



The Breeze

Upper Rissington's Newsletter

Spring 2019

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Welcome to another issue of *the Breeze* - I'm not sure if it's the Spring, Summer or Winter edition, we seem to have had a bit of each of them over the last week or so! Still, it's lovely to see all the Spring flowers coming out, hopefully the Upper Rissington cowslips will soon be giving their usual colourful display!

This issue contains the usual range of reports and articles, and (as always) we're very grateful for all contributions. If you have any comments or suggestions about *the Breeze* or would like something included, do get in touch (URNEWS@btinternet.com), we're always happy to consider new ideas.

We're continuing our series on 'Why I volunteer' with another member of *the Breeze* team contributing (me this time!). On a similar subject, do read the article from the Parish Council about standing as a Councillor, a vital role in the life of the village. We also have regular favourites including Gardening on a Hill and a slightly shorter-than-normal Behind the Road Names. There has been a suggestion that we might be able to turn this into a standalone booklet - let us know if you think this would be of interest.

Enjoy the Spring (sunshine/showers/snow?!)

Sue Handy (editor)

Village News

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Paddington comes to UR

We had our first attempt at showing a movie in the Village Hall at the beginning of January. We borrowed the licensed movie *Paddington 2* from Rural Cinemas and borrowed a high-quality projector from our Chairman. For sounds, we employed the sound system donated to us last year, so that the whole effect was of a pretty impressive cinema experience. The movie was shown late afternoon and was chosen to have appeal across the age ranges. As it was a post Christmas event, we did focus on the children, so popcorn, snacks and drinks were included in the children's ticket price of £3.75. Adults paid the same price but they had to pay for their snacks and drinks.



It was far from a sell out, with only around 40 tickets sold, but we learned a lot from the event that could help us bring Rural Cinema to Upper Rissington. As a Social Committee contribution to the Village Hall plan we've added to the case for a good projection surface in the hall and will look to support the procurement of a good high-quality projector. We have a great design for a comfortable auditorium with the film visible from all seats. When these plans all take effect, we expect to see other groups running Rural Cinema evenings.

Upcoming Events

The next event is the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which this year will be at 11am on Saturday 20th April. This event is always really well-attended, come rain or shine. Again this year we will be running with our 'passport system' which worked well last year.



Each child will purchase a passport for £1 and this will be stamped each time they find a token and collect an egg. We will again have over 500 eggs and we will have areas separated for the toddler-aged hunters. It's a great energy, great fun day with a colouring competition for the children and an Easter Bonnet parade and competition. Refreshments will be on sale and cake donations would be very welcome so get your bonnet making and cake baking skills honed and come join in the fun.

The Annual Fete will again be held on the first Saturday in July, which this year falls on Saturday 6th July, from 12midday to 4pm. This event gets better every year with more stalls, competitions, events and attractions. The Village Hall and the field behind will be the venue and parking will be located on the field over the road. The dog show, as well as exhibitions of skill and ability, will take place on the prepared show-ground area in the centre of the field. If you'd like a stall, please contact us at urc@btinternet.com. The cost will be £10 per pitch, which is great value given the growth in attendees. As always, on-the-day volunteers helping out with set up, manning stalls and general support aren't just welcome, they're essential. So if you can help on the day please send a note to urc@btinternet.com or chat with a committee member.

Committee News

We've a great team of people on the Social Committee, drawn together by their desire to support the development of our community. We run regular events for the community and we always welcome new committee members or on-the-day support. If you'd like to help the committee in the organisation, management or support of events, please get in touch at ursc@btinternet.com.

Thanks

Nothing specific this quarter, but a general thanks to the other village-based community groups for their support and for working with us to make our events ever better for the community.

Rotary in the Rissingtons

Rotary in Gloucestershire is well established, with Clubs located in many areas. North Cotswolds Rotary, established in 1965, has its home at the Naunton Downs Golf Club and has Bourton on the Water, Stow on the Wold and Moreton in Marsh as its geographical focus. Now change is on the horizon.



North Cotswold Rotary has spawned a Satellite Club with its focus on the four villages which make up the Rissingtons. The Club has chosen the Upper Rissington Village Hall as its home and was inaugurated by the District Governor on Thursday evening at a ceremony attended by many guests and local dignitaries. The Club has ten founder members and will focus its service on the local community through supporting the Rissington School and youth sport in the Rissingtons.

At the inauguration, the Chairman, Andrew Mitchell, said *"the Club will identify where it can be of service and support to the villages and if we cannot do it, we will probably know a person that can. If you think you could be that person then come and join us"*.



We are a very informal group and meet at the Upper Rissington Village Hall every second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.

For further information contact Andrew at andrew.mitchell42@btoopenworld.com or follow us on Facebook.



Village Hall Update



Management Update

Since taking over the running of the Village Hall, The Trust and The Management Team have dealt largely with the clear and obvious requirements of the Hall. We obviously had to manage the heating situation. We obviously had to address the building of technology and administrative processes and systems. We obviously had to develop the regular legal and safety processes.

We know that there is a long list of actions and investments necessary to continue to develop the use of the Hall and make it a fully functioning hub of the community. However, we are limited in the resources that we have to either finance or manage the development of major changes to the Hall, so it's really important for us to prioritise developments over the coming years. To start the process of establishing a proper plan for the Hall we've had ad hoc discussions with users of the Hall so that we could prepare a long list of requirements for all the different areas of the building. In the second phase we invited users to a meeting in early February to get an idea of the importance of the different requirements. This activity has enabled us to refine the requirements to start the development of a proper investment and action plan. When the plan is drafted, we will make it available so that we can give the whole community the opportunity to participate in the process.

Last Quarter

The Annual Report was submitted to the Charity Commission during the past quarter and this is available on the Charity Commissioners website using our charity number 1162683. It's also available on our website at URVH.org. The reserves of the Trust at the end of March 2018 were £12,324.

We have registered for the free services available to Charities from Google. This means that we have the Google business suite free of charge. As a result we've been moving our files and email services across to the new platform. Now, instead of using btinternet addresses, the Management Team and Trust can be contacted through URVH.org. Bookings, for example, should be directed to bookings@urvh.org. This change is important for us in ensuring ongoing compliance with data protection.

Your Village Hall

Every quarter we like to remind you that the Village Hall is there for you. We have a range of assets which 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 bookings@urvh.org. 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 welcome a new member of the Management Team this quarter. Martin Johnstone is well known to many of you through his work in developing the village Scouting movement and adds his strong community commitment and management capability to the team.

We have a strong skill-set in the team but we can still use more members to help us manage and develop the Hall. We currently have four Trustees and seven Management Team members. 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 or email secretary@urvh.org.

Thanks.

Thanks this quarter go to Sue Barber for donating her skill and time to conduct the inspection of the Trust's Accounts so that they could be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Please visit URVH.org regularly to check out the hall calendar.

Victory Fields Development – Public Open Spaces

Not the catchiest of titles, but a subject that could affect all Linden and Bovis home-owners financially, so something we all need to be aware of.

Many of you will have noticed the apparent lack of progress in completing the Victory Fields development, particularly regarding the play parks, trim trails, attenuation pond, and provision of sports facilities that were part of the plans. All of these were supposed to be completed prior to the final two properties on the development being occupied, and were a condition of the 2013 s106, a legally-binding agreement between the developers and Cotswold District Council (CDC).

When, and if, these facilities are completed, they should initially be offered to the Parish Council to look after and maintain, the cost of maintenance being borne by the Victory Fields home-owners by way of a service charge. If the Parish Council felt the work had not been completed to their satisfaction, they could decline to take ownership of the Public Open Spaces, which would instead be offered to one of the many service companies to maintain. The difference between the two options is that the Parish Council is run by local residents for the residents, while a service company would maintain the same facilities but with much higher overheads, which would translate into higher costs for all of us.

You may be aware that a group of Upper Residents has been battling with CDC to ensure the s106 agreement is enforced, so that the residents will be left with a village to be proud of. Unfortunately, the response so far has been disappointing, and it is quite possible that the Public Open Spaces will be left in the current unsafe and unhealthy condition, looked after by an outside company more interested in making money than in keeping our local environment adequately maintained.

The Residents Unite Group needs support from others in the village to fight our case with CDC. Would you be prepared to help? There is an event post on the Upper Rissington Facebook page which gives details of a public meeting that will be organised to give attendees more information about the issues mentioned above. Please visit the event post and indicate your willingness to attend such a meeting (date to be arranged).

If we sit back and do nothing, the developers could walk away from Upper Rissington leaving it as the unfinished building site that it is at present.

The Local Elections and You – or Why Be A Councillor?

By Pauline Rigby, Clerk to Upper Rissington Parish Council

For some of our readers, parish councils may bring to mind the election squabbling and tragic ending in J.K. Rowling's "Casual Vacancy" – which was filmed only a few miles away in the Cotswolds – and it's nothing like that ... well, maybe a little bit (that's a joke, by the way).

As the tier of local government closest to communities, parish councils have an essential part to play in providing local services, such as village halls and green spaces, and in supporting the work of district and county councils. They are often the primary point of contact for residents about issues affecting them every day, from potholes to dog fouling (not a pleasant subject).

What you may not realise is that parish councils depend on the goodwill of local residents to serve as councillors, giving up their spare time to help make the community a better place to live and work. Without local people being involved, there is no Parish Council. Have you ever considered giving your time to the community by being a local councillor?

WHY BE A COUNCILLOR

To be a councillor is to stand up for what you believe in. Parish Councils are, if you like, an entry level for community activists – people who want to become involved in local issues. This means you can contribute to decisions that affect the wellbeing of your community and how the parish element of Council Tax – called the Precept – is spent. This can be both rewarding and satisfying. Being a councillor is also a perfect opportunity either to use skills you already have in a different environment or to develop new ones.

Parishes are ultra local, acting as statutory consultees for planning applications, and providing local services and amenities – Upper Rissington Parish Council looks after the recreation areas, and recently installed a new £60,000 playground, for example. The Parish Council will be offered ownership of more amenities through Section 106 developer agreements, from allotments to skate parks. Whether to take on the land will be one of the biggest decisions that the Council is likely to face in the coming years. There are exciting times ahead!

Strictly speaking, councillors are not volunteers; they are elected representatives working on behalf of the community. Their work is less formal than district and county councils, and usually less demanding in terms of the time commitment required. Councillors have one basic duty, which is to attend meetings – because decisions are made by those that show up! After that, it's up to you how involved you become. The Council and its councillors are supported by the Clerk, who is the Council's business administrator and advisor, to guide the Council in the lawfulness of its decision-making.

You don't need to be a particular kind of person to be a councillor – anyone who is able to look at both sides of an argument and come to a balanced view of a situation is welcome. It's often quite easy to get involved too, as there isn't usually a stampede for places. With all seats on Upper Rissington Parish Council up for election in May, there will be spaces to fill. So, if you're interested in becoming a councillor, now is a good time!

HOW TO STAND FOR ELECTION

Nominations to stand for election to the Parish Council will open on **Tuesday 19 March**, although the nomination packs will be available earlier, from **Monday 18 February**. To be qualified to stand as a candidate, you must be a UK, EU or Commonwealth citizen and EITHER registered to vote in the parish OR have lived or worked in the local area for the past 12 months.

The nomination process is not difficult: fill in the form (you will need your electoral roll number from your voting card), ask two people to sign in support of your nomination, and deliver the paperwork.

ELECTION PAPERS MUST BE HAND DELIVERED to Cotswold District Council's Office, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX. The Elections Team will be available to accept nomination papers between the hours of 9am and 5pm on working days from Tuesday 19 March to Tuesday 2 April (excluding weekends and bank holidays) and from 9am until the nominations deadline at **4pm** on **Wednesday 3 April**.

The timing of the process is set down in statute and there is no leeway. Even if the village is completely cut off by six-foot snowdrifts, you must get your paper to CDC's offices before the deadline in order to stand – so please don't leave things to the last minute. If possible, candidates are recommended to submit their nomination papers a few days before the closing date.



Then you wait. If there are fewer or an equal number of candidates than seats, then they are 'elected unopposed' and the result will be announced immediately. If there are fewer than three candidates – an unlikely scenario – then the election will be run again. However, if there are more candidates than seats, then a poll will be held on **Thursday 2 May**. That's what we hope to see. Wouldn't it be great to have a competitive election so that everyone who lives here can have a say on who will represent them on the Parish Council and shape the future of the village?

To see the Parish Council in action, come along to our next meeting on Thursday 21 March, 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, and there is always an opportunity for public questions.

If you have any questions about what the councillors do, then please get in touch with the Clerk who can be reached via email clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk.

Even if being a councillor isn't for you, then make sure you are registered to vote on 2 May! Visit www.gov.uk/yourvotematters for more information on how to register and vote.

Upper Rissington Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan for Upper Rissington will help to give us control over the future development of our village. It will give the green spaces within the village legal protection (once Bovis/Linden get around to finishing them!). It will let us identify places in the village for things we might want to see there, like a multi-use games area, a community orchard, or business units.

Our outline highlights the need to protect the wide variety of green spaces, improve the footpath network in the village and connections to the countryside around, sports facilities, business units and traffic management. If you are interested in any of these areas we would be delighted to include you in the team. Our aim is to have the draft plan ready for the next stage of community consultation by the summer.

Andrew Maclean 01451 824482 babumaclean@gmail.com

Gardening On a Hill

Spring will soon arrive and the days will start to get longer. We gardeners will be keen to get out there and start the season off with clearing the garden borders of autumn leaves and old herbaceous plants. Please be careful and try not to do this too early as you might disturb a sleepy hedgehog coming out of hibernation!

The next job will be to weed and mulch the area with any compost you have, be it home-made kitchen waste or leaf mould. If you have any new plants to go in, now would be a good time to plant them. 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.

Pruning

Then there is the pruning of hedges and shrubs. Pruning is both a science and an art. The science involves recognizing plant flaws and skilfully eliminating or minimizing these defects when the time is right. The art in the pruning of the plant is to make it fit into your garden design. Some people like a formal garden with the hedges and shrubs planted and pruned neatly in rows or shapes. Others like the plants to do what they will, which is OK if you have the space to do so, but most of us have a small plot fenced-in on both sides. Some plants can grow to great heights if you leave them to it. But most of us would agree that our gardens need to be controlled some of the time. Some plants if left can become a problem to your neighbours by cutting out light or pushing over fencing.

The timing of cutting back can be very important when pruning your garden plants. Some plants flower on last year's growth so if you prune off the old growth now you won't get any flowers this year.

Spiraeas are a varied group including spring- and summer-flowering forms, some of which flower on new growth produced this year and others that flower on old wood produced in previous seasons. Spiraeas such as *S. douglasii*, and *S. japonica* that flower during the summer on new growth should be pruned now by removing all weak and dead stems. *S. douglasii* which is clump-forming, producing lots of shoots from underground, should be pruned by cutting out one-in-three stems, starting with the oldest. The more shrub-like *S. japonica* and *S. 'Bumalda'*, on the other hand, should be cut

back to a stubby framework of shoots about 10-15cm from the ground. With all these spiraeas, all stems that remain on the plant should be cut back to within three or four buds of the old wood.

BULBS

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

Polygonum Tuberosum 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 seed heads



Late spring flowering spiraeas, as well as summer-flowering varieties that bloom on old wood, should not be pruned until after flowering. Also, spiraea hedges should be pruned annually, by lightly cutting back after flowering to maintain a dense and neat habit.

Forsythia need no pruning during the first few years after planting. However once established, the older plants become woody at the base where few flowers are produced. To avoid this, prune after flowering has finished, by cutting out one-in-three of the main stems at the base, starting with the oldest. Neglected plants can be rejuvenated by cutting back all flowered shoots to a strong bud near to the base of the shrub. New wall-trained shrubs should have stems tied into the supports to form a permanent framework. Thereafter, new growth should be cut back after flowering during early spring to two or three buds from the main framework. Trim forsythia hedges after flowering too, then leave uncut until the following year, otherwise you risk removing all of next spring's flowers.

Most flowering shrubs can be pruned back after they have flowered and this gives them time to grow enough new growth to flower again next year. However, some plants can be cut right back to the ground in the spring and grow really well in a season and flower much better for it.

Hypericum Calycinum (Rose of Sharon) is a fine example.

Tough as old boots, Rose of Sharon can be chopped to ground level using shears, nylon-line trimmer or even a hover mower,



© Robert Perry

during early spring. Fresh new growth and plenty of flowers will then be produced. If you find this too drastic, trim to within 15cm of the ground and trim as necessary through the growing season to maintain a compact shape. Another is the **Buddlia Davidii (butterfly bush)**. New plants should be cut back now to create a short, stubby framework of branches 15-90cm high, depending on how tall you want the shrub to be. Thereafter, you can keep the shrub neat, vigorous and free-flowering by pruning back hard annually during early spring. As new growth starts to break, remove all the previous year's

growth to two or three pairs of buds from the main framework. Old, neglected plants also respond well to cutting back hard at this time of the year.

Pruning grape vines: Grapevines are exuberant climbers, so if you plant one for its fruit you will need to keep it under control. Training methods are based around one or more permanent stems from which fruiting side-shoots arise annually. In mid-winter, prune some side-shoots back to one bud and others to two. Cut back developing main stems by half their new growth and established stems to a single, new bud. In summer, shorten non-flowering laterals to four or five leaves and side-shoots growing from these to one leaf. Prune laterals carrying flowers to two leaves beyond the first truss and remove any extra trusses.

Pruning raspberries: Summer-fruiting raspberries behave like blackberries, fruiting on one-year-old canes that are cut out after harvest and then replaced by the young canes. Autumn-fruiting varieties, however, are cut to the ground in late winter to make way for new canes that will grow from the base and fruit the same year.





RISSINGTON SCHOOL NATURAL SENSORY PLAYGROUND (UPPER SITE)

The developers of Victory Fields left a generous plot for the playground at the Upper Rissington School site, but it is devoid of any plantings or play features. With the school building now completed, the focus is turning to creating an educational, natural sensory playground. The school lies within the heart of the community and is a central focus of the residents and their families. The school serves all of the Rissingtons as well as the surrounding villages.

The Friends of the Rissington School PTA, together with the headteacher, have plans to develop the school as a community feature that is rich in experience, educational value, and ecological benefit. The playground will ultimately be available to wider groups to use outside of school hours and will therefore benefit the community as a whole.

In order to complete the majority of the playground within the year, we are requesting volunteers and donations of materials to make it happen! The PTA is busy raising funds, but if anyone has a source of building or planting supplies that could be useful for creating raised beds, a running path, boulders, stumps for sitting and climbing on, hedging, trees, wildflower seeds, etc. etc. please do contact us. We plan to begin work first on the allotment garden, which is located behind the long mound that you may have noticed in the school playground. We will be building raised beds, benches, a garden shed, fencing, a small pergola, and gravel paving. The beds will need to be filled with high quality topsoil and veggies too! A willow tunnel, wildflower meadow, and native perimeter hedge will follow suit throughout the year. Be on the lookout for more information as dates are set and volunteers are needed!



Upper Rissington Site - School Playground Development Plan



The Church in Upper Rissington:

valuing everyone

What is CUR:ve?

Many Upper Rissington residents will be familiar with CUR:ve and its story, but if you're among the newer residents (or even if you've been here a while) you may be wondering what CUR:ve is and why it features in *The Breeze*.

Actually, the question should really be 'Who are CUR:ve?', because CUR:ve stands for Church in Upper Rissington: valuing everyone. But it's church as people, not as a building. It all began when development of the village first started, and three local churches (St Lawrence with Clapton and the Rissingtons, Bourton Baptist Church, and Westcote Methodist Church) recognised that there was no church presence in Upper Rissington, and very few community activities. Working together, in September 2007 the three churches set up a monthly community café, held on a Sunday morning in the old Village Hall and offering residents the opportunity to meet other people from within the village. CUR:ve became an independent registered charity in 2012 (Charity no: 1149193) and employment of full-time Sport & Community workers enabled us to establish and support a number of community activities. Meanwhile, as more people moved into the developing village, the monthly café led to the weekly Sunday gatherings and mid-week activities which CUR:ve now offers.

From the beginning of this year, CUR:ve has been meeting in the new Village Hall. Our Sunday gatherings are relaxed and informal, designed to be as welcoming as possible, particularly for those who may never have attended church before. Refreshments are available on arrival (and throughout!), and we combine times of praise and worship with bible-based teaching series, children's activities, the sharing of communion, and bring-and-share lunches. During the week, smaller groups meet socially to pray, to study the bible, and to serve the community in different ways. At present we are running a weekly Alpha course enabling people to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. We continue to be supported by the three churches who originally came together to establish CUR:ve and they remain actively involved in our development and activities.

If you would like to know more about CUR:ve visit www.curveweb.org for more information, or email sendtocurve@gmail.com.

Probus, Bourton on the Water, started its programme for 2019 with a fascinating talk on *William Morris, Viscount Nuffield*, followed by *Shackleton's fateful Antarctic expedition* on the 11th of February, and an intriguing look into '*A Sinister World*' on the 25th.

We would love to have you come and join us for our March programme, titled '*Sleep Perchance to Dream*' on the 11th, and '*History of Pantomime Dames*' on the 25th, which includes an invitation to members' wives/partners.

Add your name to an illustrious list of members from many walks of life. You can call our secretary Chris on 01451 820787 or come as a guest of one of our members. Hope to see you there! You will be very welcome! To learn more about the organisation visit Probus Clubs online.

The Rissingtons Local History Society

Happy New Year to all our members and prospective members! Our January talk was changed due to illness and we heard the story of a WW1 hero – William Coltman, the most decorated non-commissioned Officer of the British Army – told by his great grandson Tim Coltman. It was a fascinating presentation to a packed hall. The February talk on The Story of the River Thames, I am sure, will be equally fascinating.

Forthcoming events:

Friday 22nd March @ 7.30pm.

“Medieval Malmesbury”

Tim Porter will give a talk about this beautiful hilltop town with its proud walls and gates and towering Abbey Spire, home to a celebrated pilgrimage and tomb of England’s first King.

Venue Upper Rissington School. NOTE NEW VENUE

Friday 12th April 11am for 11.30 tour.

“Guided walk around Winchcombe” by David Aldred

We will explore the ancient Saxon town of Winchcombe in search of its fascinating history and the remains of the Abbey. Tour lasts approx 90mins, followed by lunch.

Details and to book a place – contact Alice Foster 01451 822766/alice.shopping@talk21.com.

Places limited to members only.

Friday 17th May @7.30pm.

AGM and talk “Women travellers and Explorers of the 19th and early 20th Century.

Katherine Bradley will enlighten us on the changes in social and economic life which made travelling for women much easier than in earlier periods.

Venue Upper Rissington School. NOTE NEW VENUE

Visitors Welcome £3.50 to include refreshments. For further information, please contact

Tony Ellam on 01451 833854/anthonyellam@btinternet.com.

or Sue Brown on 01451 820233/spsb@hotmail.co.uk

PIONEERS

The best place to be in Upper Rissington on a Wednesday morning? The Community Room at the Village Hall on Pioneers weeks! If you’re new to the village, or if you’ve been here for some time but don’t know many people,

Pioneers is the ideal place to meet up. Refreshments are available all morning (suggested donation £2), conversation flows, and there’s even a book-exchange if you’re looking for something to read!

We sometimes have visits from organisations such as Cotswold Friends or the Community Police, and also arrange occasional outings (for example, to local National Trust properties). There’s also a monthly Sunday-lunch, which you are very welcome to join.

Our age limits are 0 to 100+ years, so why not come along sometime and check us out? We meet on alternate Wednesdays (next dates 13th March, 27th March, 10th April) so drop in any time between 10.30am and 12.30pm – you’ll be made very welcome!





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

As you can see we really got into the spirit of Christmas this year and whilst Santa was very busy himself, he sent a few of his Elves along with some sweet treats for all and gifts for our children.



The children enjoyed helping Sian from Monkey Music to decorate a tree on the lea- up to the big day and on the last session before the Christmas holiday, we had a party-spread of food and musical entertainment, with Christmas songs provided by Songtime Sally.

We are always looking for ways to keep our group interesting for old and new participants. The passing of our new year saw us kicking off those January Blues, celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Pig, Valentines Day, and new toys donated for our role-play area with play food, tea set, shopping till, train set and tool box tools. We also created our own library trolley of books in time for World Book Day which parents can use during our sessions or borrow to take home to read and return when finished with.

Following the huge demand for last year's summer Messy Play event, our committee members also decided to hold a separate morning of play. This was also to help raise more needed funds for the group. Whilst the children have fun exploring the sensory delights of this type of play, the parents can relax in the knowledge that all the clearing up is done for them. Look out for more dates should we decide to hold another one or two later on in the year.



If you would like to pop along, have never been before, and are a little worried, please drop in or get in touch and we will try to help you to feel at home in your community hall. We have new parents and babies arriving all the time looking to make friends and gather support and advice. We are a great place to meet up and the hall is a very warm and comfortable place with great facilities to do just that.

[Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with arranged events or see our noticeboard at sessions](#)

Donation of £2 per family suggested

1st Upper Rissington Scout Group

B-PSA



1st Upper Rissington Scout Group is looking forward to the warmer summer nights, getting prepared for our camps and some good activities. Winter has slowed the groups down a little bit, with most of our activities having to be confined to indoor pursuits, but they have all been working on their badges.

We had a police visit to begin the Scouts' work on their crime prevention badge. They had a shout out from the control room in Gloucester and experienced what it was like to wear the riot gear, but I think they had more fun trying to catch me speeding using the radar gun!

The Wolf cubs are currently working on their conservation badge. They have had fun making their chosen endangered animals from clay, which they will use to make a box diorama of that animal's habitat. This will lead into UK and local conservation and will also involve some work using the resources made available by the WWF Green Ambassadors department ... so they will get to earn a badge from the WWF as well.

The Beavers have been hard at work as well with their big project of making a robot from waste material, teaching them to work together and pool their ideas, together whilst listening to others. It also touches on them finding uses for what is classed as waste and being able to recycle. They have also been celebrating dates in the calendar such as Chinese New Year, where they learnt about Chinese New Year and made Chinese Dragons.

We had a big meeting with all groups present for Founders Day, the birthday of our founder Baden-Powell. We had a camp fire with the groups making bread twists and cooking on the fire. This was done around various games and activities; the giant human snakes and ladders went well with the Beavers. The Scouts and Wolf Cubs took part in the incident game, where a leader went for a walk with two Scouts (staying within range of the Village Hall), who left tracking signs as to where they had gone. The idea was that the Scouts would then suffer an injury whilst 'climbing trees', the leader would radio back to the group that an emergency had happened, and the remaining Scouts and Wolf Cubs had to stop their game and follow the tracking signs to find the 'casualties'. They then had to perform first aid (which they learnt for their badges) before getting the patients safely back to the 'base camp'. They thoroughly enjoyed this activity and performed very well, with the Wolf Cubs taking the lead!



We are now looking to activities and camps for the summer months and have vacancies for new Beavers, Wolf Cubs, Scouts and Senior Scouts. We offer a free four-week taster period, so if you are interested then please either call into the Village Hall on a Friday or email us at 1stupperissingtonbpsa@gmail.com.

Why I volunteer ...

Who'd be a volunteer? All that standing around in the rain, working your socks off for barely even a thanks – why would anyone want to be involved? A very good question – if that was all volunteering involved. But the reality is that there are so many different ways to volunteer – and so much benefit to be gained.



I've been editing the Breeze since the first edition, back in Spring 2014. It came about because, at the time, I was part of the CUR:ve leadership team, and the idea of a village newsletter tied in really well with our aim to help build community here in Upper Rissington. So, since I had some experience of editorial work, I offered to be involved.

It's proved to be a challenging but very rewarding role. Although I don't live in Upper Rissington, I have lots of links with the village and editing the Breeze is a great way of staying in touch with all that's going on. It also gives me a reason to do something I actually really enjoy (playing around with desktop publishing) and to use and develop skills that wouldn't otherwise get used. It takes me about a week to put the Breeze together (depending how prompt people are in sending their contributions in!), plus occasional meetings with the rest of the production team (which are always good fun). I can do all the editorial work in the comfort of my own home, fitting it around the other things I have to do, and – although it is a big commitment – one week a quarter isn't really that much to give up. Especially when the end result, even if I say it myself, is something as impressive and as beneficial to the community as the Breeze. And, on that basis – who wouldn't be a volunteer?

Recipe Breeze

You may remember from old newsletters that Polly's articles included a fish recipe from time to time. This was done (selfishly) to promote Brian, the mobile fish man who visited the area on a Monday with his fresh fish. Polly wanted to encourage new customers so he would continue to come to the village. Brian had supplied the Cotswolds with fish from his mobile fish van for over 8 years. All his fish was fresh and delivered straight to the door. What more could you want if you like fresh fish? Sadly, Brian died in his van on his way to the Cotswolds in September 2018. He was greatly missed as he was such a nice person and went out of his way to get you what you wanted. The good news is that his wife Jane has taken over, so Upper Rissington still has access to fresh fish on a Monday. If you want her to pop by just give her a call on 07811254325. Maybe you could try the following recipe ...

Fish & Soured Cream Bake

Ingredients:

450g/1lb white fish fillets
25g/1oz flour
1 medium onion
150g/5oz soured cream
150g/5oz mayonnaise
5ml/1tsp lemon juice
50g/2oz grated cheese

Method:

1. Cook onions in a little oil until soft (pan or microwave)
2. Place in ovenproof dish. Coat fish in flour and lay on top of onions.
3. Mix together soured cream, mayonnaise, and lemon juice and spread over fish.
4. Sprinkle with cheese and bake at 180°C/350°F for 30-35 minutes.
5. Enjoy! (serves 4)

Behind the Road Names in Upper Rissington – part 9a

Hunter Close

The Hawker Hunter is a transonic British jet-powered fighter aircraft that was developed by Hawker Aircraft for the RAF during the late 1940s and early 1950s. On 7 September 1953, the modified first prototype broke the world air speed record for aircraft, achieving a speed of 727.63 mph.

The single-seat Hunter was introduced to service in 1954 as a manoeuvrable day interceptor aircraft, quickly succeeding first-generation jet fighters in RAF service such as the Gloster Meteor and the de Havilland Venom. It was the first jet aircraft produced by Hawker for the RAF and was found to have exceptional performance. The Hunter set numerous aviation records, including absolute speed records.



Hawker Hunter F6A

During the 1960s, following the introduction of the supersonic English Electric Lightning in the interceptor role, the Hunter transitioned to being operated as a fighter-bomber and for aerial reconnaissance missions, using dedicated variants for these purposes. The two-seat trainer versions of the Hunter, remained in use for training and secondary roles by the RAF and Royal Navy until the early 1990s.

The Hunter saw combat service in a range of conflicts with several operators. Sixty years after its original introduction it was still in active service, being operated by the Lebanese Air Force until 2014.

Dog mess in the alleyway

I am pleased to say that with the help of the Clerk at the Parish Council I managed to find out who owned some of the land that was looking a mess in the alleyway. As I mentioned in my last article, I believed that as the alleyway was looking so untidy dog walkers thought it was OK to leave their dogs' mess on the path. The owners of the land on the right-hand side from the top of Bristol Road to Hawker Square have now cleared the area and it looks so much better. It has improved the area so much that I have noticed the dog mess has decreased and this is all great news to those of us who use that area on a daily basis, from dog walkers to adults and children going to the school. Thank you to everyone for picking up.



7pm Tuesday 26th March

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The Herbert Protocol is a form that contains vital information about someone with dementia who is at risk of going missing. It is filled in by them or their family and carers and can be used by the local Police to find someone quickly and bring them safely back.

For more information and to fill in a copy of the form, visit www.gloucestershire.police.com



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MAKING TAX DIGITAL

From April 2019, the government will make fundamental changes to the way we report financial information by introducing a new 'Making Tax Digital' system. Mike Ellis FCCA, Managing Director at The Cotswold Accountants, gives businesses in Upper Rissington advice on what they need to know ahead of the technological takeover.

Let's face it, tax administration isn't the most exciting of prospects. Although given my standing as an accountant I probably shouldn't say it, it's something I hear time and time again from local business owners who see it as a dreaded chore. That's why, from 1st April this year, HMRC will be introducing a new system that makes managing your finances more efficient, more effective and, most importantly, easier to get right.



So, what do businesses need to know?

The new scheme means that the vast majority of VAT registered businesses or companies with a taxable turnover above the £85,000 threshold will need to start keeping records digitally and submitting quarterly returns using accounting software, if they aren't already of course. We recommend using a programme such as Xero to keep on top of all your bookkeeping. This makes it easy to manage your business affairs, with clever features such as being able to photograph and store your receipts online, as part of the package. It's worth checking the HMRC website for a list of compliant software products if you're unsure whether your current software is suitable.

If you're not confident using this sort of technology or can admit to giving your accountant a bag of receipts at the end of the year, then don't panic.

A reputable practising accountant can turn the paperwork, however disordered, into compliant digital records.

What if your business doesn't fit into this category?

If your business is registered for VAT but has a turnover below the threshold, for now there will be an automatic exemption. However, given that this is likely to affect you in the future, you can choose to keep records digitally and submit your VAT information under Making Tax Digital. In fact, you may decide to opt-in now and take advantage of HMRC's pilot scheme.

How will Making Tax Digital benefit businesses?

By keeping all records online and filing VAT returns digitally, you can regularly check your income, expenses and business profits. This 'real time' intelligence can then help you make better business decisions throughout the year. There's also the added benefit of going paperless.

When is the best time to make the digital switchover?

At The Cotswold Accountants, we are advising our clients to start now. Certainly, the earlier you start, the easier it will be to plan and manage.



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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 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. 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	clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk	01451 810839
Little Hurricanes	Baby and Toddler Group	littlehurricanes@hotmail.com	
Social Committee	Community Events	URSC@btinternet.com	07592 533596
Village Hall		bookings@urvh.org	01451 821820
The Breeze	Newsletter	URNEWS@btinternet.com	07592 533596
Rissington Singers	Village Choir	rissingtonsingers@gmail.com	
CUR:ve	Church in UR	sendtocurve@gmail.com	
UR Sports	Saturday football	blackgary4@aol.com	
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 2019.

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 17th May 2019.

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

