
Without eye drops, glasses and hearing aids, life would be a mess
And now I'm exhausted, and in need of a rest,
But the days only just started, let's put it to the test*

*There's the cleaning and cooking still to be done,
The washing and ironing - the day's full of fun!
But in spite of it all there's lots going on
To keep my brain active, that bit's not yet gone!*

*I have family and friends, too many to count,
Lots of people who care - that's what life is about
I can thank God each day as I roll out of bed,
Thank you Lord, I am here..... Your are there,
No more to be said*

*Joan Townsend
Diocesan Member*

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Newly available: Delightful ground floor Guest Suite. Central to the village. Lovely views. Private parking. Perfect for visitors whatever their needs. No dogs. For details call 01452 621741 or 07815 197375.



View from the french windows

Time Passing

A poem by Ted Gardener (still a boy at heart)

The summer's nearly over, we are heading for Autumn again,
We've had a proper scorcher this year, with very little rain.

I remember summers like this, when I was just a kid,
The long hot sunny hazy days & the things that we did,
We would spend our days in the meadows, play hide-and-seek in the grass,
Or maybe we'd go brook-jumping, just to make the day pass.

We would roam the hills and valleys round Rooksmoor & Nut Hill,
And walk the gate top & boundary fence, I wish I could do it still,
We had no fear in those long gone days, life was just a game,
This area's kids don't do it now, it will never be the same.

We was chased from many an orchard, with pockets full of scroggs,
We would climb the trees & wait and see to evade the farmer's dogs,
Life was much more simpler then, everything was fun,
I miss it now that I am older, am I the only one?

THE PROBUS CLUBS

Use it or lose it can apply to almost anything but when it comes to men of a particular age it can often refer to those little grey memory cells which need to be kept stimulated as we grow older.

One way to do this – if you have retired or about to do so – is to join the Upton Twyver Probus Club which meets twice a month on Tuesday mornings at the BMI club.

Here, in addition to meeting like-minded friends, you will also hear fascinating talks on a huge range of topics and also have the chance to visit local places of interest as well.

Last month (September) there was a talk on the Zulu Wars which will be followed two days later by a visit to Llanthony Secunda Priory.

This month there are two more talks one with the intriguing title A Secret No More and the second a talk by a Gloucestershire farmer entitled A Farmer's Boy.

There will also be an opportunity to enjoy a conducted tour of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum at the Docks.

Our Probus Club might be just what you need to find new friends and fresh interests. Although most of our members come from Upton there are also a fair sprinkling from further afield such as Churchdown, Birdwood, Barnwood and Painswick.

If you're interested please give me a ring – John Lovell – love to hear from you.

PS - The other men's Probus Club also meets twice a month at the BMI on Wednesday mornings, and the Ladies Probus club meets once a month also at the BMI, also on a Wednesday morning.

Village Show 2022 - Awards

This year's award winners were . . .

The Eacott Perpetual Challenge Cup
The John Millard Perpetual Challenge Cup
The Christine Rumsey Memorial Cup
USL Show Perpetual Challenge Cup
The Robert Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup
The Stan Hooton Memorial Rose Bowl
The Royston Gardiner Memorial Salver
The Dinky Gardiner Memorial Rose Bowl
The Ethel Edey Memorial Cup
The Rumsey Memorial Trophy
The Joan Finch Memorial Salver
The Bob Ayland Memorial Shield
The Abbeydale Garden Club Shield
The Joseph Edey Salver
The Fred Ball Memorial Trophy
Abbeydale Gardening Club Prize Class B-70
Abbeydale Gardening Club Prize Class A
Abbeydale Gardening Club Prize Class B
Upton WI Prize
Show Committee Prize
Upton Post Office Top Tray
Upton Post Office Top Vase
The RHS Banksian Medal

Children's Awards

The Evelyn Rumsey Children's Cup
The Juvenile Cup
The Ethel Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup
Young Gardner Under 12
Young Gardner 12-16

Anne Hemsley
Peter Macey
Douglas Monkman
Becky Evans
Nicola Bradbury
Douglas Monkman
Peter Macey
Sue Adams
Becky Clement
Anne Hemsley
Christine Hoare
Nicola Bradbury
Douglas Monkman
David Hoare
Nicola Isaac
Peter Macey
Graham Barratt
Peter Macey
Jane Reed
Penny James
Nicola Bradbury
Anne Hemsley
Douglas Monkman

Kai Harvey
Olivia Wilks
Lily Ellis
Ethan Payne
Lily Ellis

See pages 19, 20 for a write up and pictures of this year's show.



Change is in the Air

A reflective piece by Christina Caldwell

Already we feel it, the nip in the air, already we know it because, since early August darkness has been edging it's way into our days and by October the light will be leaving us as 2022 becomes history. What a year it's been! In the early months we thought that Covid could no longer surprise us with its mutations and mission to invade humankind and soon life would return to something resembling our previous normal.



Spring came early and I can't remember a more noisy bird mating season! They busied themselves with new nests as days became lighter; purple clover appeared in lawns and fields and was the most abundant I've ever seen here. Soon our fields were waist high in glorious yellow buttercups followed by even taller cow parsley. Apart from the many cabbage whites the butterfly population was disappointing, even so, the most joyous event for me was seeing in my garden, for the second year running, pale blue butterflies. These delicate blue airborne beauties in May heralded a promise of gentleness and the survival of beauty. What a mystery our days are!

In and around Upton, life was returning to ways that were familiar and how good it was to enjoy again the usual events and new ones as well. 'No Mow May' proved popular; some folk I talked with were enthusiastic because of the increase in birds and wild flowers appearing in their long grass and hedges. 'Well Done' all you Upton participants, you've started something new here so let's keep it going! One of my neighbours who has not mowed their front lawn since moving here some six years ago, discovered six wild orchids in their grass. Imagine that - wild orchids for not mowing the grass! In future we may have competitions to find the non-mowing person with the most wild orchids.



As the warmth of days increased so too did the scent of flowering shrubs and trees and who could forget the perfume of lilac trees in full bloom for a whole month in Churchfield Road. The warm and wet months in early Spring saw fruit trees showing spectacular blooms promising 'a good year for English fruit'; and so it was!

Early in the morning my overgrown back garden hosted up to 14 pigeons as well as small birds hidden in the long grass looking for seeds and worms and wonderful to watch while having breakfast. Strange that the occasional visiting cat disappeared, maybe 'that cat' doesn't appreciate long grass.

As Spring was showing off her delights in the UK, on the other side of our planet a war had erupted and many countries were experiencing spontaneous fires or flooding and there was much discussion about the many changes in the world and our place on planet Earth. The sunshine was marvellous but there were many clouds in our lives. What was daily uplifting and

very happy making were the sudden displays of flocks of birds two or three times a day showing off their aerial manoeuvres! What felt a bit scary were the flights of large numbers of jackdaws; maybe it's their blackness that makes us feel uneasy because they certainly haven't scared the starlings that I see making smaller aerial flights then returning back to the eaves of roofs along the High Street. During July and August I was visited most evenings by a solitary bat who swooped around the area above my patio for a couple minutes and then disappeared. This visitation feels like a message that yet another day is nearly over and all that it contained is slowly moving into yesterday.

When the village school closed for the summer and Upton dwellers stayed at home behind curtain drawn windows hoping to stay cool while pondering what was happening to our country and our world, it felt eerily quiet here. Many things didn't change and Upton allotments were the best kept I've ever seen, but I was told by most allotments owners that produce was not as abundant as last year. What I noticed most in the allotments in Bondend Road was not the size of onions or the quantity of green beans but the magnificent sunflowers that were on display in plot after plot and so many varieties. Meanwhile neighbours gave their surplus vegetables and fruit to friends and family. Folk enjoyed a holiday break for the first time for a couple of years. Local walkers still walked on our well maintained paths and took pictures of unusual sightings to add to their gallery of pictures of Upton already in their memories. Life carried on and misgivings about the future and travel and strikes galore, just to mention a few nationwide issues, were laid aside as we visited the BMI with friends and neighbours for their variety of entertainments or we stayed at home and enjoyed a barbecue.



By the beginning of September with the new phrase 'Heat or Eat?' now in common usage, temperatures had dropped to a more comfortable level and most trees had shed some foliage and horse chestnuts and conifers a surprising or even worrying amount. Everything looked older and drier and most of us were lamenting the state of quite a few favourite shrubs and wondering if the higher temperatures and lower rainfall are here to stay.

Now the children are settled back in school with their playful excited noises drifting over Upton and walking or driving near drop-off and pick-up areas are best avoided, but very much part of life here whatever else is happening across the globe. As the old Chinese philosopher told us a couple of thousand years ago, "the only constant is change".



As the last months of 2022 roll on I'm looking forward to seeing trees denuded by the south-westerlies and revealing trunk and branch structure and allowing the sky to be seen through the jigsaw puzzle of branches. Seeing a small bird fly through denuded branches never fails to bring on a smile at the wonder of this life on our planet. So Upton Dwellers, whatever the future brings enjoy the privilege of living here in our small special corner of Earth in a supportive village during any changes we may have to make!

Arts Page

This year sees the 200th anniversary of the death, at the age of 29, of the English Romantic poet Shelley. When completing a guest register in a Swiss hotel he described himself as – Atheist, Democrat, Philanthropist. He did not achieve fame during his lifetime, but recognition of his achievements in poetry grew steadily following his death. He became an important influence on poets including Robert Browning, Thomas Hardy and W B Yeats. Here is some of his work.



Percy Bysshe Shelley
(1792 – 1822)

To A Skylark

Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!
Bird thou never wert,
That from heaven, or near it
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

In the golden lightning
Of the sunken sun
O'er which clouds are brightening,
Thou dost float and run,
Like an unbodied joy whose race is just begun.

We look before and after,
And pine for what is not:
Our sincerest laughter
With some pain is fraught;
Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.

Yet if we could scorn
Hate, and pride, and fear;
If we were things born
Not to shed a tear,
I know not how thy joy we ever should come near.

Teach me half the gladness
That thy brain should know,
Such harmonious madness
From thy lips would flow
The world should listen then, as I am listening now!

Love's Philosophy

The fountains mingle with the river
And the rivers with the ocean,
The winds of heaven mix for ever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single,
All things by a law divine
In one another's being mingle –
Why not I with thine?

See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdain'd its brother:
And the sunlight clasps the earth,
And the moonbeams kiss the sea –
What are all these kissings worth,
If thou kiss not me?

BOOK REVIEWS involving the Shelley family

A Vindication of the Rights of Woman : With Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects by Mary Wollstonecraft. Written by Shelley's mother in law, the view expressed in this book in 1792 is that women are not naturally inferior to men, but appear to be only because they lack education. She was an early advocate of women's rights.

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus (1818) is a story written by Mary Shelley, second wife of the poet Shelley. She began writing it in 1818 at the age of 18 and it was published anonymously when she was 20. It involves a scientist, Victor Frankenstein, who creates life in an unorthodox scientific experiment. It has never been out of print.



THANKS

The small fir (pine?) tree on the Village Green was planted by the Parish Council a few years ago. It died and was replaced. The replacement was looking very sickly, but Nigel Murrell has recently spent hours caring for it. He cut away dying branches, chopped the crown to make it bush more, shaped it, and fed and watered it through this summer's heat. It still looks a bit spindly, but much better than before and now it has every chance of flourishing!

OCTOBER

2	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
3	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
3	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
4	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
4	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
4	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
4	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
5	Wed	Bell ringers practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
		(The weekly bell-ringing practice has been missing from this diary for a long time - now re-instated! Contact is Charlie Burnett 07971 566589)		
5	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
5	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
6	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
8	Sat	Football: USL v Horsley United.....	The Rec.....	2.30pm
9	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
10	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
10	Mon	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
11	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
11	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
11	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
12	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
12	Wed	Bell ringers practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
12	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
12	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
13	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
16	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
17	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
18	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
18	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
18	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
18	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
19	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.30am
19	Wed	Bell ringers practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
19	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
19	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
20	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
22	Sat	Football: USL v Uley.....	The Rec.....	2.30pm
22	Sat	Entertainment Night - Bak 2 Bak.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
23	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
24	Mon	School Half-Term week		
24	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
25	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
25	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
25	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
26	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
26	Wed	Bell ringers practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
26	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
26	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
27	Thu	Craft & Chatter.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.30pm
27	Thu	"Curtain up on Murder".....	Village Hall.....	7.00pm
27	Thu	Tea and Chat.....	Old School Room.....	2.00-4.00pm
28	Fri	"Curtain up on Murder".....	Village Hall.....	7.00pm
29	Sat	"Curtain up on Murder".....	Village Hall.....	7.00pm

NOVEMBER

4	Fri	Fireworks and Drummers.....	Village Hall.....	5.30 for 6.30pm
7	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
10	Thu	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
12	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
14	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
16	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.30am
17	Thu	History Group – "Nurse Edith Cavell" – Mike Stratford.....	Village Hall.....	7.45pm
20	Sun	Lunchtime Jazz.....	BMI.....	1.00-3.00pm
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
24	Thu	Craft and Chatter.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.30pm

DECEMBER

5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
10	Sat	BMI Pensioners Lunch.....	BMI.....	12.00pm
10	Sat	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		

Continued over the page

Village Diary for December - continued

12	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
15	Thu	Craft & Chatter.....	Old School Room	10.00-12.30pm
17	Sat	Christmas Draw.....	BMI	8.00pm
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
24	Sat	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night.....	BMI	8.00pm
31	Sat	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night.....	BMI	8.00pm

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

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
Pilates	Wednesdays 9.30am	Pavilion	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Dance Workout (NEW - See below)	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227



There's a new weekly class starting up, a Dance Workout. It's run by Debra Law, and she writes:

"Come and Join in a New Dance Workout Class! Ideal for someone just wanting to be in a small group working out. Various moves to upbeat music. Come along and join our friendly group. Tuesday Evenings 7.00-7.45, Starts Tuesday 11th October at the Pavilion. Cost £4.50. Contact me (email preferred) debralaw@hotmail.co.uk."

SPORTS REPORTS

Cricket Club



We have a new Chairman, Tom Warnes, who came up through our youth team

ranks not very long ago. He's put in place some useful improvements.

We also had two new captains for our Saturday teams. Dave Elkins moved up from skippering the 2nd team to the 1sts, and we have been very lucky to get the enthusiastic efforts of Navin Dahiya as our 2nd team captain.

The first XI ended up honourably mid-table in the County Division 6 (won 8 lost 9), which is great to report because at the end of the 2021 season we had serious doubts about their ability to survive at that level. The second Saturday XI, having been promoted at the end of 2021, found the going too tough, won only two games and will be relegated straight back down.

The youth teams had mixed success. The Under 15s managed rather fewer games than we hoped, and the squad was not very strong. The same can be said for the Under 13s, though they played more games. The Under 11s had some really good players and were consequently placed in a tougher league and have finished in third place, behind two teams that should have been playing at the next level up (youth leagues have three skill levels - advanced, intermediate and development, the Upton U11s were playing at intermediate level, U13s and U15s at development level). Finally the Under 9s had a great time as usual. This is a great age to start formal cricket. The games are fun, it's played with a ball lighter and softer than a normal cricket ball, so we don't need pads, gloves and helmets, and the games last only just over an hour.

The club doesn't have enough girls to have a separate girls section - we simply treat female players as normal club players. They seem to enjoy

that. In the 2022 season youth teams we had six girls, one of whom played some Saturday league adult games.

Indoor training starts in October. The club contact is Andy Russell.

Football Club



After a few years in the heights of Gloucestershire Northern Senior League - higher than the club has ever been before - it became clear

that playing at that level was not sustainable with the resources and players available to this small club, so the committee took the brave decision to close down the first team, and re-set. They said:

"We have endured a difficult few seasons battling Covid and various changes within the club.

We had recognised the need for consistency and made changes late last season in the hope of pushing

Continued on next page

Football report continued

forward as a club. Despite how well we performed in the league in 2021-22, the damage was already done with key players deciding to move on.

We will now be putting all of our focus into rebuilding the club this season (2022-23) and supporting Jake Gurney, the manager of what is now the 1st team in Stroud District division 2.

Thank you to all of the staff, players and spectators who have stood by the club over the past years. Your support and dedication has been greatly appreciated."

With only one team there won't be a game at the Rec every Saturday. We will try to have the fixtures in the Village Diary in this magazine.

At the time of writing, the team has won 2 and lost 2 league games.

Contact is Rob, uslafc@gmail.com

PETANQUE REPORT



After Covid restrictions, fortunately this year we are back to normal, and beginning to feel confident mixing again, and it has been an excellent summer to play. We play 4 internal tournaments throughout the year, and the match is normally followed by a meal at the local pub.

Some of our members also take part in a variety of external tournaments against other clubs in the Cotswolds.

This season our team has played extremely well and we have secured 2nd place in our section of the Cotswold League.

Jane Arnold

Village Show 2022



Kate Brooks, Show secretary writes: "I think everyone will agree it was another very successful show. Overall attendance was down a little on last year (as we expected) but still substantially higher than pre-Covid, which is good. The number of entries was up on previous years despite the very hot weather and difficult growing conditions. The dog show was once again very popular and the standard of the entries in the main marquee was

very high - as commented on by the judges.

We are very grateful to everyone who donated cakes, tombola prizes, books, helped with the setting up or on the day or supported the show. The committee would particularly like to thank the team of people from Ecclesiastical Insurance who gave up their time to help put up tents, set out tables and generally get everything ready for the show.

We are always looking for people to join the committee or help with the show. We will be holding our AGM in November so if you are interested, please come along to find out more."

There are pictures and some more comments about the show on the back page, and a list of prize winners appears on page 14.

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: Peter Wilson
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Andy Russell
Barbara Swindin
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Village Show 2022

Sara Hemming wrote: "Thank you to everyone who helped organise Upton St Leonards Show this year, including judges, show helpers, stall holders, & sponsors. I would like to congratulate everyone who entered, there were some fabulous entries. Lastly those of you who attended & supported the show - it was so good to see you enjoying yourselves, it makes all the hard work putting the show together worth it. Your support ensures the continuation & future of the show. See you next year (Saturday 9th September 2023)"

"Well done Sara and your band of helpers. Where would we be without them."

Bravo!

"All was very well organised, very good community event, good to see so many local people there. Thanks to the show committee for arranging it."



A selection of pictures from this year's show, taken by Jim Browne.

Helpers in the kitchen

