



The Breeze

Upper Rissington's Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Welcome to another edition of 'The Breeze'! Once again it is jam-packed with articles about things that are going on in the Village and the surrounding area, and this quarter includes reports of a number of new organisations and initiatives. For example, page 4 gives information about the launch of FOUR ('Friends of Upper Rissington') - perhaps there is something you might like to get involved with?

Sadly there are also signs that we are becoming a proper Village Newsletter as the Sports pages include an article on the problem of dog poo, which is once again rearing its ugly head. Wouldn't it be great if we didn't have to keep mentioning it?

Finally, the observant among you will have noticed that 'The Breeze' has grown (are we heading towards 'The Wind?'), mainly due to an increase in advertising. We are really grateful to all our advertisers, without whom it would be impossible to maintain the full-colour, high-quality print, especially as the Village grows and we now have to print so many more copies. Many thanks also to our new 'advertising co-ordinator', Keelin McLeman, who has done such a good job contacting new advertisers.

Sue Handy (editor)

Parish Council News, February 2016

by Debbie Hill, Clerk to Upper Rissington Parish Council

About me ...

I started as Clerk for Upper Rissington Parish Council on 24th June 2015. There was a lot to get stuck into straight away and I really had to hit the ground running!

I have two children, Kate 14 and Tim 11. Kate is very busy studying and listening to music and Tim is very busy playing football (he's currently trialling for Swindon Town). I love my holidays in the sun but I also love to go skiing – though all of a sudden my children are now faster than me!

My work background is in Financial Services as a Project Manager and then as a Fraud Investigator. I had a complete change in 2012 and became Office Manager for Gloucester's Destination Marketing Organisation – Marketing Gloucester. In 2014 a friend of mine talked me into applying to become Clerk for Harescombe Parish Council – a small village in Stroud. I was offered the position and since then have become more and more involved in the world of Parish Clerks! I also Clerk for Maisemore in Tewkesbury and now Upper Rissington....

Parish Council News

- **New Village Hall** – the Parish Council has voted to accept the developer's offer of a one-off payment of £40k that can be used to pay the Stamp Duty and go towards any future maintenance costs. We are waiting to hear what the next steps are from Cotswold District Council, but eagerly look forward to the Hall opening.
- **Defibrillator** – we have met with the supplier and have the money set aside for this but cannot get it installed until the Village Hall is handed over.
- **Dog bins** – I know this is a very emotive subject in the village and am looking into what we can do and how CDC can assist – there is no easy solution, sadly. Two new dog bins will be installed soon - one at the sports field and one at the new Village Hall (once it's handed over). I will look into the possibility of installing bins with bag dispensers and other options with CDC.
- **Picnic Benches** – we have four new picnic benches ready to be installed. We are just waiting for the ground to dry up a bit more so that they can be secured to the ground.
- **Memorial Bench for Jubilee Gardens** – this has been ordered but has a lead time of about four weeks as they are made to order. We will also be considering the planting of a low hedge along the Hawker Square side at the next PC meeting.
- **Miniature Castle** – we have received a proposal to move the miniature castle to Jubilee Gardens. This is currently being looked into further.
- **Clean for the Queen** – we have registered a litter-picking event for Saturday 5th March between 10am and 4pm. We have received a great response to this so far – thank you!
- **Tree work** – the second phase of proposed tree work has now been received from Town & Country Trees.
- **Children's Activity Fund** – the recent grant application for Little Hurricanes was successful and hopefully the funds will be paid soon.
- **Tesco Local Community Grant** – ever wondered what is going to happen with all those 5p's we're now having to pay for carrier bags? Tesco is using the money for local community grants. There are 428 regions across the UK each awarding 3 grants of £30k twice a year. Projects need to provide community benefit with no charge to access, such as a play park. The PC has registered for more information which should be available in April/May.

Upper Rissington Social Committee

Update

Another year, another successful Panto, fully sold-out and enjoyed by all. Thanks to the support of the Parish Council, in the form of a grant, we were able to run this event at a net break-even. Next year, with the larger hall and consequently more seats, we hope to run the event without the need for a grant. More importantly, we hope to avoid the situation that we had this year where we had to disappoint so many because we'd sold out of tickets.

To those of you who expressed concern for Shennice Beaven, the young actress who came to grief in the second act, the update is that she is on the mend. As a village we send her our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery and hope that she'll be a part of the cast for next year's production. On this theme, our thanks have to go to Sally Whitley for the impressive and selfless way in which she handled the situation and to Babs Dutton for the kind first-aid work. It's good to know our neighbours are so willing and able to help in a crisis.



Diners enjoy the Panto Buffet during the interval of Beauty and The Beast.

A few changes have taken place in the Committee following the Annual General Meeting. David Harrison is now Treasurer and Cherrie Carr is Secretary. After a brief stint as Chairman Jerry Flint had to resign due to an overseas posting so our past Chairman Richard Arnell is back in the seat. Andrew Mitchell resigned as Secretary this month. Andrew has done a terrific job for the Social Committee, bringing us rigour and process with good humour and a practical approach. He's resigned to ensure no conflict with his position as Secretary of The Village Hall Trust so it's great to know that the village will still benefit from his skills.

The next event is The ChurchFitters Concert on 3rd March. We're holding this event at the School Hall, which can accommodate 120 seats. If this proves popular it will be the first of many similar types of event we hope to bring to the village at the new Village Hall. This is a great start for us as The ChurchFitters are a popular group with a great reputation, so even if you're not an addict of Folk Music, come along – you're sure to be entertained. Doors open at 7.45pm and the entertainment is from 8pm. For tickets email ursc@btinternet.com, ring 0759 253 3596, or call in at PC Support, Station Road, Bourton on the Water. Ticket price is £12 which includes a drink during the interval (wine/lager or soft drink).



The next event planned for children and families is the Easter Egg Hunt on 26th March. Look out for details in the next week or so. We hope that the venue will be the new Village Hall but more on that in the Village Hall Update in this edition. This event is always such fun getting the children running around before fuelling them with chocolate. As always we intend to provide snacks and soft drinks (we're just not sure where yet).



A NEW IDEA?

A few years ago we developed a Parish Plan. Much of the plan identified things that we as a community could do for ourselves and so far we're doing pretty well. The village has always had a number of volunteer-led initiatives but over the past few years the growth in activity has been exponential. The Social Committee is growing in its ambition; sport is developing through the work

of CUR:ve and by Dads just rolling up their sleeves and working with the youth of the village; Little Hurricanes Toddlers group goes from strength to strength; and The Rissington Singers have formed to give music and the arts a foothold. This newsletter has been conceived, developed and distributed by volunteers. The new Village Hall will be run by volunteers who are keen to support the growth of entertainment, arts, sport and community-support groups. Are you getting the picture? Volunteer activity is rife in Upper Rissington but not all volunteers can commit to the same levels of involvement. Some are happy to organise, to attend regular meetings, to run clubs and events. Some selflessly carry out village clear-up duties, out almost every day collecting litter strewn from cars. There are great things happening in the village and volunteer effort is at the heart of much of it.

So what is 'FOUR'? Firstly I should say the notion of Friends of Upper Rissington is NOT about replacing the effort and personal commitment we see so much of. FOUR is about providing a structure to advertise, promote and in some cases organise more volunteering.

When we developed the Upper Rissington Parish Plan, over 20% of respondents to a questionnaire said that they would be prepared or would like to help around the village. In the first instance we need FOUR to have an organising body. So if you're prepared to help shape the organisation please get in touch and we'll get the first meeting underway. If you want to get involved with volunteering at any level, including occasional litter picking, village hall support, regular tea and coffee clubs or fundraisers, age and health support activities (shopping, visiting and such like), village event on-the-day support (such as at the Fete, Fireworks Display, Sports Days etc.), let us know. If you can see a need in the village where you think volunteers are the answer, get in touch.

FOUR is not there to stop you doing your own thing, it's not there to replace anything already planned or underway. It's there to bring in more of the wealth of goodwill that is looking for an outlet in the village. So please, get in touch and help make even more things happen! (Until we have our organisation fully formed please use the URNEWS contact details: URNEWS@btinternet.com or call 01451 821460).



Village Hall Update

Guessing the opening date of the new Village Hall is getting to be right up there with getting the right numbers for the Euromillions. Over the last couple of months we've seen the developers, Linden and Bovis, keen to finalise the deal. We've seen the Parish Clerk burning the midnight oil in the hope that we were within touching distance of opening the Hall. We've seen the Trustees and Management Committee do all that they need to do to start running the Hall. So why is the Hall still closed?

Well, at the very day of handover the PC were advised that the hall had a £32,000 stamp duty bill attached to it. Some have screamed that this should have been known before, but the reality is that all of the advisers involved in the lead-up to this date and all of the previous incumbent Parish Councillors were unaware of this threat to our village finances. To help overcome the issue the developers have offered the Village £40,000 up front in place of the end-of-term maintenance payment which would be due on the Hall.

The PC has voted to accept this offer. It would leave £8,000, which should be ample to cover the potential maintenance bill at the end of 3 years. In addition the PC is questioning the validity of the claim for £32,000 stamp duty. It is hard to understand how the Hall is judged to have such a high commercial value given how commercial properties are usually valued. It now remains with Cotswold District Council to agree the proposal as it may affect the core (s106) agreement. There have been a number of speculative rumours to the effect that the £40,000 offer from the developers is linked to a new housing planning proposal. It is not.



Our latest hope is that the Hall can be transferred to the Trust by mid March. From then, the Trust will need to equip the Hall to open (furniture, cleaning materials, catering items, signage, procedure tests etc). This gives us a hope that we might open the Hall in time for this year's Easter Egg Hunt on 26th March. This target was chosen as it's just about the best date we think we can achieve. Easter weekend is such a family time that it might be an opportunity to show off the Hall to everyone in our community. It's still fingers crossed, and when we have the actual date we'll need an awful lot of help to get the Hall open in time (see the article in this edition on FOUR, Friends of Upper Rissington). But let's hope that our District Council, legal, and administrative supporters can work with us to get where we need to be.

In the next edition of 'The Breeze' hopefully we'll be writing about the terrific things happening in our new, vibrant, Village Hall.

Great Rissington Gardening Club

Why not join us at the Great Rissington Gardening Club? We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Great Rissington Club House. The bar is open from 7 30pm and speakers start at 8pm. The next dates are March 9, April 13, and May 11. During June, July, and August we have outings planned. Membership is £10 per household. Do come and join us!

Contact Jackie Palmer 01451 822285.

Gardening On a Hill

Well I am sure like me you have all had your fill of the wet and windy weather and will be glad to see the back of this winter. I personally was trying for a dry January but the weather got in the way and I am now hoping I can do better in February. Meanwhile in the garden the ground will need to drain a little before we can even think of getting out and working on it.

While you are waiting for the weather to get a little better and to cheer yourself up a bit why not do a bit of forward planning. Pour yourself a glass of wine and look through the summer bulb catalogues. Or take a visit to a local garden centre and have a look at the summer flowering bulbs, which will be on display now as this is the time to plant them.

Summer flowering bulbs are a joy to behold. There is nothing more wonderful or satisfying than sitting in a warm colourful garden that is full of the scent of flowers. Bulbs planted now in the ground or in patio pots can be enjoyed for months, through summer into autumn! The secret is to plant a variety of bulbs which will last from June until September.

Summer bulbs, such as alliums, agapanthus and cannas, should be planted in spring, when the soil is beginning to warm up. The ideal soil temperature is 13°C as in colder soil bulbs will not start to grow and may rot. Aim to plant dry bulbs directly after purchase. However because we have had such a wet winter I would advise that when planting your bulbs you make sure they have adequate drainage.

Prepare the ground by digging in lots of compost and leaf mould. Hopefully, if you have been reading the previous copies of the newsletter and (more importantly!) putting into practice making your own compost, you will now have the chance to empty your compost bins and put all that lovely stuff to good use.

I always layer the bottom of the planting hole with a layer of small gravel or grit to improve the drainage. Use the bulb as a guide and plant it two or three times its depth. Space them approximately two or three bulb-widths apart. Then cover the bulbs with the compost mixture and firm down.

Some attractive and scented summer bulbs available now include:

Bearded Iris

These classic cottage garden tubers are deservedly popular for their beautiful ruffled blooms and sturdy strap-like foliage.

Nectaroscordum

This unusual relation to the Allium family produces bell-shaped flowers suspended on arching stems from the main flower head

Polianthes tuberosa

This is one of the most fragrant summer bulbs you will find.

Oriental Lily

Flamboyant blooms and a sensational fragrance make the oriental lily instantly recognisable.

Freesia

A fabulous cut flower, freesias produce beautifully fragrant blooms on strong arching stems.

Allium

Airy spheres of purple blooms are followed by extraordinary architectural seedheads



Gardening and growing is great for us all! It is good for our physical and mental health, for reducing stress, and of course when all the work is done you can just sit back on a sunny day and enjoy all your hard work.

I have mentioned before that I belong to a team of individuals trying to help our Councils tackle the cost of waste to our environment as well as to our pockets. Over 500 Master Composter volunteers from around the UK have so far been trained to spread the home-composting message through Garden Organics' sustainable waste programme. There are also Master Gardeners who support individuals to grow food in their gardens, allotments, windowsills, workplaces and other community growing spaces. This brings a wide variety of health benefits as individuals get more exercise, eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, and food miles are reduced.

If you need help and advice with gardening or think you have time and experience that may be of use then get in contact with Garden Organics at www.gardenorganic.org.uk

I would also like to call upon anyone with a bit of time who might like to join me in creating some raised borders for vegetables at the school. It would also be great to get a team of volunteers to help maintain them through the summer.

Jubilee Garden

Most residents will know about the Jubilee Garden and how it came about but if you have just moved to Upper Rissington then you may not even know where it is – so hopefully the map below will help!

The garden was started in 2012 to celebrate our Queen's Jubilee. The idea was to add to it every year in the hope that one day it will be a fully closed-in garden.

I have some good news on that front as the Parish Council have agreed to buy a bench to celebrate the Queen's Birthday this year. I am also trying for a small boundary hedge and a rose bed around to bench.



Miniature Castle

Some of you may know about the miniature castle situated outside the old business centre building on the new development. Many residents expressed a concern to the PC as to what was going to happen to it and wanted to save it if possible. The developers have said they will move it before they continue their work on the old business centre, and at the moment the PC are considering putting it in the Jubilee Garden. This is possibly the best place for it and access will be good as it is not going to be an easy thing to move.

If anyone wants to know more about the miniature castle you can visit <http://www.upperrissington.co.uk/miniature-castle/> or contact the PC.

It was a fairly quiet Christmas period for the sports this year, however the football squad have been braving the freezing temperatures, the wind, rain and even hail! Thanks go to Stretch for his dogged determination and willingness to play and coach football.

Over the last 3 months since I have been here it has been great to see the improvement of the children's football skills thanks to Rob Eccles' Alex Ferguson-style of training! Even I have improved and that's saying something.

It's exciting to see more children and parents getting involved in sporting activity and exercise. As the weather improves I'm sure Saturday morning sports will fill the playing fields. So come along for a bit of football training and game playing, every Saturday, any age, all are welcome. Also Sunday afternoons at 3pm is touch rugby for years 9 and above.

We are steadily receiving the sports equipment from the sports grant, and the Village Hall store room is starting to burst at the seams with all this new sporting equipment. It looks as though we will have most sports covered and catered for. As always if there are some other sporting activities that you would like to see in the village and especially things that you might be able to get involved in we'd love to hear from you. Just chat to Gary Black, Rob Eccles, Dan Beard, Hans Ziebeck or Kami Kalsi.

Boxing Community Gym is officially up and running. Held at the Runner Bean studio on Friday @ 6.30pm – 7.30pm. For the last month it has been hugely successful with an average of 20 people per class. Designed for community fitness and not the fitness elite, Kami helps and encourages a "fun whilst getting fit with family" fitness programme.

Buggy Run is holding its own on Fridays at 10am and continues to see new mums joining in and really benefitting:

"Thank you so much for starting it here, I have not put a pair of running shoes on since 5 years ago and had got in such a rut with my fitness and by coming to Buggy-fit you have really given me the confidence to start running again and reminded me how good exercise feels! I don't think I would have ever put my running gear on again if it had not been for the group and now I am going out 3-4 times a week in the evening with the dog so I am so grateful to you for that!" - Heather Triggs



At Runner Bean Fitness Studio

All ages welcome

Every Friday 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Juniors under 16's £1.50
Adults £2.50

For details contact Kami Kalsi
01451 798267/07737020832
kami_curve@outlook.com





People of **Upper Rissington** to walk and run themselves proud for Sport Relief

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is back – and it's coming to Upper Rissington. The village is set to host its second Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile on Sunday 20th March, and needs local people to come together and make themselves proud by entering now at www.sportrelief.com.

The colourful, cheerful and eager Milers will be doing their bit to make a difference to people living across the UK and in the world's poorest communities. Setting off from the playing fields the Rissington Mile will pass through both the old and new parts of the village and is set to be an incredible event.

Sport and community outreach worker, Kami Kalsi said: "The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile in Upper Rissington is here and it's your time to walk or run yourself proud. From little ones with their mums and dads, to runners up against the clock, there's something for everyone to make themselves feel proud on this special day."



Sport Relief is back from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th March 2016 and there are more ways than ever for you to take part. Whether you get sponsored to enter an event at the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Games or fundraise with friends and family at home, work or school, you'll help people living incredibly tough lives. In fact, half of all the money raised by the public is spent right here in the UK, with the other half used to make a difference in deprived communities across the world.

Registration for the Upper Rissington event is from 1pm on Sunday 20th March, with a start time of 1.30pm. There will also be a BBQ, stalls, sports on the field, and drinks and refreshments @ the Village Hall. For further information please contact kami_curve@outlook.com.

DOG POO

On a very important side note it has been noticed that there has been a lot more dog poo than normal on the field recently. Please all you dog owners, you must understand that the fields in the centre of the village are official playing fields.

Dog poop often contains roundworm larvae. If a human ingests a roundworm larva, it can migrate through the body causing disease to the brain, lungs, kidneys, liver, heart or eyes. So when people (especially children) touch soil, dog toys or anything that has been in contact with dog faeces and then touch their mouths, they can become infected.



Dog poop doesn't just "wash away" or disappear. So if you're not disposing of your dog's waste, you're putting yourself, your family, your dog and your water-supply at risk. Please don't put us all at risk – take responsibility for your dog.

Youth Page

The lead up to the Christmas Social for the Youth Club proved an exciting time. As a group, we got up to lots of different activities, from a talent show to a movie night, finishing off with the highlight of an outing to JDR Karting in Gloucester. The youth and team leaders thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with Seamus taking pole position and 1st place. Well done to all who took part. The evening finished with a trip to McDonalds – after all, high-speed driving is hungry work!

As we get back into this year we are already looking forward to lots more activities and socials as well as continuing the usual Wednesday nights. Youth Gloucester have kindly donated a whole range of sports equipment to be used for Youth Club, from a rounders set to a badminton kit and plenty in between.

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) and meets at the Village Hall every Wednesday during term-time from 7.00pm–8.30pm.

We are also on the lookout for more volunteers to help out. So if you have a passion for helping or getting alongside the young people in our area, we would love to hear from you.

For more info please contact: Kami Kalsi (kami_curve@outlook.com) or Zoe Branch: (zhbranch@gmail.com)



NEW SCOUT GROUP OPENING SOON



1st Sherborne & Northleach Scout troop is a member of the British Boy and Girl Scouts movement. Our inaugural troop meeting will take place at the Westwoods Centre, Northleach on Friday April 1st between 7.00pm-8.30pm and then every Friday thereafter in term time.

Fee per term is £15.00. Uniform package deals are available.

Children from Northleach, Sherborne, the Windrush Valley and the surrounding area are encouraged to attend and to see what we are about as a traditional Scout troop within one of the UK's oldest Scout associations.

Dates for your diary:

April 1st: First meeting at the Westwood Centre, 7pm.

April 23rd-24th: Scout camp and St George's Day Parade at Sherborne, with a service at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Several other BBS/BGS troops will be present.



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LITTLE HURRICANES

Little Hurricanes is a friendly baby and toddler group that meets every Thursday morning from 9.30-11.30 at the village hall.

In the lead up to Easter we have some Easter crafts planned as well as a mini Easter egg hunt! For those of you looking for an alternative to Easter Eggs we hope Beth from Usborne books will pay us a visit in the next month!

We are really enjoying meeting all the new families who have moved to the village recently. We know that going to a new group for the first time can sometimes be a bit daunting. If you are planning to come along to the group for the first time and feel a bit anxious, drop us an email or a message on our Facebook page and we will make sure we look out for you and show you the ropes! The cost of the sessions is £2 per family group. This fee helps us cover the cost of hiring the village hall, insurance, cleaning products and other essentials such as tea, coffee, snacks and the all-important biscuits for the grown-ups!

If you would like to get involved with helping with snack, planning our activities or helping with setting up in the morning have a word with one of the members of our committee. The more hands on deck the better!

We love having people come in to give us taster sessions. This month we had a great time with Rose from *Rose's Rhythm and Rhyme* who came from Stow to show us what she did. If you run a business locally that you think our young families would be interested in get in touch and we will arrange for you to drop in! The local Health Visitor will continue to come and see us on the first Thursday of every month for weighing and to offer general advice. (If you wish to see the Health Visitor but without attending the group and paying the £2 entrance fee you will need to hand your book to the Health Visitor when you arrive and then wait outside the hall and she will call you in when it is your turn.)

For more information contact us at littlehurricanes@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook: Upper Rissington Little Hurricanes.



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone in the village who gives so much towards community life in different ways. There isn't space to mention everyone by name (and many probably prefer to be anonymous) but just to mention two:

Thank you Jackie for the donation of a rose for the Jubilee Garden. Thanks also to Joan Joyce from Victory Fields who has also donated money towards the Garden in thanks for having her lost wallet restored to her.

Behind the Road Names in Upper Rissington – Part 5

Siskin Road

The Armstrong Whitworth Siskin was a British biplane, single-seat fighter aircraft of the 1920s produced by Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft. The Siskin was one of the first new RAF fighters to enter service after the First World War; it was noted for its aerobatic qualities.

The SR.2 Siskin was a single-bay biplane of wood and fabric construction. Its wings were of unequal span and the aircraft was fitted with a distinctive fixed conventional landing gear.



RAF Armstrong-Whitworth Siskin IIIa from No. 41 Squadron at Northolt being serviced with oxygen



The Siskins aerobatic team - The Royal Canadian Air Force's first flight demonstration/aerobatic team

The Siskin first flew in May 1919, powered by a Dragonfly engine which proved to be a disaster, lack of power and unreliable. It was in 1919 that Siddeley-Deasy merged with Armstrong Whitworth and an engine now known as the Jaguar, was fitted to a prototype in 1920.

The Siskin III first flew on 7 May 1923, after further development to an all-metal structure, with the first deliveries to the RAF (six for evaluation) taking place in January 1924. The fighter was the first all-metal fighter in the RAF.

The main production version was the Siskin IIIA ordered in 1926 which had an improved Jaguar engine. The Siskin was used by 11 RAF squadrons. The last operational RAF Siskins were replaced in October 1932.

Smith Barry Road/Crescent/Circus

Robert Raymond Smith Barry AFC (4 April 1886 – 23 April 1949) was an officer in the Royal Flying Corps and its successor, the Royal Air Force. His most notable contribution was in developing flying instruction methods.

In December 1916 he masterminded a complete reorganisation of flying training methods at Gosport. This new training method later became known as the "Gosport System" and was adopted worldwide.

Smith-Barry was later described by Lord Trenchard as the man who "taught the air forces of the world how to fly".



Robert Smith-Barry (right) with his then Commanding Officer F. F. Waldron, in a picture taken at Gosport in 1916 when they both formed 60 Sqn RFC. Waldron was later killed over the Somme.

Smith-Barry was born on 1 August 1886 in Mayfair, London the son of James Hugh Smith-Barry and his wife Charlotte Jane. He was educated at Eton College and Trinity College, Cambridge from 1904 although he left without taking a degree. He learnt to fly in 1911 at Salisbury Plain and was one of the first officers in the new Royal Flying Corps formed in August 1912.

He saw active service in World War I and was promoted several times, becoming a wing commander on 23 August 1917 and he was made temporary lieutenant-colonel. In 1918 he was awarded the 'Air Force Cross'. Retiring to Canock Manor near Upavon between the wars as a "country gentleman", he re-joined the Royal Air Force during the Second World War as a ferry pilot and ground instructor.

Smith-Barry died in Durban, South Africa on 23 April 1949 aged 63 following an operation on his leg, which had troubled him since his crash in 1914, where both his legs were broken.

The Rissingtons Local History Society

Friday 18th March 7.30pm Little Rissington Village Hall

Lost Railway Journeys of Gloucestershire

- David Aldred's talk will feature railway journeys centring on the Cotswolds, including the Kingham Line.

Cost £3, contact Sue Brown for more details on 01451 820233.

Friday 15th April 7.30pm Little Rissington Village Hall

Oxford Castle

- Mark Davies brings the history of the castle to life with stories of hard labour, escape and executions, and the governorship of multi-talented prisoner/gaoler Daniel Harris. A short AGM will take place at the beginning of this talk.

Cost £3, contact Sue Brown for more details on 01451 820233.

Thursday 26th May - visit to Croome Court (NT) to celebrate the tercentenary of Capability Brown's birth.

Croome was the first landscape Brown created. A group lecture is booked for 11.15am then free time to wander round the house and grounds. Coffee and lunch are available at the site. Cost £5 for the lecture, plus entry free for non-NT members. Contact Tony Ellam for more details on 01451 833854 or anthonyellam@btinternet.com.

COTSWOLD MEN IN SHEDS

Men in Sheds is all about the 'Men's Shed' – a larger version of the typical shed many men have in their garden. It's a place where men can do their own things, but in company with others – sharing tools and resources, working on their own pursuits or community projects, at their own pace and in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. They are places where men can come together to work, shoot the breeze (not 'The Breeze' we hope! – ed), and drink tea!

Cotswold Friends has a Cotswold Men's Shed opening in Bourton on the Water in the near future and would welcome any men who are interested to get in touch. The contact for Bourton is Wendy Sherwood (wendy@cotswoldfriends.org, tel: 01608 651745).



THE SCHOOL REPORT

The Rissington School has had a busy and successful start to the new Spring term.

On the sports front, a tremendous achievement with the athletics team (having already won the North Cotswold and Cotswold events to get through to the county finals held at Cheltenham College), won the gold indoor athletics medal to become the best small school in the whole of Gloucestershire. That is top of around 150 small schools in the county! We all celebrated the win with chocolate brownies the following Monday. Additionally our Gymnastics team achieved a silver medal; the Girls Football team came in 3rd place; and just before Christmas the Boys Football A team achieved 1st place and the B team joint 3rd. Great results.

Other trips and activities have included 30 pupils attending the Young Voices NEC Arena where they performed with a wealth of other schools; Bristol Science Museum; Oxford Natural History Museum; and a Debating event at Cheltenham College (followed up by a trip to a local riding yard which was the topic of their debate).

The Friends of The Rissington School have also been hard at work and raised over £1900 with a sponsored bounce – our thanks to the Friends team and Caroline Ardron for their support with this event. There are many more events planned all of which are detailed on our website.



County Athletics Winners with their sports teacher Mrs Gabriel

Admission numbers at the school are rising with plenty of enquiries coming in from new families. We currently have 173 pupils – however this never stays static for long! We have been very lucky to find Mr Hadgkiss – or Mr 'H' as he is now known – who is driving the minibus back and forth in the mornings and afternoons between sites, replacing the service previously provided by Pulhams.

Our pre-school provision is also proving very popular with numbers continually growing. Currently Little Rascals occupies a classroom on the site, which, due to growing numbers of families buying homes on the new building development, we anticipate needing in the not too distant future. The governors, who have had huge support from Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington, Cotswold District Councillor to The Rissingtons, have been in close conversation with Bovis and Linden Homes, who have the desire to meet the cost of a permanent modular building, modern in style and quick to erect, in the grounds of the Upper Rissy school site. The build will look similar to the wooden structure that forms the tower above the hall and is designed to last for 80-100 years. Bovis and Linden are awaiting the result of revised planning consent from Cotswold District Council, which will enable them to release funds to us (or rather Gloucestershire County Council under the section 106 agreement) and then we can start the planning permission process with CDC. Our aim is September 2016, but we are in the hands of CDC.

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The Church in Upper Rissington:

valuing everyone

In the last edition of 'The Breeze' we were looking forward to all our Christmas events, which all seem a long time ago now. The Carol Service was a real highlight, and it was great to see the School Hall just about full – so thank you to everyone who came along and joined us, especially the Rissington Singers, who gave a fantastic lead to the singing. It was also good to welcome a number of visitors to our Christmas morning service.

Since then we've been busy with all the usual activities. The Buggy Runners continue to brave the elements on Friday mornings, and the Community Boxing Gym is proving a hit (pun intended!) on Friday evenings. To balance out the fitness though, we continue to find as many opportunities to share coffee and cake as we can. The Village Coffee morning in February was one such event, enabling us to meet a number of new residents of the village. We're now planning to hold these on the second Saturday of every month and hope they will become an established part of the village calendar.

Coffee@CUR:ve on Wednesday mornings is another good place to meet. It's very informal and non-churchy, and you can drop in just for as long or short a time as you want. We did have a visit from the new Bishop of Gloucester a few weeks ago, which I believe got a mention on Twitter and on the radio – Upper Rissington's fame spreads!

Finally, February half-term saw the return of the Holiday Club on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, focusing on two 'Super Zeroes' – Daniel and Gideon. Everyone had a great time so I'm sure more will follow in future school holidays.

To find out more about CUR:ve and our activities, contact kami_curve@outlook.com or have a look at our new website www.curve-rissington.org

We're loving our new venue for Sunday mornings at the Rissington School and continue with our relaxed style. The first Sunday in the month is always Sunday Café, an opportunity to meet over coffee and bacon butties, read the Sunday papers, or enjoy a few family board-games. Why not come and check us out for our Mother's Day Special on Sunday 6th March?

On all the other Sundays we offer refreshments, activities for the children, and a short time of informal worship together, with different members of the CUR:ve team leading the music or sharing a few thoughts. There are also opportunities to ask questions or pray together informally. Everyone welcome

Sunday Cafe
drop in 10.30-12 first Sunday
every month

@ the Rissington School

Sunday Cafe Plus
10.30-12 all other Sundays
@ the Rissington School
(worship 11-11.30)

CUR:ve Creative
alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm
@ 6 De Havilland Road

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

Buggy Workout
every Friday 10am
@ The Rissington School

Saturday Sports
every Saturday am
on the playing fields





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- 3. Goal Setting:** Does he/she struggle with meeting goals? Karate's system of coloured belts help to teach children that continuous practice helps them towards achieving their goal.



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- 4. Self Confidence/ Self-Esteem:** Does he/she struggle in this area? Each child has many opportunities to be a leader at the front of the class, most are unsure at first, but soon they grow with confidence and really blossom when empowered to lead.
- 5. Stress Reduction:** Chris and Molly, two top students, said that the "relaxation techniques taught in class" helped them to not overstress during their year twelve and thirteen exams.

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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
Parish Council	Clerk	clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk	01451 810839
UR Social	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	01451 810839 07592 533596
UR Sports	Kami Kalsi	kami_curve@outlook.com	07737 020832
CUR:ve	Kami Kalsi	kami_curve@outlook.com	07737 020832
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

The next issue of 'The Breeze' is due to be published at the beginning of June 2016. Please contact us at URNEWS@btinternet.com or call 07592 533596 if you would like to contribute articles or news items. The deadline for contributions is Friday 20th May 2016.

For advertising enquiries you can also email Keelin McLeman (keelinbracken@gmail.com)

