

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 122

October 2024



Upton Show - Saturday 14 September 2024



**A new Parish Website is being developed
see page 7.**

**We have a new Freeman of Upton
see page 15**

**It was a great show and the organising
committee are looking for new members to
help with next year. If you are interested,
please contact Kate Brooks**

What's Been Happening in Upton?

Twyver WI September Report

Bye bye summer, hello Autumn. We welcomed each other to the meeting, our first since July.

Our speaker for the evening was meant to be Amy Kitcher from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but unfortunately the lady was a no-show, so we all hoped that nothing untoward had happened.

Fortunately for us, we had a gentleman in our gathering for a change, and he offered to give us a short talk on Nathaniel Wells who became the first black magistrate and the Sheriff of Monmouthshire in the 1800's. Nathaniel was also the first black officer in the British Army.

He was born to a white slave owner and inherited his father's estate including all the slaves who were eventually released from servitude. He was very well thought of and is buried in Bath. More about Nathaniel's history is available online. An interesting informative talk and thanks were given.

So it was a shorter than usual but pleasant evening nevertheless, and after the usual business the meeting was adjourned.

Next gathering will be on 14th October, all are welcome.

PS. Robinswood Group, of which Twyver WI is part, have won through to the final of the WI skittles knockout tournament more details next month!

Linda Munnoch

October Upton WI Report

Gardens can be a haven for wildlife, giving us pleasure through the seasons. "If you love wildlife, you love all life" quoted our speaker David Cramp, as he explained his thoughts upon making a garden a more natural environment for wildlife.

What we plan makes a huge difference. For example buddleia is a favourite of butterflies, especially peacock and red admiral (whose caterpillars feed on nettles). Open flowers are more accessible to pollinators than double flowers; herbs are a valuable source of nectar. Even small ponds attract frogs, newts and toads, water boatmen and pond skaters. To watch a dazzling display of dragonflies is a delight on a summer's day.

There are over 600 species of spiders and autumn is the time they shine with intricately spun webs iridescent in the dew. They are in the food chain for birds as are slugs and snails, and although the latter are not the favourites of gardeners, they are important to thrushes and blackbirds and hedgehogs, which also feed on earthworms.

Hedges give protection to small birds and the berries in hedgerows are an important food source. Log piles under hedgerows are a favourite place for hibernation of hedgehogs and a hiding place for small mammals in autumn and winter. Goldfinches and other birds love seed heads and thistles. Thinking ahead and planning a garden for wildlife is a step forward for the environment and for future generations. Most of all, we get hours of pleasure.

David's talk was a delight, and he was given a warm round of applause.

We next meet on Monday 7 October at 2pm in the Pavilion. The speaker will be Pam Ridgell who is talking about her experiences as a nurse in the Royal Air Force.

Kathy Quant

October Upton Ladies Probus Report

August's speaker for our Ladies Probus Club was Angela Lerwill who told us about her book, Tales of a Sussex Family Farm. Angela only decided to write a book during the recent Covid Lockdown as she realised that her childhood, growing up on her family's mixed farm, was now definitely 'historical' as small mixed family farms are definitely a 'thing of the past'. Angela had never written a novel before so it was a challenge she decided to grab. We all enjoyed the slides & the many reminiscences - with the opportunity to buy signed copies of Angela's book.

September's meeting has Karen Gennard of Vision Care coming to talk to us.

October's meeting is on 23 October, starting at 10am in BMI & will feature Martin Fry who will delight us all again. Please come along & join us, to be transported with wonderful music & poetry to accompany Martin's stunning photography & images of the Cotswolds – A Winter Wonderland

What's Been Happening in Upton?

Abbeydale Garden Club

The Abbeydale Garden Club would love to welcome new members. The club meets monthly in the Upton Village Hall, and I have written a sort of "diary" of recent months so non-members can read about what we do, in the hope of attracting new people to our club.

April: we held a "plant and miscellaneous" sale. For a first time event we were pleasantly surprised by its success.

May: we had a speaker giving gardening tips. He brought lots of material to illustrate methods to propagate successfully. A very enjoyable talk - did you know aspirin can sometimes improve rooting - look it up!

June: our speaker talked on "Good Looking Plants", with plenty of pictures.

July: our annual Garden Party! Actually the planned venue had to be cancelled at the last minute, so we met at the Village Hall again, but we had a great evening even though the weather was disappointing.

August: is the month of our "mini" show. Actually not so small - the judges commented on the large number and high quality of entries from our small club. A really good and varied selection of vegetables and flowers were on show plus craft and photography competitions as well. . A couple of pictures from the show are on the back page

Our next meeting is on Monday 21st October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Doug Monkman

The Upstagers - providing us with 20 years of Drama and Fun

On Saturday September 7th, the UpStagers Drama Group held a 20 years anniversary celebration party.

There were members both past and present who attended. Recordings of past performances were shown on a big screen all evening, representing works over the period, everybody seemed to have a good time. All the viewings covered everyone in the room up to the latest



recruits. There was an abundance of food and drinks laid out as well.



We now hopefully look forward to another twenty years of entertainment here in Upton St Leonards. The one thing that comes to mind is that twenty years ago there was a Save Our Stage (SOS) campaign which was successful at the end of which it was said "well you saved it you better use it" That was the origin of the Group and we are still here after some 43 productions and looking forward to our Panto in February.

The club has had polo shirts made with a special 20yr Logo on the them and members who wanted them ordered them at a very low cost as the club subsidised them. Any member past or present who has not ordered one can still do so. They are available in four different colours.



As always we are forever looking for new blood to join the group.

The Upstagers



What's Coming Up in Upton?

Saturday 5th October 2024

Autumn Quiz Night

From 8.00p.m.

Please add your name to the booking sheet by
Thursday 3rd October

£1.50 per person for tables of up to 6
(Minimum £6 for tables up to 4)
Please note it is cash only for the quiz



Saturday 19th October 2024

Entertainment Night
for members and signed in guests
with

“Earl Tee”

From 8.00p.m.



Sunday 27th October 2024

“Comedy Night hosted by Nic Hill

from 8.00p.m.
with
“Mark Hurman”
“Darren Hoskins”
“Sean Percival”



Tickets for
members and
signed in guests
@ £6

(The comedy
night will include
“Adult Humour”)

Saturday 2nd November

Entertainment Night
for members and signed in guests
with

“Bak 2 Bak”

From 8.00p.m.



What's Coming Up in Upton?

Plant Daffodils round the Village

Saturday 11 October

The Parish Council thinks it is time to replenish the daffodils on the approaches to the Village and at spots in the Village. There was a huge planting effort about 25 years ago, and we see the result of this every year, but in some places damage or old age has reduced the impact.

Can you do some planting?



On Saturday 11 October we plan another effort. Please come to the Pavilion at about 10am with your dibber or spade. We will supply the bulbs and suggest where to plant them.

I would like to be reminded of places where the display has been poor in recent years, or there are none at all - can you remember and let me know! No point putting new bulbs in places where the display is still good. However, we can only plant on land owned by the Parish Council or roadside verges.

Andy Russell - on behalf of the Parish Council



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Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm on Pine Island, Minnesota

Over my head I see the bronze butterfly,
Asleep on the black trunk,
Blowing like a leaf in green shadow.
Down the ravine behind the empty house,
The cowbells follow one another
Into the distances of the afternoon.
To my right,
In a field of sunlight between two pines,
The droppings of last years horses
Blaze up into golden stones.
I lean back as the evening darkens and comes on.
A chicken hawk floats over, looking for home.
I have wasted my life.

James Wright 1927 -1980

Still I Rise

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise I rise I rise.

Maya Angelou 1928 – 2014

Choose

The single clenched fist lifted and ready,
Or the open asking hand held out and waiting.
Choose:
For we meet by one or the other.

Carl Sandburg 1878 – 1967

Prime Minister of Canada to General de Gaulle, twice President of France

My feeling about the United States is this. To live
alongside this great country is like living with your
wife. At times, at times it is difficult to live with her.
At all times it is difficult to live without her.
Lester Pearson – Nobel Peace Prize 1957

I like paying taxes, with them I buy civilization.

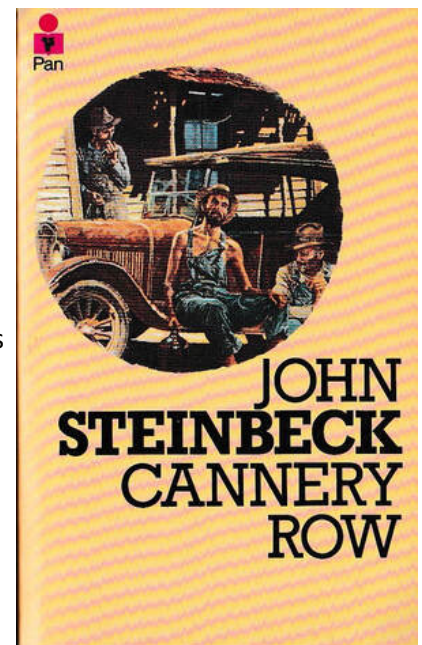
Oliver Wendell Holmes 1831 – 1945, US Supreme Court Judge

Book Review

Cannery Row by John Steinbeck 1902 – 1968

Published in
1945, Cannery
Row is set during
the Great
Depression in
Monterey,
California. The
story features a
street lined with
sardine canneries
that is known as
Cannery Row. It
features people
living there – Lee
Chong the local
grocer; Doc, a
marine biologist
and Mack the
leader of a group

of homeless people. It describes the individual
characters and tells stories that link them. It is a slim
volume and a challenging read. Will you accept the
challenge?



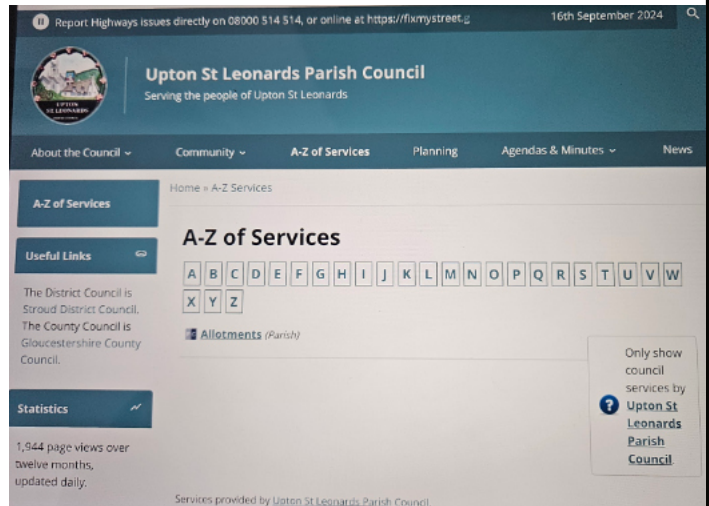
Parish Council Report

We have a New Parish Website

Several months ago, the Parish Council agreed to replace the existing parish website which was developed and launched approximately 10 years ago. A key improvement will be the inclusion of the Coopers Edge part of the Parish rather than only focusing on the village of Upton St Leonards.

The home page, shown right, is what you will see when it is finally launched in a couple of weeks time.

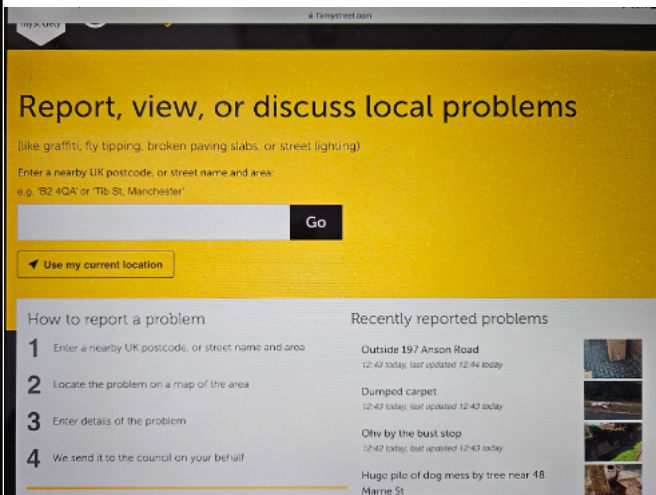
The website will be found by using a search engine for Upton St Leonards Parish Council.



The website will provide a number of functions providing such things as -

- A central hub to other websites eg Planning Portal for applications, the Church, Schools, Newsletters etc
- Latest news - eg sharing things like road closures as quickly as possible plus key events
- Information on facilities and services within the Parish
- Parish Council Meeting agendas/minutes
- Other Parish Council information eg audit performance/financials

Fix My Street (We Need Your Help!!)



This is a really useful independent website, built by the charity mySociety.

The site was developed to make it easy for problems in the community to be effectively reported to local councils across the UK. The real benefit of course is that many eyes are better than a few so if anyone spots a problem, it can be actioned quickly.

FixMyStreet is primarily for reporting things which are broken, dirty, damaged or dumped and need fixing, cleaning or clearance, eg graffiti, dog fouling, potholes or street lights that don't work.

The site also explains what it shouldn't be used for.

There are several ways to access FixMyStreet including online via website **FixMyStreet.com** or downloading a APP (available on IOS and Android).

You enter a postcode or place name, place a pin on the supplied map where the issue exists, describe the problem and send.

Of course, if you do not own a computer or smartphone, you are able to report problems to the Parish Clerk, either in person (at the Parish Office based at Upton Village Hall on Tuesdays/Thursdays 1000-1200) or in writing via Upton Village Hall postbox.

Please help us make your community the best it can be.

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Sunday



Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

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St. Leonard's Church, Upton St. Leonards

Dear Friends

As I begin to think of October my thoughts immediately go to leaves that are red and gold, darker nights, warm winter coats and woolly hats, and how long will it be before we absolutely have to put the heating on. We might have been in doubt as to when we had the summer but we will definitely not be in any doubt that winter will be on its way shortly and our part of the world will embrace another new season.

Our lives have their seasons too and October/November ushers in a season of remembrance and being thankful for those who have gone before us. There is an opportunity to come to remember your loved ones at St Leonard's Church at our Time To Remember Service which will be held at 4 pm on October 27th. The service will be gentle, with some prayers, a couple of well known hymns, a time to light candles and pause as we recall our treasured memories. Please do let us know the names of your loved ones so we may read them aloud during the service. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the school room. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

One of the hymns we shall sing is from Psalm 23 – a most well-known Psalm. It reassures us that, no matter where we are up to in the seasons of our lives, God is with us, his goodness and his mercy chase after us every day, and that one day we will be with him.

As you kick up the leaves this Autumn, remind yourself that it's good to be alive and healthy, that life moves through different seasons – although I wonder if any of us would turn down the opportunity to stay in the sun a little longer. Would you?

Rev Helen Champion



It was with great sadness that we at St Leonards church heard of the death of (Danny) Richard Stephenson at Cheltenham General Hospital on Sunday 1st September.

Richard was a long standing member of the congregation and worked quietly behind the scenes serving the church and supporting events. He was very generous and always willing to help others. He lived in the village for most of his life and will be greatly missed but always remembered.

There will be memorial service for Richard in the church on Friday 4th October at 1pm



Wow... What a spectacular evening with Taiko, the roof was certainly raised on the 31st August when we welcomed Peter Hewitt and his group of players. The bats weren't quite so keen, though they did join in by swooping in to find out what all the noise was about.



A welcome complimentary glass of wine and nibbles were served in the half time break

A big thank you goes out to Peter, his grandson Joe and the rest of the team for raising £690 For our Raise the Roof fund, it is very much appreciated



Harvest Festival

Owing to a very poor weather forecast for Sunday 8th September the decision was made to hold the service in church



instead of on The Green, An auction of the produce donated was held in the Old School Room after morning coffee and £36 was raised and dispatched for a donation to the Food Bank.

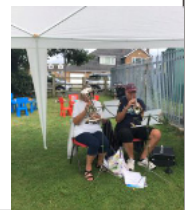


Thank you to everyone concerned, especially Gloucester Brass for their accompaniment.

The Church Fete was

held on Saturday 7th September, the weather was kind to us and no rain spoilt the afternoon. A total of £900 was raised and is a welcome addition to the church roof fund.

Thank you to everyone who helped, contributed and turned up! And a special thank you to Gill who orchestrated the event.



29th November

Ukulele Band

Songs for Christmas



Fish 'n Chip Supper

& Quiz

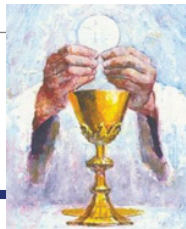
25th October

**Christmas Tree Festival
beginning 29th November**

*Please contact Gill or Sheila
if you are interested in
displaying a tree for the
festival*

Services for October 2024

6 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Celebration Service
13 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
20 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
27 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Time to Remember



Tuesday Morning Prayer

9.30 am

In the Rectory

Bondend Road

Everyone is welcome

Card Machine

The card machine is now up and running. Donations, Pay on the door events even collection can all now be paid for on your card if you wish and will be available as you enter church. Cash is still very welcome!!!

Who's Who in the Church

Parish Priest:

Rev Helen Champion

Churchwarden:

Gill Howell

Interment and burial of ashes enquiries

Church Administrator:

Jenny Cunningham

Wedding & Baptism Enquiries

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Sue Downey

PCC Secretary

Kay Hutton

Congratulations Helen!

Rev Helen has been appointed as youth worker for the Diocese, she will be working two days a week which will run alongside her days at St Leonard's church.

Well done!



Mother's Union

The Branch doesn't meet in August but our Founder, Mary Sumner is celebrated on the 9th of the month, and it is always marked with a Diocesan Picnic. This year it was held at St Phillip & St James. Hucclecote and four members attended. The weather was glorious and we enjoyed sitting in the sunshine and exploring The Peace Garden, a recent addition to the site. Unfortunately, the tree planted by Bishop Rachel at the garden's opening looked very dead!

The MU Diocesan Raffle was drawn, and we had two winners, Dorothy Cox and Sheila Hodder. The afternoon concluded with a short open-air service.

The October meeting on Thursday 17th and is a favourite when we will be again welcoming Judy Jackson to work her magic with flowers accompanied by music chosen by Margaret Bishop, both St Leonard's MU branch members who worship at St Oswald's, Coney Hill. Their chosen theme is "Autumn Floral Harmony" and afterwards the arrangements will be raffled in aid of branch funds. All are welcome to join us in the Old School Room, Bond End Road at 2pm and we finish with refreshments.

Kate Gale



The notice board by the car park finally gave up and fell to pieces during some bad weather, so it is with grateful thanks to Nigel Murrell who kindly repaired and replaced it to its former glory.
Many thanks Nigel, grand job



Keep your eye on it for future events

Tower light dedications

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

*If you or your family wish to sponsor the lights in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or for any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details.
Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 8th of the preceding month.*

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 Thursday 17th October 2024, 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 18 years ago.

500 Club Winners for August

First Prize	£30	30
Second Prize	£20	43

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Information

Upton School - Latest Ofsted Report - Outstanding!

The report from the Ofsted inspection of our school here in Upton St Leonards in June has been published recently and rated as Outstanding. The Inspectors said in their report that, "Pupils at Upton St Leonards are enthusiastic learners who enjoy coming to school". The school's vision of 'building foundations for a love of life, a love of learning and a love of one another' lies at the heart of the school. Pupils benefit from deeply embedded values that underpin the school's culture.

Mrs Sarah Broadbent, Executive Headteacher, said, "We are so proud of our school and are thrilled that the inspection team recognised what a special place it is! This report validates what leaders already know; that children receive an excellent education on a day-to-day basis thanks to a talented team of staff & governors who work tirelessly together, to do the very best for the children we serve.

I am so thankful for that, as well as our our loving, respectful and enthusiastic pupils, and the generous support that we receive from our parent/ carer body and from others who contribute to the work of the school. Our school vision: 'Building foundations for a love life, a love learning and love one another', along with a set of core values, underpins everything we seek to achieve here at the school; I am so pleased that the inspection team noted that fact at the very start of their report.

We now look forward to continuing to strengthen the work of the school further.



"Raise the Roof" Latest - It's not all about the money!

Recent events continued to increase the value of the roof fund but have also provided other opportunities. The Barn Dance brought together some 400 revellers listening to and packing the floor dancing to three bands. The bands all loved performing and do not often get to play to such large appreciative audiences many of whom were from outside the village.

Robert and Norma Spratt opened their garden giving visitors an afternoon of enjoyment prompting the thought of repeating the event with more villagers opening their gardens. The Brass Band were delighted to perform in the church and the Taiko band Concert was well received giving Peter Hewitt's drummers loud expression and delight at performing in front of an audience.

So, the benefits of the events are not just financial because we bring together enjoyment to the community and stage events that provide a platform for performers.

This of course brings us on to future events that we hope you will support and enjoy

Friday 29th November: Ukulele Band and TLC choir in the Church (7pm)

Friday 25th October: Fish and Chip Supper in the School Room (6.30pm)

From Wednesday 27th November: Christmas Tree Festival in the Church

Calendars featuring St Leonards Church through the seasons will be on sale soon.

The total amount secured for the project now stands at just under £186,000 at mid September

Richard Sugdon

Information

Sports Report

Football

The 2024-25 season is well under way for the Upton St Leonards teams. This year there are two adult teams, who usually play on Saturday afternoons, and just one youth team, Under 17s. They usually play on Saturday mornings and compete in the Severn Valley Youth League. The adult 1st team plays in the Stroud & District Football League Division 2, and you may recall that they narrowly avoided relegation last year by winning some of their final games. The reserves were relegated and now play in Division 5 North in the Stroud League.



Cricket



The 2024 season finished last month. The adult teams (1st, 2nd and Wednesday) all had reasonable seasons, no-one got promoted, no one got relegated, and won about half of all adult games. The youth team at Under 15s only played 5 games, winning 2. But many of the Under 15 players joined in the adult games, a very good sign. The Under 13s were brilliant, winning all 9 of their games, and the Under 11s were nearly as good, winning 5 and losing 1. The Under 9s had a great time and won 2 games, lost 5. We ran a very successful "Dynamos" course for boys and girls in school years 3-6. So the youth cricket is very healthy at Upton St Leonards. However, the club is suffering, like so many organisations, from lack of volunteers to do the work behind the playing teams: team managers / coaches, admin, groundsmen. The 2025 season may be tough, as we face retirements of Chairman, Secretary, two coaches, head groundsman. Would any readers like to help in the background? Contact Andy Russell

New Kissing Gate

A new gate has been installed just off The Portway near Manor Farm (see photo).



For those people who would like to enjoy a leisurely walk to Prinknash Cafe but found the high stiles a bit difficult to get their leg over, the good news is the hard working Footpath Team has now installed a kissing gate in its place.

This means it is now possible to walk from the village to Prinknash without climbing any stiles

The tasty bacon butties and cakes await your visit!

Freedom of Upton - we have a new Freeman!!

Graham Hayes who has served as a A Parish Councillor earlier this year announced that after 41 years, he had decided to retire from the Parish Council.

As a result of such dedication and long service, the Parish Council discussed how they could mark Graham's retirement. It was decided to honour him by awarding him the 'Freedom of Upton'

Graham was presented with his scroll at the recent Upton Show by Parish Council Chairman, Keith Pearson. We look forward to seeing Graham drive his sheep down Churchfield Road!!



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

VILLAGE DIARY

OCTOBER

1	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden waste for those with Brown bins		
1	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
1	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
2	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m
2	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
2	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
2	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30p.m.
5	Sat	Autumn Quiz`	BMI.....	8.00p.m.
6	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.30p.m.
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
8	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
8	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
8	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45a.m.
8	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m
9	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
9	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30p.m.
9	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI	8.00p.m
10	Thu	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
13	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00a.m.
14	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00a.m.
14	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30p.m.
15	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden waste for those with brown bins		
15	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45a.m.
15	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
16	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
16	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
19	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
20	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	BMI	7.30p.m.
22	Tue	Recycle and food waste week		
22	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
22	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m
22	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
23	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
23	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30p.m.
23	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
27	Sun	Comedy Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
28	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI	10.00a.m.
29	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week/Garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
30	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
30	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
30	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30p.m.
30	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
31	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00p.m.

NOVEMBER

2	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
16	Sat	Casino Night	BMI	7.30p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.

20	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
21	Thu	History Group – Katherine of Aragon – Gillian White	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
23	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Sun	Sunday lunchtime Jazz	BMI	1.00-3.30p.m.
28	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
D E C E M B E R				
2	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion	2.30p.m.
2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
7	Sat	BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch	BMI	12.00p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for January issue of USL Life		
14	Sat	BMI Christmas Draw	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Tue	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
25	Wed	Christmas Day		
26	Thu	Boxing Day		
31	Tue	New Year’s Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to have 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
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.45pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Tai Chi	Thursdays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Christina Caldwell	
Pilates with Sam	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Sam Slatter	07894 757360
Seniors Fitness	Tuesdays 10am	Pavilion	Ian Preston	07306 334222

Silver Singers Choir

Originally started as part of Age Concern, Silver Singers choir meet on Thursdays from 10.30am for coffee or tea and biscuits, then sing from 11 until 12. We meet at St Mary's, Archdeacon Street, which has a car park, and perform a few concerts a year, the latest being at St Mary de Crypt last Saturday, for part of the Heritage celebrations.

We are an aging choir, and numbers are dropping, which means our £2 per session is not always covering our costs to use the church. We try to sing in three parts but are low on male singers, and would really like to welcome more members so that we can continue to benefit from the healthy improvements of social interaction, increased breathing capabilities and regular laughter! The singing is good fun as well! We sing a wide range of easy songs and even if you think you cannot sing, we will encourage you to take part.

There is no lower age limit, and anyone with good music knowledge is very welcome as well! If you would like to speak to anyone without commitment, contact Janine Black

Volunteers Wanted Poppy Appeal 2024

We sell the poppies from 8am until 4pm every day in

Morrisons for the 2 weeks before Remembrance Sunday. If you feel you can spare an hour or two, please contact me, Jenny Cunningham. Thank you so much, Jenny.

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Upton St. Leonards and Morrisons



2024 Upton Show Saturday 14 September

The weather was kind to us and I am sure helped the excellent attendance I saw on Saturday.

It was good to see so many families enjoying the show, the number of competition entries in the marquee plus the popular dog show.

The show finished with presentations to all the competition prize winners (a committee review and winner details will be provided in the November edition).

Graham Hayes was presented with the Freedom of Upton in recognition of his service to the village as a parish councillor for 41 years - a feat very unlikely to be seen again.

A big thank you and well done to the Committee and all volunteers.

Editor



Half a century of cleaning at the Pavilion

Fifty years ago (plus or minus a few, we can't remember!) Bob and Ann Tranter took on the job of a weekly clean of the Pavilion. Latterly their sons helped some times. It was only a couple of hours a week, but it was much needed.

They have kept going almost without any breaks until they finally gave up the job at the end of August. What a huge stint! We are most grateful to the Tranter family for carrying on this work for so long.

The Parish Council will be making a presentation to the Tranters to mark the occasion, and by the time you read this, we'll have had a lunch together at the BMI.

Andy Russell, Pavilion Manager - on behalf of the Parish Council

Ben and Gabby's Wedding

We extend hearty congratulations and our best wishes to Ben and Gabby, of Perry Orchard, who were married in the church in August.



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Next month's editor - Barbara Swindin



Use the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page to pass messages to us.

Obituary



With sadness we announce the death of Richard (Danny) Stevenson. Danny has lived in the Village for most of his adult life, in the cottage his parents purchased. He loved the village, always grateful for having people he knew around him. After National Service he worked at British Telecom until retiring about 20 years ago.

In the village he kept an eye on the Pavilion, checking that doors were locked and lights were off. He was a very regular church member and a most generous giver to the church. I am sure he'd like us to mention thankfully Carol Baker, Carol Price and Gill Howell who helped him cope as he became less able to look after himself in the last few years. He will be missed.

For anyone who knew Danny, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving on Friday October 4th, 1pm at St Leonard's Church. Upton St Leonard's Glos.

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Abbeyle Garden Club - August 2024 Mini-Show



CCS Taiko in the Church

It was fantastic! The Gloucester group CCS Taiko gave us a most unusual evening. The Japanese style drumming was not only for the ears, but for eyes: movements choreographed with each drummer swaying and using body, arms and sticks,



synchronised to emphasise the performance. I hope the first picture gives an impression of the choreography. Most of the drums here are untuned, Nagado-daiko, and the group also used smaller Shime-daiko drums which can be tuned. The sound can be very loud, but the band moved between strong rhythmic passages to

smooth quiet phrases. The second picture is Oliver performing a solo on the big drum, the O-daiko.



Taiko has been a very important and historic part of Japanese culture for many years. Peter Hewitt, the band's founder, explained what we were seeing and hearing and talked about the culture - his words made the evening yet more memorable. Peter's article in last May's issue talks about how this band started and its work with special needs children at Milestone School, who respond amazingly.

When they perform again in the Village (that's when, not if!), come and listen and hear and see for yourself.

PS the performance raised nearly £700 for the "Raise the Roof" fund. Thanks to the band, and the church people who provided a glass of wine in the interval.



Upton Book Swap Shed



Laura & Jenna

You may have seen our village book swap exchange is up and running! The Book Swap Shed has been kindly provided by the Upton Builders and Upton Coffee House family for everyone to use.

There is already a wide range of books on offer and you are very welcome to pop by and help yourself to any book(s) that take your fancy. If you have any books that you would like to share with others please leave them on the shelves.

The lower shelves in the shed now have a variety of children's books. If your children have finished/grown out of any of their books please think about donating them for others to enjoy.

So why don't you go along and have a look, the Book Swap Shed is open Monday to Saturday between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.