

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 110

October 2023



The Upton Show

It was a gloriously hot day, and attendance was good. Ice creams were sold out, hot dogs not so! Kate Brooks gives a report on the show on page 2.

Pictures of the show here, and on pages 2 and 20 were taken by Jim Browne.



Church Roof Fund - on pages 11 and 12 there is a report on the September Village Appeal

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



**COFFEE
MORNING**

If you are reading this on 29 September or earlier - don't forget the Coffee Morning organised by the Post Office, Upton Builders and Tru Cuts - outside the shops from 9.30am

Upton St Leonards Show

After a summer of wet and cloudy weather, show day was unexpectedly hot and sunny. Unfortunately, the combination of the heat and other local events, such as the Cycle Tour of Britain, kept some people away and numbers at the gate were down a little on last year. However, the summer weather had been good for gardens and allotments, and the entries in the marquee were excellent. We always get positive feedback from the judges on the organisation of the show and the quality of the entries, which is great. Overall exhibitor numbers were broadly in line with previous years, although it was disappointing that Chipmunks Nursery decided not to participate this year and their colourful entries were certainly missed in the marquee.

The dog show was once again enjoyed by the visitors and owners alike, although, understandably, some people kept their dogs at home because of the heat. Conscious of this, we put out extra bowls of water around the grounds for the dogs to drink. Ice creams and cans of drink were very popular, as were the refreshments in the main hall, which fortunately

remained nice and cool.

In addition to a good range of independent stalls, this year we were asked to include a community stand, allowing the Parish Council and some community groups to showcase what they did, and, hopefully, recruit some new volunteers. Like many community events, the show really struggles with finding people to join the committee or help on the day and unless we can get more volunteers the future of the show is in doubt. The show has been running for more than 70 years and it would be very sad if it had to come to an end. Our AGM will be held shortly (date to follow) and everyone is welcome to attend, so please come along if you want to find out more about joining the committee or helping with the show.

Finally, I would like to thank family and friends for their support, everyone who helped with the show, Cliff Alderman for judging the dog show again and to Jim Browne for the photos. We are also grateful for the support of several local businesses, especially Portway Farm Shop, Morrisons, Walls and Hatton Court Hotel for their most generous raffle prizes.

Kate Brooks

Trophy winners at the show were:

Eacott Perpetual Challenge Cup	Anne Hemsley
John Millard Perpetual Challenge Cup	Anne Hemsley
Christine Rumsey Memorial Cup	Doug Monkman
Upton St Leonards Show Perpetual Challenge Cup	Anne Hemsley
Robert Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup	Paula Quinn
Stan Hooton Perpetual Rose Bowl	Anne Hemsley
Royston Gardner Memorial Salver	Paula Quinn
Dinkie Gardiner Memorial Rose Bowl	Paula Quinn
Ethel Edey Memorial Cup	Becky Clement
Rumsey Memorial Trophy	Jackie Hastings
Joan Finch Memorial Salver	Jackie Hastings
Bob Ayland Memorial Shield	Anne Hemsley
Abbeydale Garden Club Shield	Paul Smith
Joseph T C Edey Salver	David Hoare
Fred Ball Memorial Trophy	Becky Amos, Wendy Metcalfe & Matthew Pearse
(Shared, equal winners)	
RHS Banksian Medal	Anne Hemsley
Children's Awards	
Evelyn Rumsey Children's Cup	Isaac Payne
Juvenile Cup	Ethan Payne
Ethel Wallace Perpetual Challenge Cup	Lillian Wood



Paul Smith with the Abbeydale Garden Club Shield

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY

17 AUGUST

What a fantastic afternoon we all had, the tea urns were boiling, Cakes made and the Raffle Prizes stacked.

I would like to thank all the helpers in the Kitchen on the day and the Raffle Prize Ladies, the Cake makers and the fabulous people who donated generously to the Raffle.

The total made was £743 which beat the total of last year by £240. A huge thank you to all attended and gave to a worthy Charity.

I would also like to thank Gill and Claire and the Church for letting me hold the event at the Old School Rooms.

Carol Evans



ADVERTISING

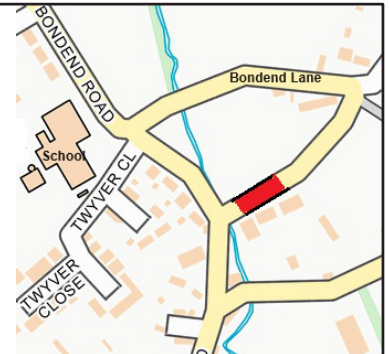
We are delighted to have new advertisements from two businesses in the Village - The Cakery by Esther Bourne (advert on this page below) and Ruby's Nail Bar (advert on page 13). With Christmas planning starting to happen, maybe these are very timely!

It is great to report that all the other advertisers are continuing, and Churchfield Motors have just increased their advert size. Thanks to our advertisers for their support.

Do look first in USL Life when you are looking for the services offered by our advertisers.

November Road Closure

Once again, part of Bondend Lane, as shown, will be closed 27 to 29 November to allow for new water connection works by Severn Trent Water.



Advertising


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UPTON ST LEONARDS WI

“Warm September brings the fruit,
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.”

Sara Coleridge (1802-1852)

On one of the really hot days in early September, the amazing early life of Charlie Chaplin was brought to us by our speaker Paul Murphy, with pictures and stories. Born in 1889, Chaplin's childhood in London was one of poverty and hardship. His mother Hannah was a singer and his father Charlie was an entertainer, both in the music halls. He had an older half-brother, Sydney. His father abandoned mother and sons before long and his mother struggled financially – he was sent to a workhouse twice before the age of nine. He first sang on stage at age 4, when, apparently, the audience threw money onto the stage, pleasing him and his mother. When he was 14, his mother was committed to a mental asylum and the boys had a short unhappy period living with his father, after which they were sometimes looking after their ill mother, sometimes fending for themselves. Sydney, also a stage performer, was signed up with Fred Karno's prestigious comedy company, making quite a name for himself. Sydney persuaded Fred Karno to take on Charlie. At 19, he was signed up, and off to the United States. From there his famous career took off.

Paul's talk was warmly received and enjoyed by all. He was thanked by Kathy Quant.

We meet again on Monday 2 October, 2pm in the Pavilion, for a talk on 'Boosting your Emotional Well-being' by Pauline Wickens. All will be welcome.

Kathy Quant

PS – there are a few vacancies in the chair-based Pilates sessions held every Wednesday afternoon in the Pavilion, see page 18.

TWYVER WI

At our September meeting our speaker was Kirsty Bingham from the John Moore Museum in Tewkesbury, and her subject was: 'Midwife, Herbalist, Surgeon, Witch', the story of midwifery from medieval times to the 18th Century and after. To get a background to the midwifery, the speaker gave a fascinating account of women's health and status in the period, superstitions to do with conception, pregnancy and childbirth. This story appears as a separate feature article on page 6.

If you have not been to the John Moore Museum, do try to visit. It is at three locations close together in Tewkesbury in Church Street, by the Abbey, with a "Secret Garden" behind.

Our next meeting is on Monday 9 October in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. All are most welcome.

Linda Munnoch

BMI QUIZ

The BMI's autumn quiz took place in September. Once again, Andy managed his usual eclectic mix of quirky questions, easy and tough, so everyone felt able to get a decent number of answers and everyone enjoyed themselves.

It was a good evening of fun and the 13 teams which participated had a great time, even if they couldn't quite master all the answers! It was good to see a few teams new to the quiz entering.

The winners on the night were "No Name" with an impressive score of 129, out of a possible 160, followed closely by "The Georgians" with a score of 125. "John's Lot" brought up the rear with a score of 71, and being the overall losers, were in receipt of a free drink for each member of their team. (So not really losers then!)

Just to give readers an idea of what the BMI quizzes are like, I can say that they are very light hearted. The quiz starts at 8 and finishes by 10pm, with a 20 minute interval. Andy usually has 10 sets of 8 questions, each section with a theme. This time the themes were: The Lake District, butterflies and moths (a picture round), showbiz trivia, figures of speech, Gloucester, in the news recently, girls' names (a music round), small countries, flags with a simple cross (a picture round) and finally herbs and spices.

A total of £186.50 was made on the night including the entry fee and raffle. This will be added to the funds for the BMI Charity for 2023-24, which is the Church Roof Fund.

Thanks Andy for this quiz. Our next quiz at the BMI will be on Saturday 6th January 2024, plenty of time for Andy to get our brain cells working once again!



The UpStagers held an "invitation" evening in September for potential new members. It was a good evening, and a few new people came along.

But - they are still on the lookout for more! Anyone who wants to join, not just actors, but backstage. The UpStagers are getting a reputation for the quality of their productions - do you want to help carry on that success?

They meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30 in the Village Hall, so just turn up and introduce yourself. You are sure of a warm welcome.

Coming up . . .

COMING UP AT THE BMI

Saturday 7 October
Entertainment Night

We welcome the return of a favourite duo

BAK||KAB

From 8.00pm

Open to Members and signed in guests



Sunday 29 October, 8pm
Comedy Night

Another great line up of stand-up comedy once again hosted by Gloucester's own **Nik Hill**, and featuring:

- **Kriss Davis** (A mix of stand-up, music, a talented guitarist and raconteur)
- **Kent Cameron** (Bringing tales of his native land to the stage)
- **Ben Harrington** (An energetic performer, reflecting on a man's woes of 40 years, plus other stories)

Please note, the comedy night may include adult humour

Ticket only, restricted to 100

It is likely to be sold out so get your tickets asap

Tickets are available @ £5 each for members only

Profits will go to the BMI Charity for 2023-24:
The Church Roof Fund

Saturday 4 November
Entertainment Night

with
Over The Hill

From 8.00pm

Open to Members and signed in guests

LADIES PROBUS

Our August meeting report: The behind-the-scenes workings of local BBC radio was described to us all at our August meeting by our own member, Sue Wilson. Sue described her life as a BBC broadcaster for Radio Gloucestershire – a career that was usually frantic & always provided many surprises!

Martin Fry is returning to us for our September meeting so we might expect more lovely slides of his beautiful photographs of peaceful scenery accompanied by some hauntingly appropriate music.

NEXT MEETING

At our October meeting, Roger Coates is going to tell us all about the Past, Present & Future of the Gloucestershire/Warwickshire Steam Railway. This volunteer operated heritage steam railway runs between Cheltenham Racecourse & Broadway, through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Cotswolds.

So please join us at 10am for coffee in the BMI on Wednesday 18 October before we find out more about this heritage railway line which is on our doorstep.

Please remember to bring your diaries & purses to our October meeting, as menu options etc will be collected for our lunch on November 15th.

Editor's note: Ladies Probus usually meets towards the end of each month, missing our printing deadlines, so we can usually only report on a meeting that happened 6 or so weeks ago, state there was a meeting a week or so ago, and announce the meeting coming up in three weeks. Looks awkward!



Afternoon Tea

A top-notch afternoon tea is being served on Friday 20 October in the Old School Room with profits to go to the Church Roof Appeal. This is a ticket only event - see the detail and how to get a ticket on page 11.

Midwife, Herbalist, Surgeon, . . . Witch

This was the intriguing title of a talk by Kirsty Bingham from the John Moore Museum in Tewkesbury, to the Twyver WI. Though the subject was aimed towards midwifery from medieval times to the 18th century in Britain, it covered much about women's health and status, conception, pregnancy and childbirth in that period of history. Kirsty had specialised in the history of medicine and midwifery at university.

Medicine, particularly the anatomy of women, was held back by lack of education and understanding about health. Very little dissection was allowed, and hardly any women's bodies were involved. (Leonardo da Vinci's now well known autopsies on women's bodies in the early 16th century were kept secret at the time, but his drawings of anatomy are incredible and still widely respected for their accuracy.) There was, on the whole, a *laissez faire* attitude to sickness - you died. Any learning and research was not easily spread. The coming of printing meant that books became available, but most ordinary people were illiterate, with no access to such books as were available to the rich.



Leonardo da Vinci's sketch of a foetus, the womb and womb lining

Women were beneath men in status, expected to marry young and bear children for inheritance purposes to ensure continuation of the male line. Abstinence from sex was considered bad for a man's health. The religious authorities set out rules for procreation and sexual behaviour, including advising on the best ways to ensure a male child! Any attempt to avoid conception was frowned upon, but (ineffective?) barrier methods were used surreptitiously (e.g. the anus of a hare?!) and herbs, oils and douches are known to have been tried. Menstruation was sometimes said to be a divine punishment.

Diet, life cycle, low oestrogen, early menopause all affected a woman's chance of conceiving and phantom pregnancies were common, caused probably by anxiety to produce an heir.

There were plenty of superstitions of course. Carry a dead chaffinch in a bag to prevent miscarriage. See a hare when pregnant and your child will have a 'hare lip'. A full moon promotes sleep walking. Hang metal, preferably gold, chains near your breasts to ensure your milk will not curdle!

In most places, the local midwife was a very much wanted, respected and important member of the community, even though her only training would have been experience. However some (usually male) people tried to blacken their names and their methods.



A medieval manuscript (we can't locate where or when this was written) shows a midwife, and also a doctor, or maybe a priest, no doubt pontificating.

Caesareans were generally performed only if the mother had died. Forceps were developed in France in the mid 16th century, but were kept secret and didn't appear in use in Britain before about 1730, nearly two hundred years later. Infant mortality rates were high. Babies were usually baptised within 3 days of birth, and the mother was not usually allowed at the ceremony.

Abortions were forbidden, and of course midwives came under suspicion when a pregnancy ended in an abortion or stillbirth, sometimes the midwife being accused of witchcraft. This was rife in Scotland from 1590, where King James VI (later to become James I of England) considered himself an expert on the subject of witchcraft.

Midwifery was not legally recognised as a profession in Britain until 1902 with the first Midwives Act. Despite this a large number of women were still for some years after supported by the 'local women', midwives who were not formally trained.

Linda Munnoch

Parliamentary Boundary Change

At the next General Election, Upton St Leonards and Painswick will be in the new constituency of North Cotswolds. This is formed from much of the old Cotswolds constituency plus bits from the Stroud constituency. (which continues to exist, a bit smaller).

It is only the parliamentary constituency boundary that will change. For local government we remain in Stroud District and will continue to elect councillors to the District Council.



Update on Work to Mitigate Flooding, from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)

The GCC Flood Risk Management Team (FRMT) has continued to work with their consultants to improve understanding of flood risk within Upton St Leonards catchment.

The modelling has shown that the flooding is caused by both the surface water and fluvial water within the watercourses reaching key locations in USL and overwhelming the areas at the same time i.e. both the fluvial and surface water peaks occur together and react very quickly from when rain starts to fall.

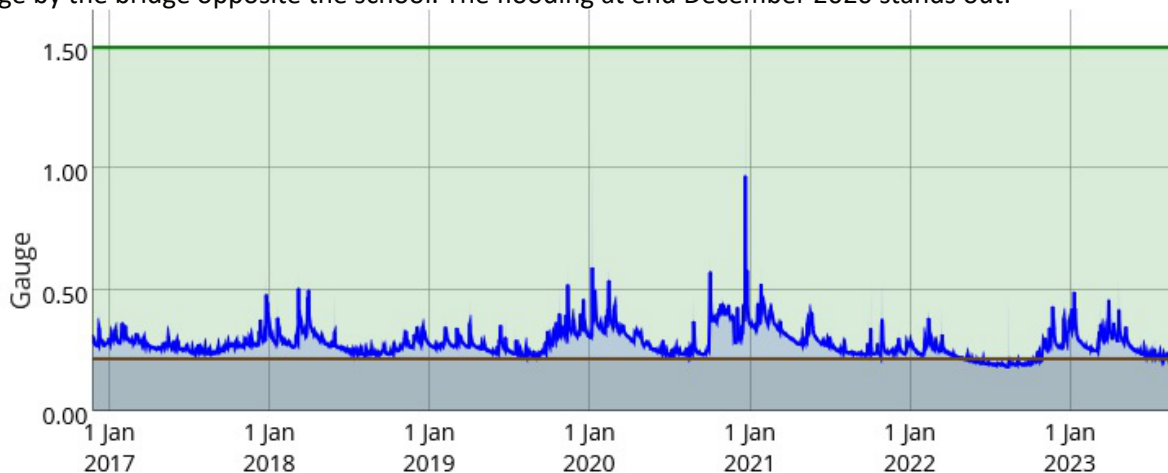
GCC has assessed a range of options and it has shown that multiple measures are needed across the catchment to reduce flood risk and multiple locations have been identified for improvements to reduce flood risk. These measures will vary in effectiveness and size between each other; however the combination should help reduce flood risk.

GCC is progressing the measures they believe will provide the most significant flood risk benefits to the community. First, however, landowner approval is critical in being able to provide the beneficial flood risk measures – mostly upstream. Engagement is ongoing, hopefully near to completion.

GCC FRMT and Highways are working together on a design for improved drainage along Bondend Road.

Once GCC has engaged with landowners, another community meeting will be arranged so the proposed works can be discussed with residents.

The chart below comes from the website riverlevels.uk and shows the height in metres of the Twyver measured at the gauge by the bridge opposite the school. The flooding at end December 2020 stands out.



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Services for October

October 1 st	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
October 8 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
October 15 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
October 22 nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
October 29 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion



The August meeting took the form of a picnic on Mary Summer Day, the founder of

Mothers' Union who is celebrated every August 9th. The weather was very kind, so much so members had to retreat to the shade in the corner of the Old School Room field. A raffle was held in aid of the Mothers' Union "Summer of Hope Appeal" and £63 was raised.

The next meeting is on Thursday 19 October at St Oswald's Hall, Coney Hill at 2.30pm and will be a talk about the work of Sue Ryder, the charity which supports palliative care. If you are interested do come along and join us. New faces are always welcome.

Kate Gale - Branch Leader

The picture on the right shows the Mothers' Union flower display for the Raise the Roof open days.



Churchwarden: Gill Howell

Interment and burial of ashes enquiries

Church Administrator: Jenny Cunningham

Wedding & Baptism Enquiries

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Downey

Tower light dedications

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

September 2023

On the 30th September, the Tower Lights were lit to celebrate the marriage of Hannah Busbridge, daughter of Diane and Ray Busbridge and Simon Curtis at Withington, Glos. All the family wish them much love and happiness for their future.

October 2023

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.

On Tuesday 17th October 2023, the Church Tower Lights are being sponsored by the family of the late Ruth Edgington in loving memory of Michael Edgington, who passed away on this day 17 years ago.

September 500 Club Winners

1st Prize 30.00 No. 39
 2nd Prize 20.00 No. 25



Tower light dedications (previous page) and the 500 club (this page) help greatly with regular church expenses. To make a tower light dedication contact Jenny Cunningham. Clare Appleyard is the organiser for the 500 club.



Christmas Tree Festival
 If you, your business or organisation would like to help decorate the church to celebrate the festive season. we would be very pleased to welcome you in to help us

We would like the church to be decorated by the beginning of December ready to welcome everyone for the Advent and Christmas services.

More details in the November issue

Operation Christmas Child 2023
November 13th - 20th

There will be three 'packing parties' in the area and a coffee morning to raise funds for this charity in the coming weeks, please keep a watch for advertisements of when these events will happen.



For further information visit their website:
www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Or contact Jenny Cunningham who is the area representative



Now a regular annual event! Save the date.

The Christmas Concert
with TLC singers and Gloucester Brass
10th December



Letter of thanks from the Foodbank

Thank you so much for the food donation which weighed 13.7 Kg and the cheque for £100 from the sale of the Harvest produce.

Please pass on our thanks to the congregation of St Leonard's Church for their kind support in these difficult times.

Best wishes,
 Fiona Jarvis
 (Assistant Manager)

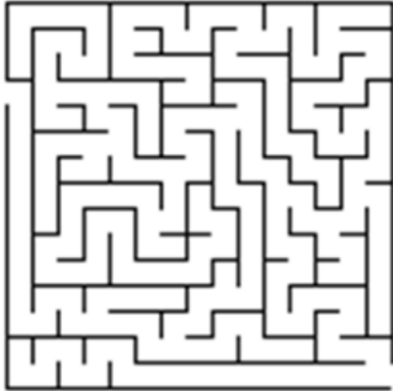


Children's Corner



Feeding of the 5000

Can you help Jesus find the way through the maze to get to the loaves and fishes?



Raise the Roof

Thank
you

This page and the next features the Roof fund: events coming up, pictures, thanks and report on the September 2-3 weekend, money raised so far and how the fund will progress.

Firstly - the next big event

Space is limited - only 40 people. Tickets can be obtained from Gill Howell or Carol Evans



Afternoon Tea

Friday 20th October

At 2.00 pm

In the Old School Room

£20 per person

Ticket only



Raise the Roof - 2 & 3 September report

Thank you Upton St Leonards



it was lovely to see so many people attending the Open Day and for showing an interest in keeping the beautiful village church building in good repair, also thank you to all the stall holders, tea makers, cake bakers, washer uppers who all pulled together to make the Open Day a success, especially Gill and her helpers who made the event happen.



The flower displays were beautiful and another thank you to everyone who contributed. Also to Charlie, our tower captain for explaining the ropes (literally) to a few budding bell ringers, who may (hopefully) join in the practices on Wednesday evenings.

On Sunday the church was open again and Harvest Festival was held on a beautiful, sunny day on the Green. The hymns were accompanied by Gloucester Brass who made the service even more special. This was followed by teas and coffees being served in the Old School Room and an auction of produce raised £100 for the Food Bank. There were also donations of the items most desperately needed for the Food Bank.



There are more pictures on the back page in colour.

Raise the Roof



A heartfelt thank you to all the people who have generously contributed to the appeal via the envelope drop and also at the fete and harvest festival events. The total raised so far from donations exceeds £22,000, about half of that raised at the first weekend in September in response to the Village Appeal. We also have £103,000 from the land sale. The total is now over £125,000. Still a long way to go to £400,000 but a very good start.

Donations to date
£22,880

If you haven't made a donation yet, you can see how to do this below. We also ask you to Gift Aid your donation if you can*. Gift Aid agreements made to date have boosted the total shown by over £2,000, and there will be more.

Ways To Donate

- Cash (in an envelope with your name outside, please, if you want to Gift Aid it)
- Cheque made payable to Upton St Leonards PCC
- Bank Transfer



If you are a UK tax payer, we can claim Gift Aid on your donation from UK Govt, meaning we get an added 25%. To Gift Aid your donation, please complete a yellow Gift Aid envelope, or use these words in a note to us:

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* If you have already made a donation, but did not Gift Aid it, you can still do so with a note to us with the information above (name, address, date and how you donated)

THE WAY AHEAD

A Committee is in the process of being established to help project manage the fund raising and building works to relieve Gill Howell of much of the work needed as the project gains pace. Richard Sugdon has offered to head the committee and has been accepted as Project Manager. We are still seeking professional, experienced fund raisers or people with experience in applying for grants and developing funding streams. If you think you could help please contact Richard.

Some Questions we were asked:

Q: If the money is not raised quickly enough to do the whole job at once, what will happen to the money raised?

A: Phasing of works is a possibility but that is likely to be more expensive, so we would rather do all the work at once.

Q: What will happen if not enough money is raised to do anything – what will happen to my contribution?

A: As we have already raised over £125,000 we have raised enough to start some refurbishment if we wished to phase the work, which isn't our preference.

Q: Are there bats in the Church roof?

A: Yes, there are a very small number of Pipistrelle bats, these are been monitored by the requisite body and the bats will continue to be monitored during any building works.

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Arts Page

At this time of year we experience the harvest and we see “The Fruits of the Earth” ripen and ready to be used.

GOBLIN MARKET by Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)

Morning and evening
Maids heard the goblins cry
“Come buy our orchard fruits,
Come buy, come buy”
Apples and quinces,
Lemons and oranges,
Plump unpecked cherries,
Melons and raspberries,
Bloom-down-cheeked-peaches,
Swart-headed mulberries,
Wild free-born cranberries,
Crab-apples, dewberries,
Pine-apples, blackberries,
Apricots, strawberries:-
All ripe together.



MIGNON by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 – 1832)

Do you know the land where the lemon trees grow,
In darkened leaves the gold-oranges glow,
A soft wind blows from the pure blue sky,
The myrtle stands mute, and the bay-tree high?
Do you know it well?
It's there I'd be gone,
To be there with you, O, my beloved one!

EPIGRAMS

A Persian Heaven is eas'ly made:
'T is but black eyes and lemonade.
Thomas Moore (1770-1852)

O that I were an orange-tree,
that busy plant!
Then I should ever laden be,
and never want
Some fruit for Him that dressed me.
George Herbert (1593-1662)

BOOK REVIEW

THE LAND WHERE LEMONS GROW by Helena Attlee

Published in 2014, this book is a portrait of Italy unlike any other – it blends travel, history, art and food. The reader is guided from the lemon houses of Lake Garda through the gardens of Tuscan villas to the bergamot groves in Calabria and on to a Sicilian marmalade kitchen. It is dotted with recipes and makes the reader long for an Italian holiday. Happy reading!

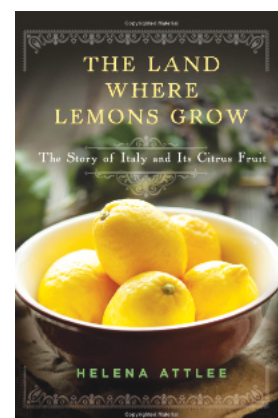
The Village's own art gallery

Where can one see fine paintings by Village and local artists? At the BMI of course. Quite possibly you have not taken too much notice of the art there, but on the walls of the lounge and the Long Room there are some stunning pictures. The displays change from time to time, and some of the pictures are on sale too.

Next time you go to the BMI, do take time to look at the display - nearly all the pictures are the work of local artists.

The picture above is a wonderful evocation of Eastgate Street in the 1940s, painted by the late John Skelton. It's a magnificent painting. This one is not for sale - the Skelton family have kept some of John's best work, but they generously allow us to see the pictures at the BMI.

PS - there are also a few paintings by local artists at the Village Hall.



50 YEARS IN UPTON

Memories and Changes

We came to live in Upton in September 1969 to a new house in Perry Orchard. We had moved from Birmingham where house for sale notices always mentioned whether there was parking for two cars and possibly room for a caravan; this did not get much of a mention in Gloucestershire house for sale advertisements. All the houses in the close had families with children; we had all moved in as soon as the houses were completed. Upton was a village filled with children then.

There was then a temporary halt to house building in Upton – Six Acres, Woodland Green, Twyver Close, Bondend Road and Perry Orchard had been completed and there was a pause of a few years before the next great stage of house-building began. Before this could happen the Motorway had to be finished and new roads constructed. The road from Upton to Hucclecote was then little more than a lane with right angled bends following the field boundaries – a very rural cycle ride.

We soon realised that Upton was a good place to enjoy family life. There was a successful Baby Sitting Circle organised by mothers who took it in turns to organise sitters and record the points gained and spent on babysitting. There was a thriving Playgroup held in the Village Hall on Tuesday and Friday mornings. This ran in conjunction with a Bus initiated by the Women's Institute. The route ran from the lower end of Portway into Gloucester along the Painswick Road. The Bus returned in time to collect children from Playgroup; these two activities made it very easy to meet and make friends.

The village seemed to be alive with children and the schools were full; the infant school at Bondend was new, the juniors went to the old village school on Churchfield Road, this school had the school pump as a feature in the

playground. Double decker buses then took the secondary school pupils to Brockworth Comprehensive School. As parents we walked our children to the Infant School and they walked with their friends to the Junior School, so there was no 'school run' and traffic at the school gates was virtually non-existent.

The Headmaster of the Upton schools was Mr Jones, he taught the children italic handwriting the result of which was to keep their writing legible even when they were adults – I speak from experience.

There were many other activities available, Brownies, Guides and Scouts, various classes in the Village Hall including Ballet and Badminton. At the Recreation Ground were the tennis courts and room for cricket and football.

Milk and bread were delivered door to door and there was also a farm shop – on a smaller scale than it is now.

The travelling Library visited regularly and parked outside the Village Hall; when I visited it was somehow comforting to see the same large book always on the shelf facing the door. Its title was GOAT HUSBANDRY. The Birchall Memorial Institute (BMI) was there for men to join, women could enter as guests only.

The September Village Show was a big event, it moved around to various venues until finding a permanent home in the Village Hall and Field. One year it was held in the field on The Stanley together with a Gymkhana. Hunts also used to meet and one Saturday lunchtime our family had the thrill of seeing the Hunt and hounds in full glory galloping across the fields at the back of our house.

I am aware that these are very personal memories. I've wanted to write them down for a long time. I will end with a phrase that has now become famous:-

Recollections may vary.

Ann Morpew



Could you foster a dog?

Cliff Alderman, our dog show judge and retired vet, suggested that we should mention this.

I'm sure you all know about adopting dogs that end up at the RSPCA or Dogs Trust, but maybe you weren't aware that both organisations are also looking for homes that will foster an animal for a while.

You can get more information from their websites:



rspca.org.uk/findapet/foster
dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/fostering

Anonymous contribution

There was a contribution (a short story) in the postbox at the Village Hall, anonymous. While we can withhold the name of a writer if requested, we cannot publish anything unless we know who wrote it.

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OCTOBER

1	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00am
2	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00am
2	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00pm
2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
3	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
3	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
3	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
3	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00pm
4	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church.....	7.30pm
4	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
4	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
7	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
8	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00am
9	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00am
9	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
10	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
10	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
10	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00pm
10	Tue	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
11	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
11	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
11	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church.....	7.30pm
11	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
15	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00am
16	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00am
16	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
17	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
17	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
17	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
17	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00pm
18	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00am
18	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
18	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
18	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church.....	7.30pm
20	Fri	"Raise the Roof" Tea (see page 11)	Old School Room	2.00pm
22	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00am
23	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00am
24	Tue	Recycling And food waste week		
24	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
24	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00pm
25	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00am
25	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30pm
25	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
25	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church.....	7.30pm
26	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room.....	10.00pm
29	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	6.00pm
29	Sun	Comedy Night	BMI	8.00pm
30	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00am
31	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45am
31	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00pm

NOVEMBER

4	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
6	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00pm
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
10	Fri	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
13	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
15	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00am
16	Thu	History Group – Social Evening	Village Hall	7.45pm
19	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.30pm
20	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
25	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
30	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room.....	10.00am

Continued over the page

D E C E M B E R

4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion	
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
9	Sat	BMI Pensioners Lunch.....	BMI	12.00pm
10	Sun	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30pm
16	Sat	Christmas Draw.....	BMI	8.00pm
18	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Sun	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night.....	BMI	8.00pm
31	Sun	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm

Contact Paula Quinn to get an event mentioned in the diary

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
NEW Pilates with Sam*	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Sam Slatter	07894 757360
Chair-based Pilates**	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Seniors Fitness	Thursdays 9.30am	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
Tai Chi	Thursdays 10.00	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	07800 569019
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

* As advertised in the September issue, Sam Slatter is running a new Pilates course in the Village Hall. Philippa Barker's courses have ceased.

** There are a few spaces at the moment in the Chair Pilates class - contact Angela Harris

FOOTBALL REPORT - Goals galore for the Under 13s

The season is now well underway for the newly enlarged USL AFC, and I'm afraid it hasn't been a great start with the notable exception of the Under 13 team. They play in the Cheltenham Youth League U13 Division 1 and have won all three games played so far, scoring 27 goals and conceding just 2.

The first team now plays in the Stroud & District League Division 2 and at the time of writing have won 1 and lost 3 games. The new second team were placed in Division 4 North of the same League, and have lost all their games so far.

The Under 16s play in the Severn Vale Youth League U16 B Division, played one, lost one, so far..



Poppy Appeal 2023

Jenny Cunningham helps to organise the Poppy Appeal at Morrisons. She writes:

“We sell the poppies from 8am until 5pm every day in the store for the 2 weeks before Remembrance Sunday. We need volunteers to be there. If you feel you can spare an hour or two, please contact me - 07890 323844 or jennycunningham46@googlemail.com.”

In the past few year there has been a tremendous response to this appeal, raising many thousands for the Royal British Legion

Can you help?

CRICKET REPORT

The season's surprise package was our Saturday second team, who won every game except for the last game where they were well beaten. But that result didn't affect the fact that they were **run away winners of their division and will be promoted**. The Saturday first team ended honourably mid-table in the County League division 6. None of the other teams fared so well - there's always next season, and it was gratifying to have so many youngsters representing the club at the various ages, and enjoying themselves.



The success of the second team inevitably means our batters and bowlers feature at the top of the performance statistics in the division. Skipper Navin Dahiya (pictured, left) tops the division batting, and club chairman Tom Warnes has the third best bowling figures for the division, closely followed by veteran Alan Preece (4th) and Krish Raghaven (7th).

With female cricket becoming so popular, the club has to work to encourage girls and women to join us, and give them opportunities to play. We do have a few girl cricketers, and they play in all of the teams. A long-term goal of the club is to have a girls/women's team (not forgetting that we had female teams in the 1950s and the 1990s).



Vic Stanley

We remember with fondness Vic Stanley, of St Leonards Close, who died at the end of August, and express our condolences to his wife Pat and children Martine and Michael.

The Stanleys moved into the village in 1996, having lived and worked in the area for some years before that.

Yvonne Harris

We sadly report the death of Yvonne Harris of Perry Orchard. Yvonne was a long-time resident of the Village, living with her mother, sister and brother-in-law (Joyce and Eddy Dance) in Churchfield Road. She moved to Perry Orchard ten or so years ago.

THANKS

Mary Stock wants to thank the many people who have helped her and her family following the death of Chris - Thank you.

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site <https://usllife.org.uk>

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

This month's editor:	Andy Russell
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Next month's editor



Barbara Swindin

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A selection of photographs from recent events that we hope you will enjoy seeing:

The Upton Show from an unusual angle.

The last Teddy Boy (Ted Gardner of course) and friend at the Gloucester Retro day.

Carol Evans finishing the preparations for the Breast Cancer Awareness tea.

And finally the open-air service for Harvest Festival, with Gloucester Brass, on a really hot September day.

