

Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 131

July 2025



Upon St Leonards is just a few miles from the site of this special buttercup. See page 19 for a report about this unique site in Great Britain.



The next Upstagers' Show is just a few weeks away. Get your tickets now.

Upton residents at Buckingham Palace

See page 20

80 years since VJ Day

See page 8

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO OUR COMMUNITY OR WOULD LIKE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION IN USL LIFE, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE EDITORS OR FEATURE WRITERS

See page 19



What's been happening?

Editorial

At long last, as we go to press, the serious damage caused to a stone wall at the bottom of Nuthill Lane is to be repaired. Unfortunately this will mean closure of the road for several days, but by the time you are reading this, hopefully all will be back to normal. We have had to bear with so many road closures and diversions around the village for so long and would like to believe that all will be open again soon and maybe even the surfaces will do less damage to our vehicles. I hope I'm not being over-optimistic. Please also note that there is a speed camera on Churchfield Road and others are planned for the village.

In the meantime enjoy reading this issue of USL Life and have a good summer.

Barbara

Council Meeting May 2025

Councillor Cliff Alderman reports that the following items were discussed:

Many of you will know that there has been a lot of dredging, tree felling and bank reconstruction at Twyver Bank opposite the school, mostly done by Gloucestershire County Council as part of its flood management scheme. This has largely been completed and all that remains is one hefty root that needs removing, some re-seeding and tree-planting later in the year.

The groundworks in Jean Randall's field is yet further work by GCC flood management scheme which is creating an attenuation pond in case of heavy rain that should prevent a water surge lower down the Twyver. A full report from GCC about this scheme will be available soon explaining the why and how. My understanding is that the pond will only fill after heavy rain exceeds an acceptable flow lower down.

The chaos with parking and excess traffic in the village on the morning of the Cheese Rolling event was discussed, and the Council hopes to liaise with Police and District Councils to prevent this again.

The Council now has a Parking Policy for the Pavilion car park limiting this to those using the facilities and other authorised vehicles. This should free up more space for legitimate users. See the PC website for further details.

For future reference the County Councillor report appears on the Parish Council's website towards the beginning of each month as well as Parish Council information, meeting Minutes etc:

www.uptonstleonards-pc.gov.uk

“The Abba Tribute night” at the BMI

It was a fabulous evening's entertainment on Saturday 7th June at the BMI. “Summer Night City” played and sang all the songs made famous by Abba.

There were a hundred members who all enjoyed the evening's entertainment and the dance floor was full all night.

If you missed it this year, the group will be back in 2026!

Ladies' Probus

For our May meeting, we were very pleased to welcome Tina Pentney from Painswick. Tina was scheduled to talk to us in June but our May speaker had a subsequent, but more urgent, appointment so some swapping around was agreed, thanks to Tina's flexibility.

Tina discovered her interest in Miles of Gloucester whilst doing her own family history. Intrigued, Tina researched further into Miles, and his role concerning the founding of Llanton Secunda Priory here in Gloucester, as well as his part in the Anarchy of 12th century Anglo-Norman England. This was a civil war and caused by the death of the Norman King, Henry I. Miles of Gloucester played a significant role, changing sides and taking his nobles and vassals with him.

It could be said that this swapping of sides prolonged the terror for the poor serfs who were the ‘workers’! On his death, Miles was buried in the Chapter House of the Priory but his grave is unknown since the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII around 1540. Ironically Miles could have chosen to be buried in St Peter's Abbey, which survived unscathed and became Gloucester Cathedral!

The next meeting is on 16 July when Bill Church and Dan will regale us with some humour. So please come and join us in the BMI on Wednesday 16 July from 10am for coffee before the meeting.

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

Congratulations to Twyver WI for hosting the NFWI annual meeting on Zoom at the Upton St Leonards Pavilion on Wednesday 4th June. The local meeting was organised by Nicola Isaacs and ladies from Robinswood, and other WI's in our group were invited to watch and participate in the WI Watch Party.

The main points discussed at the meeting were giving up to date information of forward thinking, integrating into the community, facing challenges and new ideas. Recruiting new members is vital to our organisation and retention of members is also very important. Communicating with members and listening to them is also important in order to evolve and move on.

Denman grants are still available for educational needs – so take the opportunity to learn something new. WI House has many courses on offer for us who live locally.

Violence against women was widely discussed and also the use of defibrillator skills across the UK.

Speakers at the event were Emma Bridgewater, well known ceramicist, who has designed a special mug to celebrate 110 years of The WI on Saturday 27th September WI Day; and Angel Strawbridge, entrepreneur, who with her husband Richard are famous for their series, Escape to the Chateau gave a vibrant speech on her life and journey and her love of everything vintage.

One of the main objectives during the day was for delegates to vote for the 2025/26 campaign and this year the members voted by a huge majority 'For members of the public to increase vital CPR and defibrillator skills across the UK'.

After the well-attended meeting members all agreed what an interesting day it had been. Next year the meeting will again be on Zoom and in 2027 it is the intention to have it back at the Albert Hall. Kathy and Linda

TWYVER WI MEETING JUNE 2025



Our speaker for the evening was Kelly Osborne, Sustainability and Engagement Officer – Climate Change and Environment, Gloucestershire – on a mission to encourage people to be more aware of what and how they recycle waste and how climate change is affecting our environment in towns and cities and how our carbon footprint is affecting all our lives.

Climate action saves money, creates local jobs, protects our green spaces, improves well-being, strengthens communities and builds energy security.

We all agreed that we have to be more pro-active as just the little things like recycling our food waste helps - Biogas from food waste helps keep people warm in winter. Gardens are currently under stress and even Kingsholm stadium is at flood risk; in 2022 the source of the Thames dried up and according to experts this is a warning we should all heed.

So what can we do? Suggestions are to install solar panels, local grants are available for warm homes, change to green energy tariffs, even cooking in an air fryer for a year compared to using an oven is a saving of £260 per annum. Buy local produce when you can or grow your own, turn the boiler down, buy second hand, travel by public transport and cut down on air miles. A lively debate and discussion ensued and we all agreed that we want a cleaner and healthier planet for future generations.

We had fun doing a quiz on <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk> and after the usual business the meeting was closed.

Our next meeting will be on 14th July when Upton Swingers-Metal Detecting - will be coming in to see us, why not come and have a go!

Linda Munnoch

Upton St Leonards WI Report Monday 2nd June

Angela Harris, our President opened our meeting with the sad news of Ann Howie's passing. We stood for a minute's silence, then the blessing was given by Rev Canon Marilyn Sharland, who also happened to be our speaker.

"Delighted to see us" was Marilyn's greeting as she gave an in-depth talk on working as a vicar on the Fred Olsen Line, cruising around the world for 4 months after retiring in 2006. Joining in many activities on board, Marilyn met and helped many people, even officiating at a couple's wedding. One highlight of her work was organising a 5 am service on deck to celebrate Easter Sunday. The glow of the rising sun against a darkened sky with a Highlander playing *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes, was witnessed by over 500 people, many were moved to tears. She said this was her best ever Easter service. Another highlight was visiting the Sydney Opera House to see a performance of Carmen with wonderful costumes and singing.

Visiting the pyramids in Egypt was amazing, as was sailing through the Suez and Panama Canals. So many experiences are offered on a cruise, meeting new friends, sharing and caring for others; and there will always be memories to look back on and treasure. Marilyn was warmly applauded by members, and the vote of thanks was given by Kathy Quant.

Business was brief. On Monday 23rd June, members can meet at Pound Farm at 2.30pm for tea and cakes. On Wednesday 23rd July, in Upton Cricket Pavilion there will be a demonstration on how to use a defibrillator at 6.30pm. At the Upton Show on 13th September our WI will be holding a Green Giraffe Stall.

We meet again on Monday 7th July at 2pm in the Cricket Pavilion when our speaker will be Marian Hill from the City Archives talking about the Green Pledge Project. All ladies are very welcome.

Kathy Quant

"Ladies Day" Afternoon Tea

Several lady members spent a Thursday afternoon at the BMI, while watching "Ascot Ladies Day" racing at Ascot.

It was lovely and cool in the lounge, unlike the heat of Ascot. Lorraine prepared afternoon tea for everyone and as it was "Ladies Day", everyone came dressed for the occasion. A great afternoon for all.

Looking ahead

Saturday 9th August BMI's Summer Party and Pig Roast

Why not come along and meet up with your friends on what is one of the busiest days of the year in Upton St Leonards

Food will be available, including traditional pork rolls
from 3 00pm

There will also be music in the evening

(Please note, for safety reasons the car park will be closed)

What's coming up?

Saturday 5th July

**Entertainment Night with "Tribune"
from 8.00p.m. At the BMI**

(Includes a presentation of cheques to
"Charlies" and
"Gloucester City Mission")

Saturday 19th July

Summer Quiz

8.00p.m. At the BMI

With Quiz Master "Clive"

Please add your name to the booking sheet
on the BMI notice board by Thursday 17th
July

£2.00 per person for maximum 6 team
members

(Minimum £8 for teams of up to 4)

Please note it is cash only for the quiz

Sunday 20th July

Evening Jazz

with

"Cygnet"

6.00p.m.- 8.00p.m at the BMI

Saturday 2nd August

Entertainment Night with

"Aaron Cook"

from 8.00.p.m at the BMI



**Village History Group
Thursday 17th July 2025**

AGM and Gloucestershire Quiz

7.45pm at the Village Hall

All members and visitors welcome

Advertising

If you use any of the services provided by our advertisers, please mention that you saw them in USL Life. They can then understand the impact of their advertising. Thank you

New advertiser

We welcome a new advertiser Armstrong Removals & Services. As their ad says below, they do a range of services from removals to house clearances. It's a local company - the manager lives at Springbank Stables on Upton Hill.

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Upton Show Saturday 13th September

Below are details of the “Handicrafts” and “Photography” sections in this year’s schedule

(Plenty of time for you to prepare your entries!)

SECTION “E” – HANDICRAFTS – OPEN

(Award No 10 for the overall winner of classes 140-157)

Classes 143 and 144 are to be new and unworn/unused. Competitors ticket to be safety pinned to article. All entries must be the competitor’s own work.

- 140 A soft toy, any medium (Award No 11)
- 141 An item of patchwork
- 142 Dress a doll. Any medium. Doll not to be judged
- 143 An article I have knitted, 4 ply or less
- 144 An article I have knitted, double knitting, Aran or Chunky
- 145 An item of needlework or embroidery, other than clothing or toys
- 146 A cushion cover in any medium. Maximum size 500mm x 500mm
- 147 An article of cross stitch. (Please state size and also whether the work is to your own design)
- 148 A decorated photo frame
- 149 A card to welcome a “new arrival”
- 150 A door stop in any medium
- 151 A pram cover in any medium
- 152 A landscape drawing or painting in any medium. Maximum size 500mm x 460mm excluding frame
- 153 A pen and ink drawing. Maximum size 305mm x 460mm excluding frame
- 154 A portrait (animal or human) in any medium. Maximum size 305mm x 460mm excluding frame
- 155 An item made in wood or metal. (Not from a kit) Maximum dimensions 375mm square.
Space will be made for long thin items e.g. walking sticks
- 156 A bird’s nesting box
- 157 Write a short story of no more than 50 words, to include the following:- strawberry, dog, holiday, rainbow, church, nurse, astronaut, Australia

SECTION “F” – PHOTOGRAPHY – OPEN

(Award No 14 for the overall winner of Classes 160-169)

Unframed colour prints only, digital or film, with the exception of Classes 168 and 169. Which are for black and white prints only Maximum size for classes 161-169: 7” x 5” (175mm x 125mm)

- 160 Panorama – print not more than 125mm high
- 161 Our summer holiday
- 162 Cotswold Life
- 163 Cute and cuddly
- 164 Buds and blooms
- 165 Family Fun
- 166 Animal magic
- 167 On the ball
- 168 Gloucester docks in black and white
- 169 A portrait in black and white

The committee would be grateful to receive any items for the Tombola/Bottle stall, “Teddy Tombola”, Books and Jigsaws and cakes for the refreshments. We would also appreciate any volunteers to help set up and clear on the day. If you need any information please contact June Chapman (uptonshow@gmail.com).

Upton WI will be holding a “Green Giraffe” stall at the show. Are you able to donate any good clothing you no longer need or use for them to sell. Call Angela Harris on 01452 616755 for information.



Summertime is here again and down at the Rec. the sound of thump of bat on ball reminds us of one of our old village traditions.

CRICKET SCORING

Cricket is a way of life. Retired player, Andy Russell, explains one way of contributing to the game and remaining involved.



County Cricket Ground, Bristol
The arrow shows where the scorers sit

You probably know that I have lots to do with cricket, at the Village Cricket Club and elsewhere. I played for many years for Upton, I coach Upton's young players, I share the groundsman job with others, I have qualified as an umpire, I do lots of cricket admin for Upton and Gloucestershire cricket leagues, youth and adult. And I have also scored at games ever since I was a boy.

I am doing much more scoring now that I don't play, and hardly ever umpire. I have gone up the scoring ranks, as it were. A few years ago, I started scoring for the Gloucestershire Women's team and Gloucestershire Under 18 girls' team, and really enjoy that. I get to grounds all over South Wales and South and West of England. I am mostly self-taught, but have passed a couple of official accreditations, and I now routinely help teach at scorer courses.

The women's game at county level became professional for the 2025 season. To continue to score for Gloucestershire Women meant I needed the top level of accreditation – for professional games. In March I had to attend a training day, do some homework to learn about scoring for the pro games, and pass an on-line test. I am now qualified and am in a pool of 10 or so scorers in the county at this level, and we get appointed to all the pro games in the county or nearby (apart from the men's first team; that has a full-time scorer.) Because of my previous connection, I have been appointed to most of the women's games, and these are played at the County Ground in Bristol and at the Cheltenham Festival. I was appointed to a Worcestershire men's 2nd XI game, and in July, also at Worcester, I will be scoring for England Under 19 (men) v India Under 19.

Scoring at this level, as you might imagine, is all done on computers, and my laptop can be linked to the scoreboards and to various live feeds such as broadcasters and commentators. Many games at this level can appear on YouTube, again taking information directly from the scorers' computer.

I can't finish without saying that Gill Howell, our churchwarden, completely surpasses me in scoring achievements. She used to score for Gloucester Cricket Club and for the Cheltenham College teams, but she has also done many pro games, in days before computers and courses and accreditation. I might boast that I have now scored at the county grounds at Taunton, Bristol and Worcester – well she's done all those and more. She has even had a spell scoring for the West Indies team on a tour to England!

Andy Russell



Rev Helen Champion

Saint Leonard's Church

Churchfield Road
Upton St Leonards
Gloucester
GL4 8AT



Rev Helen writes:

July arrives with a particular kind of energy, doesn't it? The long days, the sun high in the sky (when it chooses to appear!), and a certain sense of winding down. Schoolchildren are counting the days until the holidays. Teachers are pushing through those final lessons and reports. Suitcases begin to appear from cupboards and we find ourselves daydreaming about time away—whether it's a grand adventure or simply a few quiet days with a book and a cup of tea.

For many of us, July marks the end of an academic year, even if we're no longer in school ourselves. It's a helpful rhythm. The school calendar gives us a structure to look back and ask, "What have I learned this year?" or "What have I achieved?" It's not just the children who have grown. Maybe you've taken on something new this year—a role in the community, a skill, a garden project, or just the perseverance to keep going through some tough days. These things matter.

This time of year also prompts me to think about rest. Not just sleep or a break from routine, but the deeper kind of rest—soul-rest. A letting go of the to-do lists, the rushing, the sense of needing to be constantly

productive. In Genesis, we read that even God rested on the seventh day. Rest is not laziness; it is holy. It's a time of renewal, re-balancing, and remembering who we are beyond our busyness.

It's a good time for all of us to pause and do a little spiritual stock-take: Where have I seen God at work in my life this year? What am I carrying that I need to set down for a while? What might I take time to enjoy or rekindle this summer?

Jesus said to his followers, "Come away by yourselves and rest a while" (Mark 6.31). That invitation still stands. Whether you're off to the seaside or staying put, I hope this summer gives you moments of peace and joy, space to breathe, and a renewed sense of God's presence and delight in you.

A quick note: the church building will be closing for several months from late August or early September while the roof is replaced. During that time, our worshipping community will continue to meet in the Village Hall—and we'd love to see you there. Our grateful thanks to the Village Hall management committee for letting us worship there.

Who's who in the church

Parish Priest:
Rev Helen Champion

Churchwarden:

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sue Downey

PCC Secretary
Kay Hutton

For wedding & baptism enquiries
please contact Rev Helen.

For Interment and burial of ashes
Enquiries please contact Gill

Church Services and other events for July

Sun 6 July 8am Holy Communion
10am All Age Morning Worship

Sun 13 July 10am Holy Communion
Little Pilgrims

Thu 17 July 2pm Mothers' Union service in church
Followed by celebration tea in the
Old School Room

Sun 20 July 10am Holy Communion
Little Pilgrims

Sun 27 July 10am Holy Communion

There is a short morning service every Tuesday at
9.30am in the Rectory

Bell ringers meet every Wednesday in the tower at
7.30pm

The Youth Group meets every Friday in term-time in
the School Room at 4.30pm

The church's WhatsApp group 'Friends of St
Leonards' is a useful guide to what is on (and last-
minute changes). To join contact Rev Helen or Gill
Howell.



Report on the Parish Fête in June

Older readers may remember an annual church fête held at the Village Hall until about 1982. Now with the Church Roof needing still more funding, the event was reprised. This time it was held in the back garden of the Rectory, thanks to Brian and Helen Champion.

The weather forecast the night before was not great, wind and showers. Clearly someone was watching over us, because we had a beautiful sunny afternoon, with a bit of wind. The pictures above show some of the stalls before the masses arrived. And there were masses! It was a busy day of fun with tombola, kids games, refreshments, guess the teddy's name, in fact everything one might expect at a fête!

The amount taken for the Raise the Roof appeal was £1,100

A tremendous result. Lots of people to thank. Those that organised, those that helped set up, those that looked after stalls or served refreshments, those that gave gifts of cake, bottles for tombola, raffle prizes. Those that came! And the hosts Brian and Helen.

PS: I don't think the Rectory garden has looked as good ever. Brian Champion has done a huge amount of work on getting a wilderness to this state! Most previous occupants were just not gardeners.

At our May meeting we welcomed the Anglican Chaplain Sister Gill Dickinson from HMP Eastwood Park, the women's prison situated at Falfield near to Junction 15 of the M5. She is a member of the Church Army and serves alongside others of various faiths in support of the prisoners. She was in fact late arriving as she had to deliver some sad news to one of the women, a task always undertaken by one of the chaplaincy team.

She gave us an oversight of what crimes the prisoners have committed. The prison offers vocational courses in cookery, diversity, salon services, manicure, preparation for work, drug and alcohol awareness and industrial cleaning. It also offers employment with work-based qualifications.

In addition, Eastwood Park has a gym for physical education as well as recreational use. There is a Family and Friends Centre for the visitors and one of the local Mothers' Union Branches goes in on a regular basis to help serve and run the creche.

She asked us various questions about what we knew about the running of such an establishment and most surprisingly was the fact that only £2.50 is allowed by the government for a prisoner's daily food and drink needs.

She arranges services which are better attended at festival times. Sister Gill came over as a very caring and empathetic person.

It has recently been announced that Sophie, HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh, has agreed to become the next patron of the Mothers' Union, following Queen Elizabeth II who served in the role for all of her reign. The Duchess has expressed a keen interest in the MU projects on Literacy.



Sadly, we said goodbye to one of our members, Ann Kemp, as she is moving up to Yorkshire with her husband John, to be nearer family members. Ann worships at St Oswald's and has been a Mothers' Union member for many years; in fact her mother was a Branch Leader and her sister is also a member. On behalf of the Branch, our Secretary Katie Moore presented her with a gift voucher and a card signed by all the members (above).

On Thursday 17 July members will be celebrating the 110th year anniversary of the Branch which was formed in 1915 with a service in church followed by Afternoon Tea prepared and served by the Committee in the Old School Room. It is hoped that the Diocesan President Doreen McLellan and one of the Vice Presidents, Margaret Edwards, will be attending. This will be an excellent forerunner for next year when the whole Mothers' Union will be celebrating 150 years since being founded by Mary Sumner.

Kate Gale

Giving to the Church

There are many ways to support the church, both for its day-to-day running and the "Raise the Roof" appeal, which is still going. Worshippers can give in the plate, but it may be more convenient to pay by card or set up a standing order, or better still, use the Parish Giving Scheme (which is equivalent to a standing order). The '500 Club' for £5 per month gives access to two monthly prizes of £30 and £20 and a £500 prize in December. Lastly, you can link to us through 'easyfundraising' which creates small payments to the church when you buy things online. Contact any church official to get our bank details, 500 scheme, or use the links below.

Parish Giving Scheme
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>

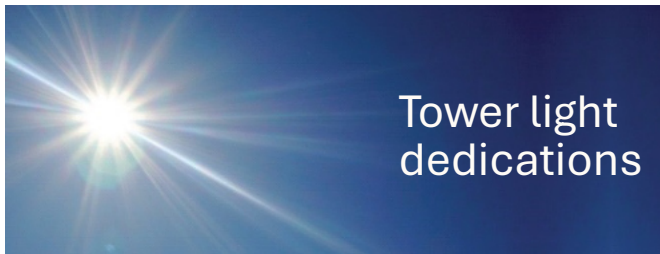
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>



500 Club Winners for June

First Prize	No. 80
Second Prize	No. 81





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 July 7th, the Church Tower will be lit in celebration of the 1st birthday of Max Gibbs, with love to him and his parents, Alex and Nina. Sponsored by his proud grandparents, Chris and Angelina Gibbs.

Clive and Julie Winstanley are sponsoring the Tower Lights on the 9th July in celebration of their youngest grandson Thiago's 2nd birthday, also on the 22nd July for his cousin Blake's 12th birthday, which he shares with Prince George.

In loving memory of my husband Ken Stait, who passed away on the 1st December 2024, the Tower Lights will be lit on 24th July, which would have been our 60th Wedding Anniversary (24.07.1965). Happy memories, from wife Valerie and family.



Bishop Robert writes about the Company of Kyneburga*

On 17 June I had the privilege of admitting new members to the Company of Kyneburga at Evensong in the Cathedral.

The Company of Kyneburga is a group of those, predominantly but not exclusively lay, who have served over many years and in many and different ways the life of the Church in this diocese, witnesses to the love of God and God's care for all people. It was an immensely moving and encouraging occasion. The stories of those who come to be admitted to the Company tell of dedicated work, so often unseen, that underpins the life of the Church in this Diocese, all of it given with no thought of reward, just the desire to contribute to our common life, to share the love of God and work for the building of the Kingdom, a place where all belong which is marked by justice, mercy and peace.

In a Church and in a world which seems so often fractious this is a reminder of what we are at our best when we put self aside and serve as Jesus serves; what we can be when we stop thinking about ourselves and look out for the needs of others. It's a reminder also that what we do to serve does not have to be complicated. Rather it is by doing simple, unglamorous things well that we can make the biggest difference. It's an encouragement to all of us to be confident in what we are doing rather than always to worry about those things we simply can't do.

For both Bishop Rachel, who I know was sad not to be able to be present, our service and those admitted during it are such an encouragement, a reminder of the service we see in so many people and places in our visits across the communities of the diocese. It allows us to say thank you to everyone as together we enable the service of the Church.

Thank you for your part in our life, that simple service you give is precious in God's sight and shares God's love and it is wonderful to see.

**Kyneburga was an eighth century Anglo-Saxon princess who was appointed the first abbess of Gloucester.*



School Leavers

It's end of term this month and the year 6 pupils, and maybe others, will be leaving the School. We wish them God's blessings, and hope they will remember some of the special Christian-based activities they enjoyed. Things like some of the assemblies, talks from Rev Helen and others, "Open The Book" and the seasonal visits to St Leonard's Church, great songs learnt, and so much else.

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Arts Page

Flowers are in bloom everywhere and this month we focus on the Rose as portrayed in poetry.



The Sick Rose by William Blake (1757–1827)

O rose, thou art sick:
The invisible worm
That flies in the night
In the howling storm,
Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy,
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

A White Rose by Jose Marti (1853-1895) translated by Manuel A Tellechea

I have a white rose to tend
In July as in January;
I give it to the true friend
Who offers his frank hand to me.
And for the cruel one whose blows
Break the heart by which I live,
Thistle nor thorn do I give:
For him, too, I have a white rose.

Rondeau by Dorothy Parker (1893-1967)

Give me a rose, cool-petaled, virgin white,
Pure as the morning, mystical as night;
Not bold gardenias, flaunting their expense
Like courtesans, in perfumed insolence,
Nor brazen orchids, feverishly bright.

Give me no hothouse violets, cold, polite,
With lengths of costly ribbon girded tight -
Matrons in corseted magnificence;
Give me a rose.

One girlish blossom proffer as your mite.
Ah, lovelier by far within my sight
Than rich exotics' glamorous pretense
Is one shy rose, sweet in its diffidence.
And then besides, my love, the price is right;
Give me a rose.

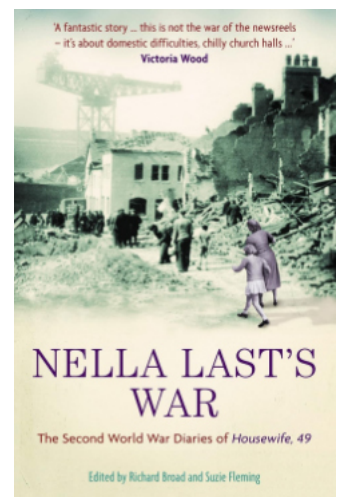
A Rose and Milton by Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986) translated by Alastair Reid

From all the generations of past roses,
Disintegrated in the depths of time,
I want one to be spared oblivion -
One unexceptional rose from all the things
That once existed. Destiny allows me
The privilege of choosing, this first time,
That silent flower, the very final rose
That Milton held before his face, but could
Not see. O rose, vermilion or yellow
Or white, from some obliterated garden,
Your past existence magically lasts
And glows forever in this poetry,
Gold or blood-covered, ivory or shadowed,
At once in Milton's hands, invisible rose.

BOOK REVIEW

Nella Last's War – The Second World War Diaries of *Housewife*, 49

In September 1939, Nella Last, a middle-aged housewife living in Barrow-in-Furness, began a diary for Mass-Observation that she continued to write avidly for nearly thirty years, leaving a detailed record of her life and a highly subjective and fascinating perspective on the times through which she lived. The book is an edited version of the two million words or so that she wrote during the Second World War. Mass-Observation was set up in 1937 to record the voice of the people. Nella Last was one of 500 people who chose to be part of this remarkable writing project. It is a fascinating book, particularly at this time when we remember VE Day.



Remembering VJ Day – 80 Years On at the National Memorial Arboretum

On Friday 15th August the Royal British Legion in partnership with the Government will hold a midday National Commemorative Event to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.

I was very pleased to read the above announcement. I have always been somewhat concerned that those, whose loved-ones and ancestors were involved in one way or another in the Far East for many months after the fall of Hitler and end of hostilities in Europe, may not have been given sufficient attention in our many celebrations of VE Day.

So I congratulate Mike Stratford for the article I am publishing below, and I encourage everyone to read it, because it clarifies a situation that should never be forgotten.

The Editor



REMEMBER VJ DAY

The Second World War ended in Europe on the 8th May 1945, but in the Far East the fighting continued. It would continue until Japan surrendered on 15th August 1945 - although the surrender documents were not signed until the 2nd September 1945 on board USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

For the Japanese, surrender was unthinkable; Japan had never been successfully invaded or lost a war in its history. Only after the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, did they realise further fighting was pointless. The decision to use the bombs has always been contentious. The Americans realised an invasion of the mainland would mean very high casualties and the war dragging on for an unknown time. Japanese school children were, at the time, being trained to fight to the death.

Local involvement in the fighting included the 1st Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment who were fighting in Burma (now called Myanmar). The Japanese were attempting to invade India.

Prisoners of War suffered under the Japanese; forced to build a railway from Thailand into Burma – 16,000 of them died. Those fighting in the jungle of Burma always considered themselves the Forgotten Army.

At least two people associated with Upton were in the Far East during the war. The late Mr Bill Jenkins who lived in The Stanley was a prisoner of war. Bill was an aircraft mechanic – he was sent to the island of Java to service sea planes. In March 1942 he was captured when the island was invaded. He was held prisoner until August 1945 until released from Singapore. He endured numerous atrocities while forced to work 16 hours a day building airfields. When he came home he weighed 6 stone 4 pounds.

When I spoke to him on the 50th Anniversary of VJ Day in 1995, he had written down his story. He said, “I do not think people can understand, even if they have read what I have written, what it was like or how much the human frame and mind could and did endure.”

Another person associated with Upton is Major Laurence Benn. He was married to Dorothy, his cousin, who lived at the Black and White house in Bondend Road. He was killed on 17th October 1944 in Burma when he was aged 44. He has no known grave, but is remembered on the Rangoon Memorial and also on Upton's War Memorial.

Old enemies are now friends, but we should never forget those who died in the service of this country. No better words can express this than the words on the Kohema Memorial where fighting took place across a tennis court belonging to the Deputy Commissioner. It reads:

“When you go home, tell them of us and say: for your tomorrow, we gave our today”.

Mike Stratford

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JULY

1	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
1	Tue	Tuesday Probus		
5	Sat	Entertainment Night	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	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
8	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week – garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
8	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
8	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
9	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.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 August 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	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
15	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
15	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
15	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
15	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
16	Wed	Ladies 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.
17	Thu	History Group – AGM and Quiz	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
17	Sat	Katkinz Madcatters Tea Party	Village Hall	11.00a.m.
19	Sat	Summer Quiz	BMI	8.00p.m.
20	Sun	Sunday Jazz Evening	BMI	6.00p.m.
20	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
22	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45a.m.
22	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week – garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
22	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening	Tennis Courts	6.00p.m.
22	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.00-10.00p.m.
23	Wed	Wednesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
23	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
23	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
23	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
27	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning	Tennis Courts	10.00a.m.
28	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00a.m.
29	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
29	Tue	Tuesday Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
30	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Church	7.30p.m.
30	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.45p.m.
30	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00p.m.
31	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.
31	Thu	Upstagers – Flat Spin	Village Hall	7.30p.m.

Continued on the next page

AUGUST

1	Fri	Upstagers – Flat Spin	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
2	Sat	Upstagers – Flat Spin	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
2	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
9	Sat	Summer Party/Pig Roast	BMI	From 3.00p.m.
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
13	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
18	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
25	Mon	August Bank Holiday		
28	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.

SEPTEMBER

1	Mon	Upton WI	Pavilion	2.00p.m.
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
13	Mon	Upton Show	Village Hall	2.00p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Centre	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
21	Sun	Evening Jazz	BMI	6.00-8.00p.m.
24	Wed	Ladies Probus	BMI	10.00a.m.
25	Thu	Craft Club	The Old School Room	10.00-12.00p.m.
27	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00p.m.

If you would like an event included in the Village Diary, please contact Paula Quinn

Weekly Courses				
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	
Pilates with Sam	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Sam Slatter	07894 757360

Cricket at the Recreation Ground in July

Wed 2 Jul 6pm Coopers Edge v Highnam Court
 Sat 5 Jul 1pm USL 2nd XI v Kings Stanley
 Sun 6 Jul 10am Under 13s v Andoversford
 Wed 9 Jul 6pm USL Wed XI v Frampton on Severn
 Sat 12 Jul 1pm USL 1st XI v Forest Exiles
 Sun 13 Jul 10am Under 9s v Witcombe
 Sun 13 Jul 10am Under 13s v Tewkesbury
 Mon 14 Jul 6pm Under 15s v Woodmancote
 Sat 19 Jul 1pm USL 2nd XI v Frampton on Severn
 Sun 20 Jul 10am Under 11s v Dumbleton
 Sun 20 Jul 1pm USL Sunday XI v Bushley
 Sat 26 Jul 1pm USL 1st XI v Winchcombe

Ann Howie

We regret to announce the sudden death of Ann Howie, resident of Perry Orchard for many years. We offer our condolences to her husband, Bob, family and friends. The funeral will be held at Christchurch, Abbeydale, on Wednesday 2 July at 11 30am.

THE BADGEWORTH BUTTERCUP

Adders-tongue spearwort (*Ranunculus ophioglossifolius*) is an incredibly rare plant in the UK; in fact, it can only be found in two places. If I tell you it has an alternative name of Badgeworth buttercup, you will probably realise that one location is only a few miles from Upton St Leonards. There is a tiny nature reserve, about 1.5 acres, looked after by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT). The plants flourish in a single small pond, no larger than my sitting room, and in May-June there are a profusion of its small yellow flowers growing in the pond. GWT have created another even smaller pond, only about 2 metres across, in a far corner of the reserve, where they have planted a "spare" stock. The plants seem to need a very particular environment of blue clay in a pond fed by run-off from pasture around.

The Badgeworth reserve has an interesting history. It was presented to the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves in 1933. It was, apparently, the first official nature reserve in Gloucestershire. The 1964 Guinness Book of Records described it as "the world's smallest nature reserve". At that time the reserve only covered the pond itself and immediate surround. A small adjacent field was added to the site more recently.

If you want to visit this unique place, you've missed your chance! The site is at the North end of Cold Pool Lane, which runs between Badgeworth village and Up Hatherley. You can look over the gate at an information board about the plant and the site, but the gate is firmly locked and only opened to the public on one day a year, and that was 8 June this year. Mary and I were thinking about somewhere to go to on that Sunday afternoon, and by sheer luck went to the GWT website, noticed the Badgeworth reserve, and then realised it was the very day it was open for visitors.

The only other site for adders-tongue spearwort is at Inglestone Common in South Gloucestershire. However, this population hasn't been spotted in a few years, so the Badgeworth site could be its last refuge in Britain.

The flowers do look quite like a quarter-sized buttercup, hence the local name, but the leaves are very different in shape, and it is an aquatic plant.

Andy Russell

PS - this plant can also be seen elsewhere in the world, for example North West Africa and the Canaries.

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:

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Andy Russell

Barbara Swindin

Peter Wilson

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Treasurer: David Morris

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USL Life is published by USL Life CIC, a Limited Company, and is printed at Pip Printing, Nettl of Hereford.

Next month's Editor Pete Wilson



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