



## Upper Rissington's Newsletter

### Winter 2018

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Welcome to Winter! After such a lovely summer and autumn, I'm certainly finding the change in the weather a bit of a shock to the system. But the good news is - here's another packed edition of the Breeze for you to curl up in the warm and tuck into!

As usual, there seem to be lots of great things going on around the village. Most of them only happen because of all the people who give their time and energy to help. So it's no surprise that there's a strong 'volunteering' flavour this quarter - read Wayne's article on page 9 to see what it means to get involved. We hope to include some more viewpoints in the future, so if you'd like to contribute, please let us know.

Also in this edition, Polly reminds us that we're not the only ones who feel the effects of the cold, our gardens and our wildlife are challenged too. Read her articles on pages 10-11 and 16 for more information.

As always, if you're involved with an organisation we don't currently feature or if you have some news to share, please get in contact (the closing date for contributions is on the back page). Articles on subjects you think might be of interest to the community are also very welcome.

Finally, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Breeze editorial team, to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and encouraging New Year.

Sue Handy

# Village News

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

### **Remember, remember, the 10th of November**

If you were there I'm sure you'll remember this year's fireworks display. The forecast was for downpours so the expectation was for reduced numbers. Regardless, the Social Committee



made preparations as if we were expecting record numbers and boy were we right. The weather turned out perfect until the end, the display was terrific again, and the support for the event was outstanding.

The bar was busy, the barbecue dealt with almost 500 bun-filled burgers or sausages in around an hour and a half. Moving the event onto the field was a success and enabled us to deal with the queues far more efficiently than last year. We bought a second large drum barbecue for this event and it paid dividends when it came to keeping the queues moving. The kids stall sold around £500 worth of glow sticks, sweets and cakes and the bar saw nearly 6 gallons of mulled wine dispensed.

The one slight disappointment is the bucket collection, which fell again this year from the high two years ago of nearly £1,000 to around £650 this year, but thank you to everyone who donated, it has a great impact on covering the costs of the display. Financially the event made a small loss, but against this we did spend almost £700 on items we can use on future events including another barbecue, lights and yet more temporary orange fencing.

We have to thank the tremendous number of volunteers who get involved in the preparation and on the day. There was such a lot of work involved setting up the field, the marquees, the bonfire and the fencing. Groups from the Pioneers, CUR:ve, Scouts and Rotary all did their bit on the day along with the committee members and individual volunteers. It was more heart-warming to see the collective effort than the heat generated by the massive bonfire

The Social Committee members always meet and discuss what we can learn from past events to improve on next year. If you have any points you feel to be of value please either email [ursc@btinternet.com](mailto:ursc@btinternet.com) or chat with one of our committee members.



## Upcoming Events

The next event is the **Post-Christmas Show - Paddington 2**. Every year we hold an event on the first weekend after New Year. It's one of those quiet times following a hectic Christmas and New Year. In previous years we've invited a touring Panto group to perform. The feedback from last year wasn't as enthusiastic or positive as previous years so we felt that it was time to try something new. So this year we've got the Rural Cinema team bringing a film that is suitable for the whole family and, even if you've seen it before, it will be a fun 'family and friends' afternoon out.

We're planning on doors opening at the Village Hall at 3.30pm and the film starting at 4.00pm. As with previous years we will charge the same price for adults and children, but the children's tickets will include a goodie bag, with snacks provided during the interval. Refreshment stalls will be set up for adults so you can buy hot and cold soft drinks and snacks.

Seating is limited to 150, which the Hall can comfortably accommodate. This means we will need to know numbers in advance, as in previous years the event has sold out. So email us at [URSC@btinternet.com](mailto:URSC@btinternet.com) or call us on 01451 821460 and if no answer leave a message with your contact details and number of tickets, stating how many are for children (we need to know how many goodie bags to make up).

If the feedback from this event is positive we will look to run a few Rural Cinema events through the dark winter months, so look out for posters.

## Committee News

I promised in the last edition of The Breeze that I would let you know the names of your committee members so that you can chat to them and share any good ideas or feedback you may have. The Committee are:

Richard Arnell - Chairman

Kath Finch - Secretary

David Harrison - Treasurer

Keelin McLeman, Zoe Branch, Claire Barley, Declan Torris, Heather Bonner, Sandi

Garrett, Jenna North, Wayne Fisher

It's a terrific team and working so well to produce impressive village events which continue to improve each year. If you'd like to know more about either being a committee member or helper please get in touch with a member of the Committee to effect an introduction or email us at [ursc@btinternet.com](mailto:ursc@btinternet.com).

## Firework Thanks

Thank you to all those volunteers who turned out on the day and who were involved in the preparation to create and manage a fantastic event. Thank you to Budget Skips for donating a skip to ease our clear up operations after the event. Thanks to Rob at The Plumb Centre and Travis Perkins for pallets and help. Thank you to Phipps for again providing the straw bales. Thanks to all of you who came along to support the event. It was just and fair that you should have been rewarded by the better-than-forecast weather and a great display.

# VILLAGE HALL NEWS



## **Does Upper Rissington have a sense of Community?**

Last week I was sitting having a pot of tea with a friend when we were joined in our conversation by someone who had moved from Upper Rissington to Stow in 2008. We were in the golf clubhouse so there were a number of people who could overhear him saying how sad it was that there was no sense of community in Upper Rissington. I could feel my hackles rising to the point that I felt I might not be able to rationally respond. However, three deep breaths, a little yoga mantra and I gathered myself enough to blurt out, "Social Committee with a dozen committee members pulling together; tremendously well supported events; awesome Mums and Toddlers group with a terrific program; Scouts and Beavers getting involved in the community. The Pioneers are a warm group who meet, enjoy talks and coffee mornings and get involved in community events. Classes in yoga, self defence, dancing and archery and even a newly formed Rotary group". I realised by the end of this list that what I'd just done was rattle off a bit of the Village Hall diary. I took a breath and expanded the list to include our school, the sports group, The Breeze, the Rissington Singers, CUR;ve, Stargazers, and all of those groups who create communities of interest in our much expanded village. I feel pretty justified in defending the line that Upper Rissington has one of the strongest communities in the Cotswolds. The Trust and Management Team see their role as making the Village Hall an effective support for the development of groups and community as well as being a great venue for family celebrations.

## **Last Quarter**

A new parking sign has gone up to try to make sure that parking is sufficient for Hall users. Temporarily, we have an agreement with the school that parents can use the carpark to drop off and collect children while the works are going on around the school. Lights were put on the south wall of the Hall this quarter and we continue to evaluate lighting options for the sports hall. The heating system had the final elements of the repair carried out and the service regime started.

The Business Plan is in the process of being revised. This will be made available on the website for the community to look into the investment plans, principles and financial stability of the Trust. The finances for the last financial year will go through the annual inspection and then be posted on the charity commission website together with a review of the year 2017/18. This will also be posted on the [URVH.org](http://URVH.org) website.

We carry out a regular inspection of the Hall, with a volunteer attending at the end of every day to make sure the Hall is fit for the next day. There have been a few instances where the Hall hasn't been left as it should and we continue to work with hirers to apply the T&Cs.

## **Your Village Hall**

Remember that the Village Hall is there for you. We have a range of assets that could be used more often, including the badminton equipment and the table-tennis tables. If you have any ideas for the Village Hall, or if you want to set up a group such as a table tennis or badminton club, please contact us. We don't have the resources to set up and run these things, but we might be able to put people together to create new vibrant community groups.

If you want to hire the hall or get in touch, please contact us at [URVH@btconnect.com](mailto:URVH@btconnect.com). If you don't have email, leave us a message on 01451 821820 or drop a note in the letter box at the Village Hall.

### **The Trust and The Management Team**

We currently have four Trustees and six Management Team members. Of the six Management Team members three are also Trustees. We really need to build up the teams to make up for those who have had to move on. We need people who have a sense of community and can focus on making the Hall a great community asset. We like to focus our time in a positive and constructive way. We want to work with people who either have skills that support the management of the Hall or attitudes and creativity that support the appropriate development of the Hall for the community. Enthusiasm is as important as management experience. Please get in touch for an informal chat to see if working with the Management Team is for you. Call 01451 821820 and leave a message or email [urvh@btconnect.com](mailto:urvh@btconnect.com).

### **Thanks.**

Thanks this month go to the Little Hurricanes and the Social Committee for their help in tidying up the storeroom. We suffer from a shortage of storage space and this will only get more difficult as we invest in more assets to develop the Hall further, so the concerted effort this month was truly appreciated.

Please visit [URVH.org](http://URVH.org) regularly to check out the Hall calendar.

## **Upgrade of the Play Park Equipment**

Work started on the Play Park (behind Bristol Road) on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and is scheduled to take three weeks, if all goes well and the weather plays ball. This is Phase 2 of the project to

renew the equipment there and add to it. This phase will see two new sets of swings installed, along with two new seats, new fencing and a 30m zip-wire just outside the fenced area.

Phase 1 equipment has already been enjoyed since it was installed and now with Phase 2 running, this will complete the upgrade of the Play Park equipment.

If there are any issues with the equipment or the Play Park area, let the Parish Council know by emailing the Clerk at: [clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk)



# Little Hurricanes

Baby & Toddler Group for the under 5's and their parents/grandparents/carers

Every Thursday during term time 9.30am to 11.30am  
@ Village Hall, Wellington Road, Upper Rissington GL54 2QW  
littlehurricanes@hotmail.com



We have been delighted again to meet and greet more new families this past term and to see the group so well supported for the benefit of our community and surrounding areas. It has also been lovely to see some dads arrive and return to join in, as often men can feel a little put off in attending such groups. Therefore, we are particularly pleased that everyone enjoys the relaxed setting we aim to provide.



We offer a carpeted comfort area for babies; free play, soft play, and crafts; squash and snacks for the children; and tea, coffee, hot chocolate, biscuits and/or cakes; all within the donations we receive. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month the NHS Clinic is in attendance and the Real Nappy Project have also started dropping in every 6 weeks with their products.

Monkey Music and Songtime Sally each provide us with their musical sessions once a month, and Kiddley Divey also dropped in this term to share with us what their sessions involve (these are held in the Village Hall on a Tuesday morning).

November included a week with a Halloween theme; a mobile ceramics studio set up by The Pottery Place, Witney; and a photographic studio by Alastair Currill, just in time for some Christmas gifts and portraits. The month finishes off with our Countdown to Christmas crafts.

We intend to have a party atmosphere on the last few weeks leading up to Christmas so hope you will join in with our celebrations.



Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with arranged events or see our noticeboard at sessions.

Donation of £2 per family suggested

# The Church in Upper Rissington:

*valuing everyone*



## Christmas at CUR:ve

CUR:ve (the Church in Upper Rissington) would like to invite everyone from the community to join us for our annual Carols by Candlelight service in the Village Hall on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 4pm. Do bring the whole family and enjoy singing the familiar carols and hearing the Christmas goodies. We hope to welcome many of you there. On Christmas Day, we will be gathering at 10am in the School for a short time (45 mins) of celebration. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

## New Year, new home

Having enjoyed the warm hospitality and first-class facilities of the school in Upper Rissington as the host venue for our regular Sunday morning gatherings for nigh on three years, the New Year will see CUR:ve relocate to the Village Hall. Our relaxed and informal services start at 10.45am and end by 12.00 midday. Refreshments are available on arrival and throughout the morning, as are creche toys and children's activities. We will continue to meet in the school until the end of December and then move to the Village Hall from 13<sup>th</sup> January onwards. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, we often do something different. Do check our website for up-to-date information ([www.curveweb.org](http://www.curveweb.org)), find us on Facebook, or drop an email to [sendtocurve@gmail.com](mailto:sendtocurve@gmail.com).

## Saturday cafés

Our Saturday café takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month, 10-11.30am at the Village Hall. There are sausage and bacon rolls, pastries, hot drinks, newspapers and children's toys and games. Come and chat and maybe meet some new neighbours!

## Try Alpha in Upper Rissington

We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and now here in Upper Rissington. Everyone is most welcome.

Please look out for more details in the New Year or contact [sendtocurve@gmail.com](mailto:sendtocurve@gmail.com) for further information about any of these events.

St John the Baptist Church  
Great Rissington

**CHRISTMAS  
TREE FESTIVAL  
2018**

FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Join us for Mulled Wine from  
6.00pm - 7.00pm

SATURDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
10.00am - 5.00pm

SUNDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
12.30am - 5.00pm

Tea, Coffee and cake available!

Christingle Service on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup>  
December at 11.00am - All welcome

Trees supplied by Phipp Feeds  
A prize will be awarded for the best  
tree

# 1<sup>st</sup> Upper Rissington Scout Group

## B-PSA



Well it has been a packed term for the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Upper Rissington Scout Group, with the village bonfire night and Remembrance centenary events alongside our normal sessions.

Our Beavers made the guy for the bonfire and fireworks event which they thoroughly enjoyed making, I think more straw was spread around the village hall than went in the guy! Apologies to the Village Hall and their cleaners we did try and clear it all up. A big thank you to Phipp Feeds who very kindly donated the straw for the guy at very short notice after we realised we didn't have enough!

Our Scout and Wolf Cub sections provided some much needed man power during the morning of the Bonfire day, helping to build the bonfire and put up safety fencing they braved the rains to help with the gazebos having to hang on to them a couple of times when the wind picked up!



Not satisfied with that they returned to help collect donations from the visitors to the display and a big shout out to Max and Ollie who stayed after the show to help take down some of the safety fencing thank you to you both.

Our Beaver section stepped in again, making poppy wreaths for Remembrance day, this involved making the poppies from scratch and putting them on wreath base, they had lots of fun doing this and have had part of one of their badges now marked off.

Remembrance Day saw our Scouts and Wolf Cubs attending the church in Great Rissington to form a guard of honour for the Royal British Legion colour party, we marched from the Village Hall to Great Rissington, (I should say that the Scouts had only an hours training in marching before leading the two sections!) the first time our groups have done this and they performed impeccably, we were honoured to be accompanied by Mr H who marched with us from Upper Rissington.



We had the honour of reading three names out during the service and again despite this being their first time those reading the names did a fantastic job, following this one Scout and one Wolf Cub stood forward to lay

the wreaths made by our Beaver Group, the wreaths attracted a lot of interest from the congregation after the service.

The church was very proud of our group for making the effort to march all the way to the church and gave us a special mention at the beginning of the service, well done to all (including leaders and parents!) who took part, hopefully we will have our own colours soon!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Andy (Bagheera) as a new trainee leader, thank you for stepping forward and volunteering your time for the Group, if anyone would be interested in becoming a leader please let us know.

If your child would like to join one of our sections then please either call in on a Friday evening or email us, we offer a free 4 week taster period.

We can be contacted via email at [rissiscoutgroup@mail.com](mailto:rissiscoutgroup@mail.com) or at the village hall on a Friday during term time.

Our last meeting before Christmas is 14 December which will be party time with adjusted session times to accommodate this.



## Why I volunteer ...

Firstly, about me. I'm retired and in my mid-sixties. I'm married and my wife and I belong to a number of groups. She's a Governor at a school and heavily involved with the golf club and the ladies' section, as well as belonging to a number of social groups and classes. I am a member of a number of the village groups (Breeze, Social Committee, Village Hall) and I also belong to a few clubs and groups. Most of the committees I sit with and know of are looking for volunteer effort to strengthen their clubs and groups.



Many of us in Upper Rissington volunteer to set up, run and support community organisations. It can be inconvenient, it can be exhausting, but it can be immense fun. The purpose of this series of articles is to highlight the reasons for volunteering, and these will be different for people in different circumstances. So my perspective is that of a grey-haired, male retiree with a business background.

The first thing I get out of volunteering is 'use it or lose it'. Since retiring, it's important to keep active, stimulated and have a function that gives you a sense of purpose. Sitting on the Social Committee, meeting over a glass of wine and working with fun, stimulating people to organise village events, is a great way of staying involved. It's also an event-by-event thing, so, if I'm not able to support a particular event, then there are no demands on me for that event. The second thing I clearly get is to know my neighbours. Not just the neighbours on my street, but enough people to be able to hold conversations on the way to the Co-op or in the Hangar. I've made real friends through the committees, with people I may not otherwise come into contact with. As well as the above benefits, I get a sense of responsibility with my Village Hall involvement. It presents challenges and I work with people who are focussed on facing the challenges rather than positioning their careers. As a team we provide one another with mutual appreciation in that we all appreciate the effort the others make, because we understand that the effort is voluntary.

So for me, volunteering is tremendously rewarding and provides a strong sense of fulfilment in retirement. For a mum with children the benefits of volunteering will be different. For a committed professional man or woman the benefits will be different again. Look for the 'Why I volunteer' heading in future editions of The Breeze and see if there's one that relates to your situation. You can volunteer at so many different levels, committing a little or a lot of your skill and time. The one thing you can be sure of is that your volunteering will be a great benefit to your community as you help to make Upper Rissington a great place to live and a great place to raise your family.

**Wayne Fisher**

# Gardening On a Hill

Hello everyone, I write this as my first article as a proud grandma. My daughter gave birth to a baby boy last week and it was such a privilege to be there at the birth of my first grandchild.

It certainly puts things into perspective. Both are doing great. Thank you everyone for the cards. People keep telling me it will mean that a lot of my time will be spent helping out. But hopefully I will still find time for the odd hour in the garden and of course doing the *Breeze* article.

However I have been doing this for a while now and the difficulty with doing a seasonal list of jobs to do with gardening is it is practically the same list for every spring, summer, etc. So if anyone has any fresh ideas for a garden article then you are welcome to send it in to the team. If you put it in an email to the *Breeze* marked 'gardening ideas' then I can put everyone's ideas together in one article for the spring edition. I think it may break up the monotony of it all and who knows I might learn a thing or two.

Now back to gardening tasks at this time of year ...

The arrival of 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. As most would know from my previous articles, the temperature up here can be much colder than lower ground like Bourton. This is dependent on the weather, clouds and wind direction. So be warned. If you have any precious and tender plants, it's best to protect them early before the frost gets to them.



Before the ground hardens up with the frost you still have time to plant some spring bulbs. Most of the summer bulbs are not hardy so need to be lifted before the first frost. Bulbs generally prefer to be stored dry: remove loose soil, carefully pull or cut off dead and dying leaves and leave them to dry off in a frost-free area. You can dust with fungicide to help keep the bulbs healthy but I don't bother. I just make sure they remain in a dry area until early spring. You can store the bulbs in dry paper bags or trays of almost dry sand in a frost-free place if you have the space. A few bulbs may need moist conditions and can be kept in slightly damp bark chippings.

Now is also the last chance to plant out winter bedding. You could try wallflowers, forget-me-nots, *Bellis*, *Primula*, *Viola* (winter pansies) and other spring bedding plants, planting them into well-prepared ground, or pots of suitable compost.



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.

Keep an eye on your water features or ponds. Before the frost comes put in a football or something else that floats on the surface to make a breathing hole for fish and wildlife that stays there over winter. If it freezes then 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 there in the winter weather; however, winter digging is necessary for beds and borders that need to be planted in early spring. The earlier this is done the better, allowing time for frosts to act and break down the soil. 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 which is much needed up here on the hill.

The wind and rain are on the increase and leaves are falling rapidly, the whole village again is covered in a wonder of colours from the leaves. Up here in Rissy we are lucky to have the benefit of all the autumn colour from our great range of trees. The leaves of course can be very useful, one use can be for improving the soil. They can be piled up in an unused corner of the garden to rot down, then added to the garden soil when well rotted.



While watching the wildlife in the garden from a warm comfy chair you can also 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. Time can also be given to cleaning and sharpening tools such as secateurs, saws, pruning knives, spades and hoes before storing away for winter.

**In January**, check stakes, ties, fleeces and other supports for damage and consider moving plants to sunnier positions to maximize light. Don't forget to keep feeding the birds, food is scarce for them over winter. You can also start planning next year's vegetable plot.

**February** this month there will be signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead.

### **Jubilee garden**

This is a community garden created for the Queen's Jubilee in 2012 and all the community are welcome to use it.

Since I broke my knee I have not been able to weed and tidy up in the Jubilee garden. It has started to look a bit of a mess. I thought that the Parish Council had taken care of the maintenance work but it looks like it has not been done this summer. I have a planned operation in December and would like to get some work done before winter. So if you can help in any way, I would welcome it. While a few residents have helped in the past it has not had any maintenance for a while. We could do with a few of us getting over there for a few hours one morning to tidy and create a more established and attractive space. If you can help in any way please contact me through the newsletter email address. I would appreciate any time you have. I can make my green bin available for garden waste and maybe even bake a cake for the helpers and make it worth your while.

Look forward to seeing some of the readers. Happy gardening!

**Polly**



## HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM BARNARDOS, UPPER RISSINGTON

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. Without your support we would not be able to help fund projects to help vulnerable children and young people here in Gloucestershire and across the country. Whether you have shopped with us, donated items for sale or volunteered to help in store, we are truly grateful for your support.

If you have not yet visited your local Barnardos shop, now is the time to visit, we have all your festive needs right here in Upper Rissington. We have a wide range of Christmas cards, decorations and gifts, as well as our usual stock of quality pre-loved merchandise available.

At present we are looking to recruit more volunteers to help with running the store. If you are over 14 years of age and would like to help, please drop in to talk to us. It does not need to be a huge commitment, even a few hours a month will make a difference.

We are grateful for all your donations, however, we would like to ask that boxes and bags are not left outside when we are closed. Not only are they an eyesore in our beautiful village, but they attract vermin and quickly become soiled and damp, which means we are unable to use your items.



### Rissingtons Local History Society

We had an excellent visit in **September** to Gloucester Docks, enjoying a boat trip round the docks and along the canal after a tour of the Soldiers of Glos Museum and the Waterways Museum. Both fascinating museums and well worth visiting.

In **October** Simon Wenham started our programme of talks with a history of the Suffrage Movement in this country, culminating in the first Votes for Women in 1918.

In **November**, Tony Hadland will have enlightened us on the many uses of the bicycle during wartime, and how the Raleigh factories became major munitions manufacturers.

There will be no event in December so Merry Christmas to our members and future members.

#### Forthcoming events:

#### **Friday 18th January 2019 @ 2.30pm. "Sweeps to Slaves"-**

Professor Jennifer Tan will tell us about the exploitation of child labour in a variety of industries from textiles to agriculture, until the passing of the Education Acts throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Venue** Great Rissington Club.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 @ 2.30pm. "The Story of the River Thames"-** 500,000 yrs in the life of a river. Dr Andrew Sargent will include the pre-history of the river in his talk.

**Venue** Great Rissington Club

**Visitors Welcome – £3.50 to include refreshments.** For further information, please contact Tony Ellam on 01451 833854/[anthonyellam@btinternet.com](mailto:anthonyellam@btinternet.com) or Sue Brown on 01451 820233/[spsb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:spsb@hotmail.co.uk).

# PIONEERS

If you've not found us already and are free on a Wednesday morning, why not come along to the Village Hall and see what Pioneers is all about? We meet every other week (next dates December 5th and 19th) and offer coffee,

biscuits, and a range of other refreshments – including homemade cake from time to time! More importantly, we offer a warm welcome and an opportunity for a relaxed chat and good company. If coffee and chat isn't your thing, though, we organise various other activities (including meals out, walks, visits to local NT properties, and other outings), as well as providing a link for people who have activities they would like to do but would like someone to go along with them.

Pioneers meets on alternate Wednesdays (from December 6th) in the Community Room at the Village Hall, and you can drop in any time between 10.30 and 12.30. There is a small charge of £2 to cover the cost of hiring the hall. Do have a look at our facebook page for more information or contact us via email (on [urpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:urpioneers@gmail.com)).

## Parish Council Elections

You'll see in this edition of *the Breeze* the news about the Play Park and what a terrific and much needed facility this is. It was decided upon and funds were found for it by our Parish Council. These decisions were taken in that small window of time when we had a full Parish Council and it was achieved remarkably quickly, showing what a Parish Council can do. Importantly, it shows how vital it is to have a Parish Council that represents its community and understands that it's there to be a direct focus of local democracy. If you have something to offer, can commit the time, and have the community at your heart, please think about putting your name forward for the May elections. The greater the choice of candidates, the better it will be for Upper Rissington's built environment, its communities, and local democracy. Why not give it a go?"

## Doggy Notes

*Upper Rissington is a fantastic place for dog owners, and its great to see the community of dog walkers that exists. Sadly, though, Polly has a couple of reminders for us all ...*

The alleyway between Bristol Road and Hawker Square is such a mess now with the overgrown areas on either side. This area has not been cut back since the developers stopped taking care of it. I have noticed over the last few months that people are not always picking up their dog mess. This area is used by parents and children walking to school. Dog walkers need to be more responsible for their dog mess. I saw one little boy really upset when he had stepped in dog mess on his way to school. Please try to be vigilant when walking your dog and please encourage your children to do the same. This is our community and we all need to look after it.

Police have received a report from a local landowner that 200 of his pregnant ewes were attacked between Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th November in a field at Church Westcote. One sheep was badly mauled with what is thought to be a dog bite. Whether or not this was a dog, it seems timely to remind all dog owners to be mindful that lambing at some farms is done in blocks and starts early. This will go all the way through into spring. Please remember to keep all dogs on leads in fields where there is livestock. It's also good practice to pick up dog mess, even in fields, as sheep may pick up worms from it that can cause them to give birth prematurely or result in diseases that may be fatal.



## Behind the Road Names in Upper Rissington – part 9

### Hart Road

The Hawker Hart was a British two-seater biplane light bomber of the RAF. It was designed during the 1920s by Sydney Camm and manufactured by Hawker Aircraft. The Hart was a prominent British aircraft in the inter-war period but was obsolete and already side-lined for newer monoplane aircraft designs by the start of World War II, playing only minor roles in the conflict before being retired.

In 1926, the Air Ministry stated a requirement for a two-seat high-performance light day-bomber, to be of all-metal construction and with a maximum speed of 160 mph. The prototype Hart first flew in June 1928. It demonstrated good performance and handling, reaching 176 mph in level flight and 282 mph in a vertical dive. In April 1929, the Hawker Hart was the plane chosen by the Air Ministry, beating the competition; one deciding factor was the cost of maintenance.



*Hawker Hart G-ABMR*

The Hart entered service with No. 33 RAF Squadron in February 1930 and also proved to be a successful export, seeing service in other countries. In the Swedish Air Force, four Harts saw action as dive

bombers during the 1939–1940 Winter War as part of a Swedish volunteer squadron, designated F19, fighting on the Finnish side.

A total of 992 aircraft were built. It proved to be a successful design with a number of derivatives, including the Hawker Hind and Hector. At the start of World War II, the Hart continued in service, mainly performing in communications and training roles, until being declared obsolete in 1943.

### Hercules Close

There are several aircraft, even an engine overtime, that have been named Hercules: one, certainly a well-known military transport aircraft, still in use today; another, an oddity.

The de Havilland *DH.66 Hercules* was a 1920s British seven-passenger, three-engined airliner, a more modern replacement for the DH.10s used on the RAF's airmail service. Imperial Airways used the Hercules effectively to provide long-distance service to far-flung regions.



*Imperial Airways DH.66 Hercules 'City of Delhi'*

The *Hughes H-4 Hercules* (also known as the Spruce Goose) was a prototype strategic airlift flying boat, designed and built by the Hughes Aircraft Company. Intended as a transatlantic flight transport for use during World War II, it was not completed in time to be used in the war.

The aircraft made only one brief flight on 2nd November 1947 and the project never advanced beyond the single example produced. It was a massive plane, bigger than a Boeing 747-8 (which had its first flight in 2010).

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules began its development in 1951 when the US Air Force was seeking designs for an aircraft capable of hauling large bulky equipment, including artillery pieces and tanks, over long distances. It had to land in tight spaces, slow

to 125 knots for paratroop drops and fly, if need be, with one engine. What the Air Force wanted, in other words, was a tough, versatile heavy lifter with plenty of room.



*The only flight of the 'Spruce Goose' at Long Beach, California*

The first flight of the YC-130 prototype was made on 23rd August 1954 from the Lockheed plant in Burbank, California. After the two prototypes were completed, production began, the initial production model being the C-130A which used a three-blade propeller turboprop engine. Deliveries to the US Air Force began in December 1956.



*Bangladesh Air Force C-130B Hercules*

There have been many enhancements to the initial design; one of the first was increased fuel capacity, giving it greater operational range, and the propellers were changed to a four-blade design. Lockheed went on to create a bewildering array of variants and subvariants for the US and foreign militaries and civilian market.

It has seen many roles including: troop and equipment transport; a Coast Guard role; gunship; firefighting; and scientific survey, to name a few. The RAF in the 1960s found itself needing a replacement for its aging transports and ordered 66 Hercules, essentially to the C-130H standard but designated C-130K for export to the UK. Known to the RAF as Hercules C.Mk 1 (the C-130K designation only came into regular use as a differentiator after the C-130J entered service), the first aircraft completed its maiden flight on 19th October 1966.

The next generation of the Hercules was the Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules. The C-130J is a comprehensive update of the Lockheed C-130, with new engines (with six-blade propellers), flight deck and other systems. These changes have improved performance over its C-130E/H predecessors, such as a 40% greater range, 21% higher maximum speed and 41% shorter take-off distance. The J-model is available in a standard-length or stretched -30 variant.



*RAF C-130J Super Hercules at Brize Norton*

The Hercules family has the longest continuous production run of any military aircraft in history and has outlived several planned successor designs.

## Winter Wildlife

I know I am now repeating myself from previous copies of the Breeze but I do love to see these little creatures in the garden and they do a great job of keeping down the slugs. However they need our help so please keep an eye out for hedgehogs. They normally hibernate between November and March and they like piles of leaves to keep them warm through the winter months. So don't tidy up too much.

If any are out and about now they are not going to be a healthy weight to get through the winter months. I have heard that hedgehogs are having a second litter as the weather is warmer than usual for the time of year and these babies are not getting up to weight to hibernate. You can help by putting out some food for them. If all this fails then they will need to be cared for by a hedgehog rescue centre: contact Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue (07789 268296) or Vale Wildlife Hospital (01386 882 288)



Hedgehogs eat all kinds of invertebrates, as well as amphibians, eggs and anything else they can catch; they particularly like big, crunchy beetles, earthworms and slugs, making them a gardener's best friend. If they don't find enough food then they won't last the winter months.

Our insects are quickly disappearing. Have a look at your windscreen the next time you take a long-distance trip. I remember a few years back that the screen on my car would be covered with dead insects but the last trip we took to Wales my windscreen barely needed a clean on our return. It's funny how you don't miss something till someone reminds you of how it was in the past. This is not good news for the wildlife that depend on these insects for food.

Hedgehogs are most commonly spotted in parks and gardens, where bushes and hedges provide the perfect day-time getaway, and insect-rich lawns and flowerbeds make excellent feeding grounds at dusk. If you want them to use your garden then you need to invite them in by making a great place for them to stay. A small hole in your garden fence will allow hedgehogs a free run in and out. They will find a quiet corner to bed down for winter and sleep till early spring.

The once-common hedgehog is now under threat from development and habitat loss caused by the reduction of hedgerows and an increase in intensification of our agricultural landscapes. In just the last 10 years, hedgehog numbers have fallen by 30%, and there are now thought to be fewer than one million left in the UK. The Wildlife Trusts are working hard across the UK to restore habitat for wildlife and campaign for better protection for all nature. We in Upper Rissington could do our bit to help by remembering winter can be a tough time for wildlife, without the added dangers humans pose to the environment.



As well as hedgehogs, our birds find it difficult to cope in terms of water and food in the winter climate, so please keep supplies well topped up. Make sure they have a good supply of clean water.

**Polly**

# Christmas Trackword

How many words of 3 letters or more can you make from the grid below? You must track from square to square, moving vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, and each letter may only be used once. Can you find the seasonal 9-letter word? (I found 30 words —*ed*)

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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. If you would like your business included the cost will be £5 towards the printing costs of 'The Breeze'. Contact [URNEWS@btinternet.com](mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com) or call 07592 533596 for more details.

Other useful sources of information about the village include the facebook page and the independent website [www.upperrissington.org](http://www.upperrissington.org). Please note that any opinions expressed on these sites are personal to the contributors and are not promoted by 'The Breeze'.

Name	Service	Web/email	Phone
Police	Non-Emergency Number		101
Albion Water	Water Service Emergency Customer Services		0800 917 5819 03300 242020
Parish Council	Clerk	<a href="mailto:clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk">clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk</a>	01451 810839
Little Hurricanes	Baby and Toddler Group	<a href="mailto:littlehurricanes@hotmail.com">littlehurricanes@hotmail.com</a>	
Social Committee	Community Events	<a href="mailto:URSC@btinternet.com">URSC@btinternet.com</a>	07592 533596
Village Hall		<a href="mailto:urv@btinternet.com">urv@btinternet.com</a>	01451 821820
The Breeze	Newsletter	<a href="mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com">URNEWS@btinternet.com</a>	07592 533596
Rissington Singers	Village Choir	<a href="mailto:rissington.singers@btinternet.com">rissington.singers@btinternet.com</a>	
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UR Sports	Saturday football	<a href="mailto:blackgary4@aol.com">blackgary4@aol.com</a>	
John Surch	Great Rissington Cricket Club - Seniors	<a href="mailto:surch@gotadsl.co.uk">surch@gotadsl.co.uk</a>	01451 820567 07808 307364
Pete Garrett	Great Rissington Cricket Club - Juniors	<a href="mailto:Petegarratt117@gmail.com">Petegarratt117@gmail.com</a>	07788 896496

The next issue of 'The Breeze' is due to be published at the beginning of March 2019. Please contact us at [URNEWS@btinternet.com](mailto:URNEWS@btinternet.com) or call 07592 533596 if you would like to contribute articles or news items. The deadline for contributions is **Friday 15th February 2019**.

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



*Winter snow in Upper Rissington  
(photo courtesy David Harrison)*