

The Breeze

Upper Rissington's Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2014

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Did you know ... according to the survey that was done as part of the Parish Plan, 1 in 10 Upper Rissington residents said they would like to volunteer to do things in the community? I wonder how many have done so? This edition of 'the Breeze' includes a number of opportunities to get involved in different things in the village - from making raised beds at the Jubilee Garden, to helping with Youth Club, to giving a hand with the new toddlers' group due to start in the Spring, to standing for the Parish Council - the list goes on! If you'd like to help with any of these activities, or if there's something you'd like to be involved with that isn't happening (yet!) in the village, then contact 'the Breeze' and let's see if we can make a few more connections.

There's also an article looking forward to the new village hall, which should be a real asset to the whole community when it opens in the Spring. Perhaps most of us are looking forward rather less to the winter weather that will precede it, so there's also a helpful article on using grit - something all Upper Rissington residents probably need to know about! Our roving reporter, Rob, has been out and about again, button-holing local fundraiser, George, and also Sharon, the Parish Clerk. See the interview on page 10 for an insight into the role of the Parish Council and the important work the Councillors do on behalf of the whole community.

Sue Handy (editor)

Village News

Upper Rissington Social Committee

- Events for the Community by the Community -

Curry Quiz. Another sold-out great night. Thanks to our question master, John Ramsbottom from Stow, who put in so much work to create a fun evening. The food was a great hit again and thanks are due to the team who put in so much effort preparing and serving meals with such limited facilities. There was plenty of food but with so many multiple visits we were left with no waste.

After so many losses to the Westcote team, it was a great pride for the village to have a local team win. You know who you are – perhaps you'd like to write an article for the next edition of 'The Breeze' letting us know how it felt to win and how it's changed your lives. The night raised over £450 towards future events.

Fireworks Display. This is getting to be such a signature event for Upper Rissington. We run the display the week following everyone else's and that really seems to work for us as we get such a great attendance.

There was lots of feedback to say how good the display was, with many saying it was the best one yet. Thanks to those of you who donated to the bucket collections, which raised over £450, a great help towards the cost of the event. The costs of the display, insurance and safety gear mean we have to find over £1,800 to fund the event, but the generous donations and spending on refreshments meant we only had to draw £600 from our reserves.

Remember that this is your Social Committee. If you want to help organise future events or offer on-the-day support, please get in touch: URSC@btinternet.com or call 07592 533596.

Don't forget to put 4th January in your diary for the Children's Panto. This year our travelling troupe will be performing **Sleeping Beauty**. Look out for details going up in the next week or two. Thanks to the Parish Council for helping to support this event to ensure we keep the price affordable across the community.

Thank you ...

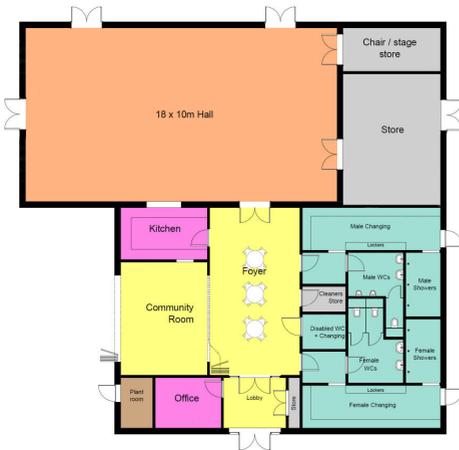
... this quarter to everyone who does voluntary work in the community. We've particularly been asked to thank the lady (Sheila) who is often spotted in a yellow jacket picking up litter around the village - making it a better place for all of us.



Your new Village Hall

The new Village Hall at the corner of Wellington Road and Smith Barry Road is coming on very well and is due to be completed in early Spring 2015. This will replace the old Village Hall in Hawker Square. There are two main areas in the new Hall: the Community Room, which can use the Foyer area by folding back some doors, and the Sports Hall. The Sports Hall is large enough for a badminton court. There will also be

shower and changing facilities for sports played in the Hall or on the sports field, a small kitchen with hatches to the Community Room and Sports Hall, a small Admin Office and storage.



Basic floor plan of the new Village Hall

The Parish Council are currently looking into who should run this new facility, so the best use can be made of it, and how it will be funded. Hopefully the new Village Hall will be self-funding by hiring it out for local events, parties, sports, business meetings, cinema nights, clubs, etc. What would you like to see happen at your new Village Hall?

The intention is to have a grand opening of the new Village Hall, so residents can have a look round, and hold some events as part of the opening celebration. There are no dates yet but these will be advertised as soon as they are known.



Artist impression of the new Village Hall (supplied by Kier Construction)

We Need Your Help!



In February a brand new baby and toddler group is starting in the new Village Hall! We hope Little Hurricanes will be a vibrant and fun group for all under-fives and their parents or carers in Upper Rissington and the surrounding area.

We will be offering activities such as messy play, crafts, free play, snacks for the children, and taster sessions from local professionals including dance, music, baby massage and baby yoga. There will also be opportunities for a hot drink, a chat and a biscuit for the adults.

We are currently looking for toy donations for this group. Please contact us if you are having a pre-Christmas clear out!

We are also looking for 1 or 2 extra Mums or Dads who would like to join our committee and be involved in the running of the group! If you would like to join us or know someone who would, please get in touch!

Like our Facebook page or e-mail littlehurricanes@hotmail.com to receive updates and information about the start of this exciting group.

Behind the Road Names in Upper Rissington ...

David's popular series will be back for a third instalment in the next edition, but in the meantime here is the solution to the wordsearch. Hope you managed to find:

Avro
 Barnes Wallis
 Blenheim
 Bleriot
 Bristol
 De Havilland
 Delfin
 Dowding
 Eagle
 Farman
 Harris
 Hawker
 Kittyhawk
 Lancaster
 Mitchell
 Smith Barry
 Snipe
 Sopwith
 Varisty
 Vickers
 Wellington

Whittle
 Wright

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	I	B			K	O	R		B	R	I	S	T	O	L
	M					Y		N	I	F	L	E	D		

Bonus points if you spotted that CDC misspelt Varisty - it should be Varsity of course!

How and When to use Grit from the Grit Bins



What can I use the grit for?

The grit is placed to allow residents to assist in clearing public roads and footpaths, to allow pedestrians and cars to get about in areas of difficulty which are not covered by the primary gritting routes.

Supplies of grit are limited and residents are asked not to use it for private paths, drives etc.

How much grit should I use?

You do not need to carpet an area with grit to achieve the desired effect. 'Dusting' the grit sparingly from a shovel will achieve the same effect.

Remember if you use all the grit in one area, others will be without.

When should I use it?

Either as a precautionary measure if ice or snow is likely (check weather forecasts), or after it has stopped snowing and the snow has been cleared away.

Spreading on snow once snow has started to build up on the roads has very little effect and there is little anyone can do until it becomes deep enough to clear (about 25mm or 1 inch). The actions of clearing, spreading grit and vehicles running on the snow will all help to clear the roads.



The grit in the bin is not melting the ice. Why?

The grit in the bin is a 50/50 mixture of grit and rock salt. The grit helps with grip, particularly in snowy conditions, and the salt melts the snow and ice. However, when the surface temperatures fall below -5 degrees centigrade, the salt becomes increasingly less effective and eventually will not work at all. When the surface temperatures increase, the salt will start working again.

Further information

There is useful advice and informational snow guides on line if you have access. Here are a couple:

Met Office's Snow Code:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/get-ready-for-winter/out-and-about/the-snow-code>

Oxfordshire Country Council Snow Guide (PDF):

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/roadsandtransport/safety/snowguide.pdf>

George takes on the mud run to raise money

Last month Upper Rissington local lad George Whitley took on the huge challenge of a 5km race for charity. To complete a 5km is impressive enough, even before you hear that George is not even 10 years old and the race involved thick mud, rivers and steep hills! Rob caught up with him recently to find out a bit more about this challenge.

Hi George, just before we talk about the 'mud run' could you tell us a bit about yourself please?

Well I have lived in Upper Rissington for most of my life. I'm in year 5 at Bourton Primary school where my favourite subjects are probably art, DT and drama. I enjoy being active but especially like to swim and cycle. I also do the football and running on Saturday mornings on the field.

Could you tell me about the recent challenge you decided to take on?

It's called a Mud Runner and is a 5km cross-country run across a Land Rover test track. This basically means it involved running through thick mud, across streams and up some pretty steep hills. I had never done anything like it before.

Why did you decide to take on such a mad challenge?

I had heard about it from my Dad and thought it would be a fun thing to do together! Also it was a great opportunity to raise some money for Parkinson's UK, a charity who work to help people who are affected by Parkinson's. This is particularly significant for me as my Granddad is suffering from Parkinson's at the minute.

So describe the actual event?

I remember it being very busy. I think about 4000 people (1000 kids) took part overall and we went off in waves of about 100. Within the first couple of hundred metres we were heading up a steep hill which separated people out a bit, which was good. The mud we had to run through was pretty constant all the way around but at several stages it was especially bad, like wading through porridge! I did get stuck once but Dad was there to fish me out fortunately. There were also lots of hurdles that we had to jump over all around the course. The finishing stretch included one last run through a river which came well past my waist. At least it did clean my legs a bit though. One last cargo-net to scramble under and we had finished! It took just over 43 minutes. The best thing about finishing was the 'tub of love' which we could jump into to get warm. By the time we had finished there had been quite a few people in there so the water was pretty dirty by that stage. We didn't care though, it was just



nice to get warm again! Mum and Dad also bought me a nice burger when I had finished as well which felt well-earned by that stage.

How did you feel before, during and after the race?

Well I had done quite a lot of training before the race so hoped that would help me. However I was still pretty nervous about it, imagining the worst and not even sure whether I would be able to complete it or not. I think because I had imagined the worst before the race the real thing wasn't actually as bad as I thought it would be, and I found it easier than I expected, which was strange. It seemed to go really quickly. Afterwards I just felt really happy and pleased to have finished.

How much money have you raised?

I think about £200 so far.

That's great, what's the next challenge then?

Well I really want to do more local races now. Also I would love to go back and do it next year and try to beat my time! I would definitely recommend it to other people if they wanted a challenge.

Sports News

Over the last few weeks you may have noticed there have been various fund-raising events happening around the village to raise money for some portable floodlights. The idea is that this will enable us to continue sport all though the winter, as well as the lights being available to use by anyone as a village resource when needed. Just to say a massive 'thank you' to all who have helped and have contributed to the fundraising. Special thanks to The Co-op for all their efforts, as well as several personal donations that have allowed us to now purchase the 6 lights (you may have noticed them in use at the firework display!).

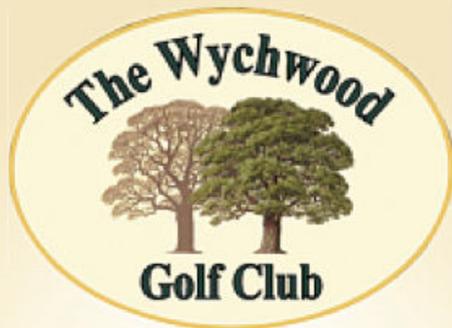


Also, a Sports Committee has recently been set up with the aim of facilitating sporting provision within the village. It would be great to get even more activities established, especially with the new facilities we'll be getting as part of the new development. If this is something you would like to be involved with in the future we would love to hear from you (contact Rob French for more information)

Weekly Activities:

- Saturday 10-11, Football @ Playing Field for school years 7- 11
- 10:30-11:30, Football @ Playing Field for school years 2- 4
- 11:45- 12:30, Group Running + Jogging Session (meet on Playing Field)
- Sunday 4-5:30, Tag Rugby @ Playing Field for 14+

Next Edition: Report on Winter Series of Tag Rugby Matches between Vets and Youngsters



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Parish Council Update

– Interview with the Clerk

Did you know that there are over 9000 local councils (Town and Parish) in England? A Parish Council (PC) is the first tier of local government and we have one here in Upper Rissington. Its role is to represent and serve the local community. Many Councils appoint a clerk to assist with the administration duties. Our clerk here in Upper Rissington is local resident Sharon Henley, who has worked for the PC since June this year. ‘The Breeze’ caught up with her to discover a bit more about our PC and her role as the clerk.

Could you tell us a bit about your role as clerk, and what it involves please?

I’m employed by the Council to provide administrative and professional advice and support. The role is combined with that of Responsible Financial Officer. I advise the Council on whether decisions are lawful and research topics and projects to provide information for the Council to make appropriate decisions. I cover a wide range of activities and excellent organisational skills are a must! Key tasks include: drawing up and signing of agendas; writing minutes, letters and reports; and managing staff and volunteers, projects and contractors.

Wow, sounds like a lot to keep on top of. So what does the PC do?

This is a time of great change in Upper Rissington and a very busy time for the PC. Current and ongoing tasks include:

- Reviewing and commenting on planning applications, representing the views of the community.
- Working with the developers on the provision of allotments and a new community hall
- Management and maintenance of the village hall, play area, stone walls etc.
- Grass, tree and hedge maintenance and replanting

So how do you actually get on the PC?

Parish Councillors work for their local community on a voluntary basis. Councillors are elected to office for four years by members of the electoral register for the Parish (the next elections are in 2015). If a vacancy arises in between elections, the Council can co-opt members for the remainder of the term of office. In order to be a Councillor either your name must appear on the current register of the Voters List, or you should have resided in or within three miles of the Parish, or your only place of work must have been within this area, during the whole of the preceding twelve months, and you must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor.

What powers and responsibilities does the PC have?

The Council has the power to raise and spend money and is responsible for spending public money lawfully, without risk and must be able to demonstrate that it has sought best value for money.

The Council is responsible for the provision of services to the local community. It establishes policies for action and decides how money will be raised and spent for the benefit of that community.

Parish Councils have a wide range of powers and duties but examples relevant for Upper Rissington are power to provide allotments and a duty to provide if demand is not satisfied, power to provide and maintain bus shelters, public footpaths and bridleways, power to provide a community centre, village hall and litter bins, power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation, open spaces and a wide range of recreational facilities.

For more information or to contact the PC...

Ring 01451 810839 or 07773526735. Alternatively email: clerk@upperrissington.net

Youth News

September saw the end of the summer holidays and the start of another school year. Also Youth Club started back up again after taking a break for the holidays. It's been great to welcome a lot of the new year 7 and 8's who have been coming along and we've enjoyed plenty of different activities over the first couple of months of this year.

One of the highlights was a tenpin bowling trip to Swindon during the October half term. 22 of us went in total which meant there was some pretty fierce competition for the highest score! There were also plenty of arcade games there to keep us occupied and some people seemed to spend more time on the racing simulators than they did actually bowling!

You may have also noticed a rather splendid looking man who goes by the name Guy at the Upper Rissington fireworks night. A combined effort achieved a rather stylish and dashing look. Unfortunately good dress-sense didn't help him out later on when things got a bit hot under the collar towards the end of the night.

As always please continue to spread the word about Youth Club to people who may be interested. It's for any young person who is high-school age (11-16 years old). Over the next few weeks we've got a couple of Christmas socials to look forward to – our traditional ice skating trip, as well as an end of year Christmas Party!

For more info please contact: Rob French (rob.french407@ntlworld.com) or Zoe Branch: (z.branch@tiscali.co.uk)



Gardening On a Hill

We have had a really good summer and an extended warm period into the autumn. After the autumn winds we have all the leaves to clear up and some households in the village have more than others. But it is not all bad because if you have a little space in your garden then the best thing to do with the leaves is to compost them. It takes a while for leaves to compost down but when they do they can really improve the soil in the garden as well as retain moisture for plants.

The first frosts will come all too quickly now. If you haven't done it already, lift any remaining tender plants and bring them in under cover or protect them with cloches. If you are over-wintering plants in a greenhouse, take the opportunity to clean it out first. Sweep up and wash everything down with diluted mild disinfectant. To reduce heating costs, tack up some temporary insulation, as a form of 'double glazing'. Rolls of special insulation material, which lets in the light but not the cold, are available at most DIY stores and garden centres. The greenhouse can become stagnant, and cold air can quickly lead to



a build-up of fungal diseases, so it is better to ventilate as the weather permits so that plants have fresh air.

With the removal of many trees from the old business park there is little habitat for wildlife –and birds in particular – to forage for food. You can help the birds by feeding them, or maybe add nesting boxes to the north sides of trees (in your own garden, of course) before the nesting season starts in earnest in the spring. Be careful on those ladders!



Keep an eye on your water features or ponds. If they freeze solid, particularly if they contain fish, break the ice with care. If the ice is very thick, use a little boiling water rather than a hammer, to avoid shock waves which can kill the creatures beneath.

It can be difficult to get out in the garden with the winter weather; however, winter digging is necessary for beds and borders that need to be planted in early spring and you get a little exercise too. The earlier this is done the better, allowing time for frosts to act and break down the soil. The longer any rough clods of soil are exposed to frost, the easier it will be to get a fine tilth in spring. While digging, it is a good idea to work in plenty of well-rotted manure or garden compost at the same time, thus improving the soil's texture and richness. If your soil is very limey (alkaline), iron and other trace elements can become 'locked' in the soil. Digging in a peat substitute or lime-free compost and applying flowers of sulphur can help. If you want to grow acid-loving plants like rhododendrons and azaleas you can make a raised bed or use tubs or containers filled with lime-free compost to grow them in.

The long winter evenings provide plenty of time to browse through seed catalogues and plan new projects in the garden. Late January to early February is an ideal time to visit garden centres to buy seeds, tubers and bulbs for the coming season. Winter is also a good time for cleaning, sharpening and oiling tools such as secateurs, saws, pruning knives, spades and hoes.

Jubilee garden

This is a community garden and everyone is welcome to help in the maintenance and future plans for its development. While a few residents have helped when they've been able, we could do with some more help to keep it tidy and create a more established and attractive space.

Future plans include some seating areas as well as creating some raised beds that the children could plant up with flowers and edible plants. I have spoken to the Head of Great Rissington School and she is keen to include the children in the project. However, I cannot do this alone and need some help to move the project forward. So again I am asking you to help your community in whatever ways you can. Please contact the Clerk on 810839 if you can help with the maintenance or future development of the garden. Can you spare an afternoon or a couple of hours to help improve your community? We especially need some help with putting together the raised beds.



Allotments

As Allotment Committee representatives, Zoe and I met with Councillor Margaret Flint and Mr Mason of Linden Homes at the allotment site on Friday 10th October 2014. We discussed how the land could be developed to maximise usage of the area and minimise the work involved at the start for plot holders. We also discussed the waiting list and the allocation of 7 plots to the new development and how unfair this was to the other residents who had been on the waiting list. Mr Mason was happy to leave the decision on allocating plots and the everyday running of the allotments to the Committee and the Council. He listened to our ideas and seemed keen to help get things up and running as soon as possible. He asked that I e-mail him a list of things the Committee thought would be helpful to have done to the land before the plots are laid out. If the Council work with us on this the hope is to have the land ready to offer plots to residents on the waiting list by late spring. If you would like to join the waiting list or the Allotment Committee then please contact the Parish Council.

My last e-mail from the clerk said: *The Parish Council have been advised to join the Allotments Society in order to that advantage of advice they are able to offer and this matter is on the Agenda for Monday's Parish Council meeting. It is important that the council take direct advice so that any decisions made on how to progress with the allotments committee can be made on behalf of the Council and for all residents of Upper Rissington. After this process has taken place we will be in a position to take matters further.*

Did you know ...?

Upper Rissington is a great place for star/planet gazing, the lack of light pollution meaning you can see some great sights, even with the naked eye. It is clear enough to see the Milky Way and Andromeda (to name but a few)! Andromeda is the furthest thing you can see with the naked eye – it is a galaxy on the edge of our solar system!



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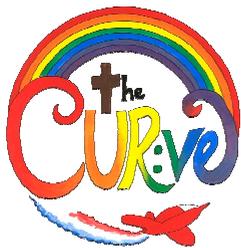
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The Church in Upper Rissington:

valuing everyone

The last couple of months have seen CUR:ve busy with all the usual activities, including a holiday activity club on two mornings over the half-term holiday, and our regular Sunday morning slot. For those who are still confused (which is probably most of us!), Sunday Café is on the first Sunday every month and is the one with the bacon butties, and Sunday Café Plus (or should that be

minus?) is all the other Sundays and includes a bit more time for worship. Both are suitable for all ages and everyone is welcome, just drop in anytime between 10.30 and 12. Highlights recently have included a rather challenging paper-cone cockerel craft activity, and a special time of worship on Remembrance Sunday, allowing us all to reflect on what it means for us to sacrifice our lives.

Other things members of the CUR:ve team have been doing recently include getting involved with the curry and quiz night (I've never cooked so much rice!), helping at the fireworks, and organising a village coffee morning and cake stall to help raise funds for the floodlights. Look out for more coffee mornings in the New Year, as we hope to make this a regular event.

As food seems to be an important feature of most CUR:ve activities, several members of the team (most of us, in fact!) undertook a Level 2 Food Safety training course. Many thanks to UR resident Judy Cheyne, our course director, who made the six hours of training fly past and steered us all successfully through the exam at the end. We now have our certificates to prove it, should you wish to see them!

Like most people, we're now busy planning for Christmas, including 2 nights carol singing around the village (Monday 15th and Thursday 18th December, meet outside Co-op at 6pm with a torch if you'd like to join us!) and Carols by Candlelight in the Village Hall on Sunday 21st at 4pm. We are also having a short, informal service on Christmas Morning (Village Hall 10.30am), and would love you to join us – it should be a great way to start Christmas Day!

CUR:ve@Christmas

Carol singing Monday 15th Dec

Meet at Co-op at 6pm Bring a torch

Carol singing Thursday 18th Dec

Meet at Linden Office at 4.30pm
Bring a torch

Carols by Candlelight Sun 21st Dec

4pm Village Hall

Christmas Day service 25th Dec

Informal service 10.30am Village Hall

Join us for:

Coffee@CUR:ve – 10-12 every
Wednesday 7 Hawker Square

Sunday Cafe – drop in 10.30-12 first
Sunday every month

Sunday Cafe Plus – 10.30-12 all other
Sundays (worship 11-11.30)

Saturday sports – Saturday am on the
playing fields

Useful Contacts In Upper Rissington

This is a list of people and organisations in Upper Rissington who provide goods or services in the village. Inclusion in this list is not a recommendation. To add names and details or to correct inaccuracies please email URNEWS@btinternet.com or call 07592 533596.

Name	Service	Web/email	Phone
Police	Non-Emergency Number		101
Albion Water	Water Service Emergency		0800 917 5819
	Customer Services		0845 604 2355 01451 600295
Parish Council	Clerk	clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk	01451 810839
Polly Sayers	Gardening Services		01451 810796
UR Social Committee	Community Events	URSC@btinternet.com	07592 533596
The Breeze	Newsletter	URNEWS@btinternet.com	07592 533596
Parish Plan Steering Group	Copies of or information on The Parish Plan	clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk or URNEWS@btinternet.com	01451 810839 07592 533596
Kier Construction	School and Community Centre – Project Mgt	Steven.Threadingham@kier.co.uk	07824 550873
Runner Bean	Health and Fitness	www.runner-bean.co.uk	01451 822541
Martin	Electrical and Handyman		01451 824227
John Surch	Great Rissington Cricket Club - Seniors	surch@gotadsl.co.uk	01451 820567 07808 307364
Pete Garrett	Great Rissington Cricket Club - Juniors	Petegarratt117@gmail.com	07788 896496
Pete Garratt	Painter and Decorator		01451 821944

Christmas in the Churches

CUR:ve is planning various events in Upper Rissington over the Christmas period, (see page 15 for details) but if you're looking for something more traditional there are carol services at all the local churches, including Sunday 14th (11am) and 21st (6pm) at Great Rissington Church and Sunday 28th (9.30am) at Little Rissington. On Christmas Eve, there is a Crib and Christingle service at Great Rissington (4.30pm), and 'Midnight Communion' at Wyck Rissington or Bourton (both at 11.15pm), while Christmas Morning Communion Services take place at both Little Rissington (9.30am) and Great Rissington (11am).