

Upton St Leonards Life incorporating Church News

Issue 73

September 2020



USL LIFE IS 6 YEARS OLD!

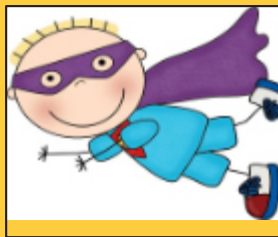
To all our readers and advertisers may we thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

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13 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

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12th September to
Andrea Dawson



See Page 17 for current entrants

An Updated trail will be posted on the
USL Community Facebook Page

**JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE ON
20th SEPTEMBER**

Winners will be announced in the next
issue of USL Life and on the
USL Community Facebook Page
1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes to be won

September heralds the beginning of Autumn when we gather in the harvest, so this month's issue features a unique article on Orchards in Upton, courtesy of Richard Rowles on page 7, an article on allotments on page 8 and gardening and its health benefits on page 15.



Local resident,
Richard Rowles
winning prizes as
far afield as
Cornwall with
his traditional
cider making
skills.



**Gardeners Unite Against
Coronavirus!**



This month's
Feature Article can
be found on
page 7

Read about the
amazing survival
of one of our
residents

Editorial



USL Support Helpline

This letter, sent to all those who volunteered, comes from the Parish Council, responsible for setting up the Helpline, and from the management team that ran it.

We've had no calls to the Helpline since 6 July, so it looks as if the need has gone away. Accordingly, we have stood down the team who were manning the phone (though the phone will be left on and checked once a day for messages, just in case). We hope this means that people have now arranged all the help they need – a good situation.

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for volunteering to help when it was needed. In all we took something like 170 calls asking for help. One or two of the

volunteers were never actually called upon, we know, but that makes no difference to our wish to thank you all most sincerely. It gives great credit to our Village and near neighbours that we were able to have our Helpline going, quickly set up, and working so well. We hope that, through this activity, new friendships have been made, and that we are all more aware of some people who are vulnerable or lonely in this area whether there is a virus or not.

Let's hope this sort of emergency doesn't arise again, but if it does, we are sure that, having done it once, we can set up any support needed again.

Keith Pearson, Chairman, Parish Council

Andy Russell, Management Team Leader

Hadwen Pharmacy Home Delivery Service

Hadwen Pharmacy offers the Electronic Prescription Service, which allows you to choose or "nominate" a pharmacy to get your medicines from. Your GP then sends your prescription electronically to the place you have nominated. This means even if you are using Barnwood, Painswick, Askwith Rd or Aspen Medical Practice you can have your prescriptions sent electronically to Hadwen Pharmacy for collection.

There are a number of advantages to this system:

If you normally collect your repeat prescriptions from your GP you will not have to visit your GP practice to pick up your paper prescription, thus saving you time.

You will have more choice about where to get your medicines from because they can be collected from the pharmacy near to where you live, work or shop.

You may not have to wait at the pharmacy as your repeat prescription is prepared before you arrive. Other pharmacies offer a similar service.

Hadwen Pharmacy provides a free home delivery service



for those without transport, those with disabilities or older people. It has become invaluable during the lockdown period and is greatly valued by those who use it. To join the scheme just ring Hadwen Pharmacy on 303182 and speak to Louise the supervisor, she will be able to advise you. Their shop is small and they hold a limited stock but they are always happy to order in anything you require online and have it in stock the next day usually.

What a brilliant service we have on our doorstep.
Millie Barnes

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What's been happening in Upton?

Bingo at the BMI

On Wednesday 5th August, the weekly bingo evening started once again. This was most welcome for the regular members, and for the first evening since the lockdown in early March. It was a pleasure to see each other once again. Social distancing was adhered to and everyone agreed that it was good to be back!

For any BMI club members that may like to come along, the evening begins at 8.00p.m.

With regret the two events provisionally booked for September, the "Autumn Quiz" on 19th and the lunchtime "Jazz" on 20th have had to be cancelled.

BMI Charities



During the last twelve months from June 2019 to the end of May 2020, various events were held at the BMI with the proceeds going to two nominated charities.



These were Gloucester Young Carers and the Air Ambulance. These events included the weekly bonus ball, raffles and quizzes.

The members who participated in these events should be extremely proud of themselves as they have generated a total of £2514. Cheques to the value of £1257 have now been sent to each of the charities.

Thank you all for your efforts.

Paula Quinn

USL LIFE AGM ZOOM MEETING - 11 August 2020

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated prior to the evening. These were duly agreed and signed as a true record.

Chairman, Pete Wilson, reminded everyone that, as part of our constitution, USL Life is obliged to hold an AGM where its overall performance is shared with members and the wider community. The report covered the 2019 calendar. The newsletter has continued to operate in the black for the 5th year running and has, as yet, had no need to seek financial backing from the Parish Council.

Team changes in 2019 resulted in Chris Ellson stepping down after 5 years as a Proof Reader. Thanks were given for her commitment and Pam Tickner was welcomed as her replacement. We were **fortunate** to recruit Barbara Swindin as our 4th Editor and pleased to see how much she is enjoying her involvement with the team. A successful and very enjoyable fund raiser was held with the involvement of Janine Black's family.

The Board of Directors meet quarterly and, as a cost saving measure, decided to appoint Brothertons as our new Auditors. Thanks were given to all those in the USL Life Team.

Owen Stinchcombe, Treasurer, reported that a small profit had been made as costs had been reduced despite turnover being down. Janine Black, Advertising Sales Co-ordinator, reported that advertisers had remained steady with very few losses. Gratitude was expressed for the continuity of our regular contributors. It was agreed, however, to seek another team member to focus on gaining additional advertising, with an advertisement being placed in the September 2020 issue.

Directors, Peter Wilson, Andy Russell, Clifford Alderman, Paul Rosewell and Owen Stinchcombe, Chairman (PW), Treasurer (OS) and Secretary (CA) were all re-elected en bloc.

AOB: Newsletter distributors had initially reduced at lockdown, more people have since been recruited.



Now that the USL Support Helpline has ceased to be needed we would like to thank Paul and Diana who kindly provided refreshments for those who manned the Helpline phone earlier in the month.

It was a much appreciated gesture by all those involved. By working together and helping others, new friendships have emerged and bonds have been cemented, whilst we all learn to adapt to our current environment.

What's coming up in Upton?



The GFWI Zoom Lecture Series

Dear Members

After the sad news from Denman, closing for good, I have recovered somewhat helped by the fact that the Zoom series "Denman at Home" will continue and expand. As it stated in the letter from NFWI, all payments made to Denman will be refunded. If you have Denman Vouchers you will need to apply direct to Denman for a refund.

With the current situation improving only very slowly and meetings still being problematic we are building up an "At Home with GFWI" programme delivered by Zoom.

Below you will see the events for September which will continue for the foreseeable future. Tickets at £4 can be purchased through Eventbrite.co.uk and will be sent to your email. They can be watched by multiple people. I am trying to provide a wide range of subjects so that there is something for everyone. If anyone has any suggestions, I would be pleased to hear them.

10th Sept - The Weird and Wonderful World of the Law
15th Sept - Behind the Scenes at Quiz Show
22nd Sept - Elizabeth Fry

Abridged; Janice Coleman, Federation Chairman

Twyver WI Committee will be holding a Zoom meeting at the beginning of September to ascertain how we may proceed with holding meetings in the Village Hall.

At the time of this issue going to press arrangements are being put in place for a speaker via a Zoom meeting.

Upton Wi

Will meet on Monday, 5th October at 7.30pm for a Cheese and Wine Social Gathering in the Village Hall.

Social distancing rules will apply.

Did you know that Britain's 1st Women's Institute opened in Wales on 11th September 1915?



Healthy Living Group



Following Michael Mosley's Channel 4 series "Lose a Stone in 21 Days" it's good to know we have our own Healthy Living Group here in Upton. This autumn we will be running a class similar to Mosley's approach but calling it "Reverse Your Type 2" and regaining your health. So, if you are worried about how you would survive Covid 19 or have concerns about your health or weight, then come and join our Zoom meet up on Wed 23rd September.

We will be discussing all things health related and signing up people for our autumn classes on Zoom. Successful classes have been running during lockdown which are attached to Medical practices, both here in Gloucester and one just outside Bournemouth. The health improvement from these classes is very impressive to date, with people coming off their medication and feeling younger and full of energy. Everyone welcome.

Millie Barnes

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NGS GARDENS

THE FOLLOWING GARDENS HAVE CONFIRMED OPENINGS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020

Tickets for these gardens need to be booked in advance on the NGS website.

[https://ngs.org.uk/product category/garden-tickets/](https://ngs.org.uk/product-category/garden-tickets/)

SEPTEMBER

Friday 4th

The Garden at Miserden, nr Stroud, GL8 7JA

Sunday 6th Highnam Court, Gloucester, GL2 8DP

Sunday 13th

- The Coach House, Church Lane, Ampney Crucis, GL7 5RY
- Clouds Rest, Brockweir, NP16 7NW
- The Patch, Brockweir, NP16 7PJ
- Trench Hill, Sheepscombe, GL6 6TZ

Wednesday 23rd Green Bough, Market Lane, Greet, GL54 5BL

OCTOBER

Sunday 4th Awkward Hill Cottage, Bibury, GL7 5NH

Are you able to help?

UPTON ST LEONARDS SCHOOL

The school is looking to appoint a new Co-opted Governor. Term of office 3 years.

These are Governors who are not elected by parents or staff. An interest or knowledge of finance, management or HR would be most useful, but a willingness to provide time and support is the most important attribute.

Here is an indication of the time commitment.

Full Governors meeting 4 x 1.5 hours.

One committee - 4x1 hour

One area of responsibility

Eg a faculty or an element of school improvement.

Max of 3 x 1 hr + write up time total 4/5 hrs



We do have occasional need for disciplinary or complaints meetings.

So about 20 hours over the year of essential time.

But the fun part is what you can get involved in - Events - plays, performances, extra body on trips etc. Flying the flag for the school. Meeting children at good times.

If anyone can give the time we would love you on board.

For further information or just a chat contact Neil Eley, Chair of Governors
chair@upton-st-leonards.gloucs.sch.uk

Upton St Leonards Life

Is looking for someone to contact local businesses willing to advertise in our publication. This may require you to make sales calls or send emails. Ideally you would be happy working on your own initiative, but at the same time, being supported by an established team. The position is voluntary but small expenses would be covered.

Interested parties to contact Andy Russell



The Macmillan Coffee Morning will take place at the Post Office on Friday, 25th September from 10 am. Social distanced seating will be available.

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RESPECT, PROTECT, ENJOY

PICK UP YOUR RUBBISH AND TAKE IT HOME - AND HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

Ongoing help is needed in combating the litter and fly tipping scourge. Sadly, this blight on our village is increasing. Is it due to increased footfall from local walkers? I doubt it, or is it simply down to a lack of respect for the environment from those who pass through?



Whilst we have our own annual Litter Pick, supported by those that regularly pick up others' rubbish, let us continue to fight this particular battle as best we can. Last week an abandoned child's slide was left propped up against a hedge on Nuthill and an abandoned motorcycle at the entrance to Kites Hill, a photograph of which was kindly sent in by one of our readers. Did the owners imagine they would disappear into thin air?



Another resident, near Bondend Lane collected two large bags of used, some unused, curry paste jars and a load of empty beer bottles that someone had just dumped. These selfish acts spoil our environment and cause angst to those that are public spirited enough to deal with the detritus left by others.

This month the police have intervened on selfish parking, (see page 19) and are asking people to observe parking signs and road markings before blocking access to people's homes and community facilities.

On a more positive note, special mention and thanks must go to the two young men who took it upon themselves to advertise a litter pick on the USL Facebook Community page. Between them they collected 5 bags of rubbish from the village. We definitely need more of you!!!



CYCLISTS TAKE NOTE

A resident was recently forced to jump out of the way, as a cyclist in his forties, came flying round the corner in 'Dirty Lane', near the school. When the resident shouted at him, she was confronted with an unprintable remark.

The concern is, if that had been an elderly person, or a young child, they would not have stood a chance.

Cyclists please remember that the footpaths in the village are for pedestrians only.



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Orchards in Upton

I have lived in Upton on and off since I was three years old. I moved back to the village in 2014 with my wife Emma and son Daniel. Since living in Twyver Close we have had another boy, Ollie.

I have always had an interest in rural landscape, history and associated wildlife. My interest grew following attendance at the village History group and a talk on cidermaking in Gloucestershire.

I am lucky enough to have sight of a huge Blakeney Red pear tree from my garden and whilst it is past its productive years, it still held on as a remnant of what had been a common sight in the village several decades ago.

In times gone by Gloucestershire was prized for its perry pear growing and it has been said that beyond the three counties, perry pears are extremely rare. There is an old wives' tale that perry pear trees will only grow to their best when they are within sight of May Hill. The Blakeney red, which originates from the village of the same name on the bank of the River Severn, was a multi-purpose pear which had culinary use and was canned, pressed for perry and produced a dye that was used for khaki military uniforms, the pear that won the war – it gave the Tommy good drink, good food and clothes on his back!



The perry pear trees that remain as part of the Gloucestershire landscape do so, not only due to their prevalence in the county, but also their longevity compared with generally smaller apple trees. Indeed, a perry pear tree can easily live beyond 300 years. The development that infilled the village in the 60 & 70's



ironically assumed the names of the orchards that the houses supplanted (Perry Orchard, Staites Orchard, Whornes Orchard.) Using Google Earth from the 1940's we can see the

orchards and farmland that hadn't yet been developed. The regular pattern of the orchards is clear where the school now stands (2 trees remain, 1 very visible at the front of the school on the play area to the left), the infill of Bondend Lane now enclosed by Twyver Bank and the remnants of Commelines Farm where some fine Blakeney Red trees still stand at over 40 feet tall and a single tree of an unknown variety of cider apple.

Following the talk at the village History group, I joined the Gloucestershire Orchard Group and took my young boys to some of the open days hosted by Days Cottage Cider in Brookthorpe. I decided to plant several small rootstock cider apples in the garden to complement the eating apples we already had. I was going to try to plant, harvest and then

produce my own local cider! I was keen to maintain the Gloucestershire heritage varieties and included the Cambridge Queening in my new 'orchard.'

Obviously, my trees would take several years to start producing fruit so I started to contact local landowners that had cider apple and perry pear trees on their land to ask if I could collect their fruit. A few friends who had common interests in food & drink provenance, sustainability and heritage agreed to collect apples from around the village and assist with the production. Seriously though they just liked cider and were hopeful for some of the completed produce!

I built my own cider press and bought an old 1940's Lister of Dursley single cylinder stationary engine to power my homemade scrapper. Unlike grapes, prior to pressing, apples and pears require scratting (or milling) to create a pulp which is then made into a cheese before being pressed. The scrapper consists of a spiked roller that acts against either a fixed surface or ideally against another counter rotating roller. You pour the fruit into the scrapper and it mashes the fruit into a pulp.

My friends, family and I spent several weekends collecting the fruit, scratting and pressing the fruit to collect the golden juice. The juice was left with its natural yeasts to undergo the slow fermentation process through the autumn. The juice was then racked (decanted) into another vessel to remove the used yeast cells at Christmas.

As spring came around the bubbles started to rise as traditionally the liquid is said to wake from winter dormancy with the onset of the apple blossom!

In May the cider was bottled ready for consumption in the summer. The tasting notes from the first year described the drink as somewhat 'robust' compared with supermarket specials but now, following several seasons and some trial and error, I continue to experiment with different varieties and the cider and perry are becoming much smoother and better tasting. So much so that in 2018 and 2019 I was placed in the cider making competition held at the Royal Cornwall Show!



Cider making has quickly become a tradition every Autumn in Twyver Close and we have great fun with my family and friends when we start producing next year's drinks. Daniel, now 6, particularly looks forward to the leaves changing on the trees, knowing that scratting day is coming and he can start up the O' Lister engine.

With thanks to Richard Rowles

A 'Potted' History of Allotments in the UK

At this time of writing, the vast majority of us will probably have spent significantly more time in our gardens and allotments due to Covid-19. Gardening in its many forms has provided solace and a greater sense of purpose to many and now in September, our efforts are being rewarded with a wonderful array of produce to be harvested once more.

Whilst I no longer have an allotment, I did once have a plot in the Stanley where I proudly spent a happy afternoon with my young son, planting onion sets. As the afternoon drew to a close we were excited to show 'Daddy' the result of our labours only to met with a wry smile and the comment – 'Very neat, but you've planted them upside down!' At that point, it occurred to me that I might not be a natural gardener. It did however start me thinking about how allotments came about and this is what I discovered

Allotments are the result of two separate movements, both of which ultimately derive from the 12th century open field (ridge and furrow) system. The allotment movement commenced in the 1760's following a debate on the perceived advantages of allotments which appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.



The main arguments in support of allotments were that they would reduce crime, immorality and the need for Poor Relief – particularly in the towns. Poor Relief was funded by parish ratepayers and it had risen from a total of £700,000 in 1750 to £8m by 1850!

The second movement, starting in the mid-1800's, resulted from Enclosure when Fuel Allotments were established. Prior to Enclosure, smallholders had the right to take various produce, such as gorse, heather and peat, from common land to warm their homes. That right had existed over common land which was often quite sizeable and, overall, between 4 and 5 million acres of common land were enclosed.

The period 1870 - 1945 saw the biggest growth in the number of allotments, with the numbers increasing from 243,000 in 1873 to 445,000 in 1890 following the

Allotment Act of 1887, and 600,000 in 1913, following the Small Holdings and Allotment Act of 1908. They subsequently peaked at 1.5 million during the First World War and 1.75 million during the Second World War. This was largely due to changes in local government organisation and food shortages during the Wars.



Home food production was highly productive in terms of land use and during the Wars it was estimated that allotments contributed some 1.3 million tons from 1.4 million plots. However by the 1970's, due to hard pressed local authorities selling allotment land for housing development, the numbers dwindled to around 500,000. By 1996 the figures had dropped to 300,000 plots but then there was an upsurge of interest in growing crops, epitomised by the 1970's series 'The Good Life'.

The latest survey in 2013 surveyed all 323 English principal authorities and 321 responded. The main findings were that 67% of the authorities held waiting list data and an average of 52 people were waiting for every 100 plots. Waiting lists are essential to assess demand for plots and to ensure financial viability of sites.

The Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) survey their members each year (140 responses) and, in the 2018 State of the Market Report (Allotments), they reported that the demand for allotments is still high. Over 40% of respondents stated that over 18 months was the average waiting time for a plot, which is a significant drop from 2017 when the figure was 52%. 9% of respondents could guarantee a plot within 6 months which is a considerable decrease on 2017 when the figure was 20%. The average waiting time is now between 6-18 months (47%). Under 5% of respondents can offer an allotment plot within 3 months.

Andrea Dawson

To find out more about Upton Allotments and when they started, please turn to page 15.



St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Priest in Charge: Rev Clodagh Ingram



“The Church is the People and the People are the Church”. Tradition holds that the first church was founded in Antioch (Acts 11:20-21) where it is recorded that the disciples of Jesus were first called Christians. It was probably a gathering in a small room, possibly in the house of someone sympathetic to the cause. Jesus didn't need a building and of course little St Leonard's couldn't hold 5000 for a feast of bread loaves and fishes, but for many of us, I suspect, the “Church” does mean the building. We are blessed to have a beautiful 13th Century Grade 2 star-listed building in the heart of the Village, probably standing on the site of an earlier stone church built in the 1190s. So there is much history and dedication from and by our predecessors and an obligation for us as the current generation to ensure the building's continued survival.

Rev James has asked me to use his usual slot to update readers on the condition of the church building and I hope you will find this of interest. The 5-yearly cycle inspection of the church's fabric (and the churchyard) - the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) - is a comprehensive review both of internal and external features by an experienced architect with the latest QI received in January this year. Following the previous QI report, Churchwarden Keith, with colleague Mike Blanch and a team of keen and skilled volunteers have completed many of the required repairs – such as the Vestry flat roof, Vestry internal walls, the stone flooring slabs in front of the pulpit/lectern, the south aisle corner wall, the boiler heating ducting, electric upgrade etc – a long list. In the Bell Tower, Charlie and his team have similarly improved the conditions in their hideaway up there.



The latest QI runs to 52 pages of text and pictures – lot of information and recommendations to take into account! It acknowledges the work already done and has again highlighted the impact of weather and time on the building's exterior. The most significant issue is the condition of the roof surfaces – and there are many. When next in the churchyard, please have a look upwards and see how many roof surfaces you can count (*clue on next page*). The surfaces are of differing material - Cotswold Stone throughout apart from the South aisle (Victorian addition) which is Welsh Slate - and all will require specialist and expensive hand tooled treatment and replacement. This means we will have to bid for a substantial grant (a lengthy process) to cover the extensive work required, but nevertheless we aim for the work to be completed by the end of 2021.

Contd. on next page.....

Curate: Rev James Turk



St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Of more urgent need now is repair to the rain dispersal elements to make the building as weatherproof as we can for the forthcoming wet and windy winter. The gutters and drainpipes are cast iron, are blocked, rusting and in need of much TLC. We need a professional drainage survey to identify issues (*think DynoRod with a camera*) and the optimum drainage routes, and an archaeological survey in view of the extensive burial grounds. Work is already in hand with our very supportive QI architect to identify and commission specialist contractors to protect the church against the ravages of winter.

Don't forget to look up at the roofs when you pass by!

(CLUE: East direction is towards Village Green and the BMI, South towards the Recreation Ground. The roof surfaces are: Porch west and east slopes; Snell chapel north and south slopes; North aisle north and south slopes; Nave north and south slopes; Chancel (altar end) north and south slopes; South side chapel with stained glass window next to vestry (organ) - north and south slopes; Vestry – east and west slopes and flat roof; South aisle north and south slopes. TOTAL 16 slopes, one flat section). WELL DONE IF YOU MANAGED TO GET THEM ALL!

Roy Roberts

PCC Member

Congratulations



Congratulations to Sophie and Daryl Perkins on the arrival of Arlo Alexander on 7th August, weighing in at 7 lb 2 oz Mum, Dad and baby are all doing well.



Welcome to the church family Arlo, we all wish you, health, happiness and much love and look forward to meeting you soon.

Photo with kind permission of Sophie & Daryl

Opening of Church

Every Sunday the church is open from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon for private prayer and quiet reflection. Please also remember to bring along your own Bible and/or prayer book as we are unable to use the ones in church.

Further updates on when services will recommence will be advertised in Pew News, Notice Boards and Whatsapp group

Please note: face covering is now mandatory in church

If you would like to join the Friends of St Leonard's Whatsapp group or you know someone who would please text James

Please contact James if you would like the link via email

You can have Pew News, delivered into your inbox every week. Please contact

Rachel Middleton

Leave your name and email address and enter Church News in the subject box

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Tower Floodlighting

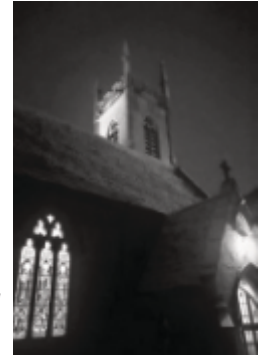
2020

The Church Tower was lit on the 7th August in loving memory of Audrey Bright who passed away on the 20th July 2020, aged 94. Sadly missed by all the family.

On the 8th September, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Norma Brinkley, who passed away this day in 1993. Kindly sponsored by her son Alan.

On the 19th September, the Church Tower is lit to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Neil and Penny Owen

If you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday/anniversary/Baptism or in remembrance of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will help us too. Please note that the deadline of the Church Pages of USL Life is the 10th of the preceding month.



Mary Sumner Day - 9th August

Mothers' Union celebrates the life of its founder, Mary Sumner, on the day she died in 1921. (A short resume of her life appeared in the August edition of USL.) Usually there is a Diocesan picnic with members meeting at different venues from year to year across the county but due to Covid 19 this was impossible. So the St Leonard's Branch decided to hold their own (socially distanced, of course) on the Church Field. 12 members attended and it was very special as the last time they had met was in February before the lock down. The weather was perfect, as was the shade provided by the large tree opposite the old school. There was plenty to chat about as well as enjoying their packed teas. The afternoon closed with Mary Sumner's personal prayer:-



All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;

and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,

whether through the word I speak,

the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.

Amen



It is hoped the Branch will be able to meet on Thursday 17th September 2pm at St Oswald's Church Hall as long as all the Covid requirements can be met. Members will be informed nearer the date as to the details. Please note, if held there will be change from the advertised programme with Margaret Bishop & Judy Jackson presenting "Floral Harmony" - a presentation of flower arranging & music. There won't be the usual Bring & Buy table.

Kate Gale – Branch Leader

St Leonard's Church News

Website: www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk



September Readings

Sunday 6 th	Romans 13: 8 - end Matthew 18: 15 - 20
Sunday 13 th	Romans 14: 1 - 12 Matthew 18: 21 - 35
Sunday 20 th	Jonah 3: 10 - end of Chapter 4 Matthew 20: 1 - 16
Sunday 27 th	Philippians 2: 2 - 13 Matthew 21: 23 - 32

Ride & Stride

September 12th 2020

The church will be open between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm for riders and striders who would like to pop in and see our lovely church and rest a while.

Local residents out for a stroll would also be very welcome.

Please wear a mask when entering the church and observe social distancing

We look forward to seeing you

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest in Charge

Rev Clodagh Ingram

Curate:

Rev. James Turk

Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Vacancy

PCC Secretary: - Sarah Kent

Church Treasurer

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

Safeguarding

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain

Charlie Burnett

Mother's Union:

Kate Gale

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Church Flowers:

Jenny Cunningham

USL Life (Church pages) and Pew News

Rachel Middleton



John Weygang
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Arts Page

On the theme of Children and the return to school.

IN A JUNIOR SCHOOL (To Ted Hughes)
by Charles Causley

When I asked
What the poet did, a girl said,
"Make up true stories
Of people and animals
In his head"

When I told them
He was also a farmer,
They said they thought
Farmers didn't have time to write
Stories and poems.

"He was born", I said, "in
Mytholmroyd in Yorkshire"
Myth ...Myth...Mytholm ...
Sounds like a hive of little bees,"
Somebody said.

"He still speaks", I said,
"With the voice of his home-town.
Yorkshire people can tell
Just where he's from".
They thought that was good.

"Once", I said, "he took home
A wounded badger.
Nursed it well, then set it free."
All the children smiled;
Clapped their hands very loudly.

We had a poem and a story.
After the bell, they surged
Out of the classroom,
Some still murmuring, "Myth ...
MythMytholm...And laughing.

A boy turned to me "Poet and farmer!
Sounds good. Which is harder?"
I said, "What would you say?"
"I'll let you know", he said.
Went his way.

BOOK REVIEW

We suggest that you read a book published in 2019 which may well chime with those of you who have been 'home teaching' during the pandemic.

"Some Kids I Taught and What They Taught Me" is by Kate Clanchy, a teacher of English. She has taught in State Secondary Schools for more than 20 years. She acknowledges that she had a privileged up-bringing and manages to avoid generalisations and provide much practical wisdom. Based on her experience, she makes the case for a fully comprehensive system and identifies the importance of teaching writing skills. Some of her students have become fledgling poets and she relishes their success. The book is published by Pan Macmillan, ISBN 9781509840311. Winner of the Orwell Prize 2020.

Frances Cornford (1863 – 1933) was Charles Darwin's granddaughter and a poet.

Her thoughts on children include the following lines:

How dull our days, how lacking in surprise
Without these small epitomes of sin,
These flowers with their store of life within
And grave appalling freshness in their eyes.

Ideas of how children should behave have changed radically. In the following short poem Robert Louis Stevenson has his tongue in cheek, but what modern parent, exhausted after a day of child care, may not get pleasure from these lines, and sigh.

The Whole Duty of Children

A child should always say what's true
And speak when he is spoken to,
And behave mannerly at table;
At least as far as he is able.

Stevenson also wrote " Looking Forward:"

When I am grown to man's estate
I shall be very proud and great,
And tell the other girls and boys
Not to meddle with my toys.



Haiku in Perry Orchard

Lockdown, look up,
Abbey in view
as always.

Lockdown,
Moon shines on my pillow
as always.

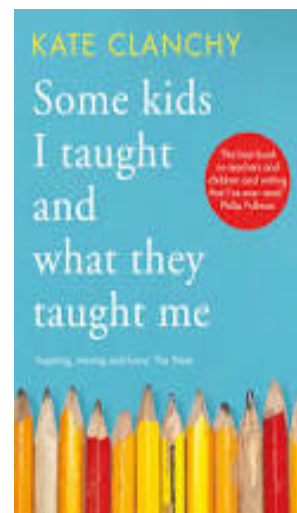
Lockdown,
Roses and clematis delight
as always.

Fifty years in the house,
Lockdown,
only a piece of time.

Ann Morpew

Writer and journalist, Katherine Whitehorn, declared that "The main purpose of children's parties is to remind you that there are children more awful than your own".

More recently the American Author and Educator, Neil Postman, wrote that "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see".



Feature Article - VJ Day - with grateful thanks to Mike Stratford

"The following account relates to a talk I had with the late Mr Bill Jenkins, who lived on the Stanley. This was for the 50th Anniversary of VJ Day in 1995. A very brave man when you read what he went through, but he did suffer in later life, not least from nightmares".

Bill Jenkins remembers: It is difficult to record all one's experiences as a 'slave' of the Japanese briefly, therefore I record here the facts of my capture and the dates as far as I can remember of 'my travels' as a 'guest' of the Nips.

Having been captured in March 1942 at Garvet Java, I found myself a year later being shipped to Ambonia. This was the beginning of 18 months of deprivation, starvation and torture on the island. After five days of sailing locked in the hold, prisoners had to go into the sea and push large barrels of oil and petrol ashore.

We then endured a 30 mile forced march. Anyone who fell by the wayside was disposed of by way of a bayonet or a sword. On reaching our destination on the outskirts of a village called Liang, in the middle of a tropical monsoon we were shattered to find no accommodation. For two months or so until we managed to build bamboo huts, we slept on lava rocks. There was neither running water nor medical supplies.

Even so, work began immediately clearing tropical jungle in order to construct a runway on the seashore. The sand was white and glaring. Breakfast consisted of pap - a thin gruel. Work began at 0600 hours; a 2 mile march

meant that the 'slaves' were tired before commencing work. This continued for 12 hours in an average temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit, cutting down trees and carrying tons of soil/sand using a moko moko, a Chinese wheelbarrow, that is a bamboo pole with a man at either end and a large sack suspended and filled to capacity.

A break of half an hour was allowed around midday. The ration of water per man was equivalent to three mugs a day. The evening meal was cooked rice, well blessed with weevils - the only meat and sometimes traces of fish and leaves.

In such conditions, sickness began to attack the 'slaves', dysentery, malaria, beri-beri and ulcers caused by trudging through rocks and jungle carrying heavy loads in bare feet. The treatment for ulcers was primitive, to say the least. Sufferers were held down by companions whilst the medics scraped out the infection with a spoon.

Deaths began to occur, and between 17 days in September 1943, 125 were buried in shallow rock graves. From then on between 10 - 15 were buried daily. The brutality of the Japs, especially towards the sick and infirm, was bestial. Bamboo beatings, and very often, little food was the order of the day, added to by rifle butts and sword bangings, to the guards delight.

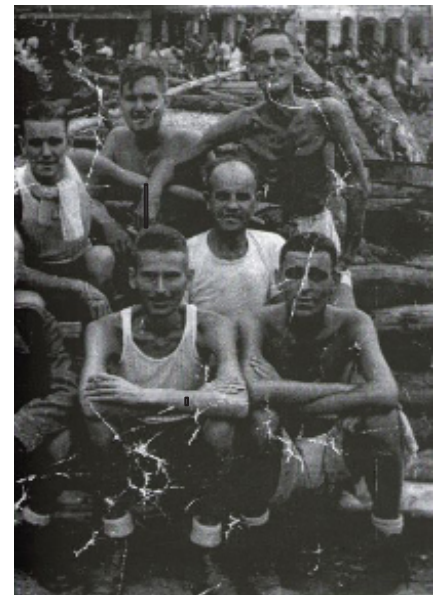
One of the terrible results of the sand glare was the onset of blindness. Many executions took place when the men retaliated. The Jap character, evident in the Chinese wars, came to the fore on their slaves, callous, cruel and sadistic

and revelling in their own power. The initial force taken to the island was 1200. The survivors who were taken to Java numbered 240. It is a matter of interest that the return journey took 35 days compared to the 5 days outward one.

I do not think that people can understand, even if they have read the above, what it was like or how much the human frame and mind could and did endure.

The photograph below was taken on 25 August, 1945 when Singapore was liberated.

It shows a picture of Bill Jenkins at the back on the right, wearing glasses. He weighed 6 stone 4 pounds.



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Allotments in Upton cont'd from page 8

In 1841 Perry Orchard Allotments were marked as numerous strips of land with no names applied to the strips. They are all recorded as pasture bisected by a path from the High Street to Bondend Road. The Stanley Allotments were also numerous strips of land. The Stanley road was not yet a made up road but a bridle way/footpath from Portway to Bondend Road.

In 1869 a law was passed requiring that where land was enclosed, provision must be made for allotments to compensate for the loss of land by the establishment of enclosures with paths and hedges. This is how the allotments in Upton were provided. Upton was one of the last places in the country for land to be enclosed, the last enclosure being in 1897.

In 1908 the passing of the Allotment and Smallholders Act obliged Local Authorities to provide areas of land suitable for allotments, and prior to World War I there were 450,000 allotments mainly in urban areas around Gloucestershire. In 1916 Local Authorities were

empowered to take over unoccupied land. The result was that by 1918 there were about 1.5 million allotments in the country as a whole. The allotments in Upton would have become established sometime before the First World War.

Again, in World War II there was the need to grow more food and hence the "Dig for Victory" slogan was born, with which we are all so familiar. By 1970 the number of allotments had reduced in the country to about 300,000.

Thankfully, the allotments in Upton are still thriving due to the efforts of the Parish Council who have resisted any development on the two allotment sites. Unfortunately, many others around Gloucester have become building plots such as Awefield Pitch and the Painswick Road. On a positive note however, there is provision of land in Coopers Edge to establish allotments, which has to be a good thing, especially in these current uncertain times.

My thanks go to Mike Stratford for providing the local knowledge on this subject.

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Village Diary

SEPTEMBER

1	Tues	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
1	Tues	Tennis	Pavilion	6.00p.m.
1	Tues	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
2	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
6	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden Waste for those with brown bins		
8	Tue	Tennis	Pavilion	8.30-10.30p.m.
8	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
9	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
10	Thu	Copy date for October issue of USL Life		
13	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
15	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
15	Tue	Tennis	Pavilion	6.00p.m.
15	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
17	Thu	History Group – John Bellows, The Man Revealed	BMI	7.45-9.15p.m.
20	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
20	Sun	Scarecrow Judging	Everywhere	
22	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden Rubbish for those with brown bins		
22	Tue	Tennis	Pavilion	6.00p.m.
22	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
23	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
24	Thu	Ramblers	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
25	Fri	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Shop	10.00a.m.
27	Sun	Tennis	Pavilion	10.00a.m.
28	Mon	Lady Downe Trust	Upton St Leonards School	7.30p.m.
29	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
29	Tue	Tennis	Pavilion	6.00p.m.
29	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30p.m.
30	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.

Please note, the details below are still provisional due to the Coronavirus

OCTOBER

5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
12	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.45p.m.
21	Wed	Ladies Probuss	BMI	10.00a.m.
26	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00p.m..

NOVEMBER

2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
2	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
9	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Tue	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
16	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.45p.m.
19	Thu	History Group – Gloucestershire Place Names	BMI	7.45-9.15p.m.
23	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00p.m.
23	Mon	Lady Downe Trust	Upton St Leonards School	7.30p.m.

To get events listed in the Village Diary, contact Paula Quinn

Gnome Hunt – 23rd August



Look out for details and photographs of the Gnome Hunt in our October issue, as this event just missed our publication schedule for September.

Thanks go to Marilyn and Meryl Bannister for organising this popular event. Proceeds to 'Mind'.

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Scarecrow Trail

NO	ADDRESS	HERO?	NO	ADDRESS	HERO?
1	Highclere Cottage, Churchfield Road		10	2 Rectory Close	
2	3 Staites Orchard		11	Stanley Allotments	
3	5 Staites Orchard		12	Beech House 49 Bondend Rd	
4	6 Staites Orchard		13	Triton, Bond End Lane	
5	41 Woodland Green		14	Celtic Court, Twyver Close	
6	24 Ash Grove		15	14 Twyver Close	
7	Random Green, Ash Path		16	22 Twyver Close	
8	1 St Leonards Close		17	30 Six Acres	
9	4 St Leonards Close		18	32 Six Acres	

Scarecrow Street Map



Which is the Best Scarecrow?

Scarecrow Number:

Hero:

Your name:

Tel No:

Send your vote to . . .

Andrea Dawson

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Prizewinners will be notified on the USL Community Facebook Page and in the October issue of USL Life

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Obituaries

Janet Morris - 1945 - 2020 and Tony Morris - 1943 - 2020

Janet and Tony Morris moved to Six Acres, Upton St Leonards in 1981. Their daughter Joy and son Gwyn attended the village school followed by Brockworth Comprehensive.



Tony ran his own Data business in Gloucester whilst Janet was a gymnastic coach running her own Gym Club. They were both active members of Hucclecote Methodist Church. Tony was a life-member of the Gordon League Rugby Club, firstly as a player, then a referee and finally a linesman.

In 1988 they became foster parents initially offering respite care, and then more permanent fostering to Vince, Mark and Julie over a period of twelve years.

Janet and Tony were extremely proud of their teenage grandchildren Isaac and Ruby and their son in law Dave, all of whom play cricket for our village. In their retirement they enjoyed walking, gardening and bird-watching at Slimbridge.

In 2017, due to ill health, they moved to a bungalow in Lady Downe Close. Janet enjoyed singing, most recently with 'Maggie's' choir in Cheltenham, whilst Tony attended the BMI Monday Coffee Mornings whenever possible.

Joy and Gwyn have suffered the loss of both parents within a month of each other. Our deepest sympathy goes to them, extended family and friends. Donations were invited at their respective funerals for 'Myeloma UK', Maggie's Cheltenham and 'Brain Tumour Research'.

The photograph above shows Tony and Janet celebrating their Golden Wedding in 2017, alongside their children.

A Tribute to Liz Brownhill

The groups of people you see in the photographs, many months ago, had unusually known exactly what they would be doing on a certain day in July, as we were all due to be at Liz's 100th birthday party.



However that was not to be as God obviously knew nothing about cricket. No captain would deprive a player of a century so close to its being reached. But, having her in His pavilion must have had a higher priority in His scheme of things.

Whilst it was not the time for a review of Liz's life, which would feature in her memorial service, it was a time for each of us present, to take a few minutes to

remember how she had influenced their lives and what they owed to having enjoyed her friendship and everything she gave to it for so many years.

We then stood in silence for a few minutes before everyone raised their glasses to her memory. Afterwards, neighbours put together a bouquet made up of flowers from their gardens and placed it on Liz's grave.



Thanks to Alan Parker for the words and to Gill Mew for the photographs.

The Lady Downe Trust

If you are a resident of Upton St Leonards Parish or some neighbouring areas and are experiencing financial hardship, the Lady Downe Trust may be able to help you.

To apply for a grant please complete an application form which you can download from the website www.ladydowne.org (it also has a list of the eligible streets in Abbeymead, Abbeydale and Cooper's Edge) or request one from the Clerk at ladydowne@btinternet.com.

The form can be returned by email or post to the Clerk: Mrs E. J. McGrory, The Coach House, Well Close, Cooper's Hill, Glos GL3 4RZ. Your application will be considered at the next meeting of the Trustees (six meetings are held each year).

NB if you are a student going on to further education in September, please apply for a first-year grant (see website).

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: Andrea Dawson
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Andy Russell
Barbara Swindin
Peter Wilson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman

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Feature writers: Teresa Clarke
Christina Caldwell
Linda Munnoch
Ann Morpew

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Photography: Jim Browne

Proof Readers: Carol Hardacre
Pam Tickner
Kate Davies

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COMPLAINTS OVER SELFISH BEHAVIOUR



After recent complaints of parking obstructions next to The Pound, outside Upton St Leonards AFC, white lines have been repainted on either side of the Junction. This is opposite the High Street where there are several parking spots available. I have had complaints of vehicles parking across the dropped kerb which is blocking the white H marked line.

If there is a marking that looks like an elongated 'H' Bar on the road, it is there to remind other road users that there is a **need for constant access to the dropped kerb/pavement or entrance and that they should not park there under any circumstances.**



Any further complaints regarding the blocking of the pavements may result in a £30 fine.

Lianne Hiscock
PCSO 249270 Gloucester Neighbourhood Policing Team
Abbeymead, Abbeydale, Hucclecote, USL & Coopers Edge
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The editor next month will be
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Entertainment is back!!



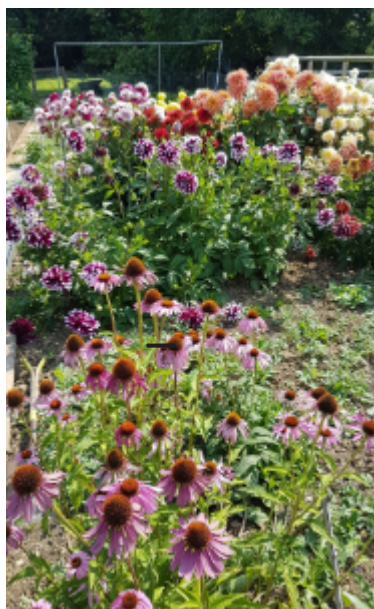
Dining at Bowden Hall 'Pod' Style



Just chewing the cud! Photo attributed to Jade Diurno



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