



The Breeze

Upper Rissington's Newsletter

Spring 2020

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Welcome to the Spring edition of *the Breeze*! A visitor to Upper Rissington recently commented that he could understand why the village newsletter was called *the Breeze*, although if the last few weeks are anything to go by, perhaps *the Gale* might have been more apt! Polly's regular *Gardening on a Hill* article (p8-9) draws our attention to the challenges this brings, as well as some of the other challenges of rural living. But I'm sure you would all agree that there are many advantages too, one of which is undoubtedly the sense of community that comes over so strongly in the Breeze.

In this issue, then, you will find lots of information about what's been happening and what's planned, as well as invitations to join in with community life in various different ways - singing with the choir, volunteering as a School Governor, chatting over coffee at Pioneers, or standing as a Parish Councillor, to name but a few. There's also a full-length *Behind the Road Names* (p16-17) featuring one of my own favourite memories of living here in the mid-70s - the wonderful Red Arrows display team.

As always, we're grateful to all our contributors and advertisers. Please do let us know if you would like an article included in the future, or if you have any other comments or suggestions about *the Breeze* (URNEWS@btinternet.com). Also, if you would like to be involved with producing or distributing *the Breeze*, do get in contact - we're not an exclusive team and help is always appreciated!

Have a good Spring

Sue Handy (editor)

Village News

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A Proper Pantomime

Three enthusiastic and capable young actresses, a truckload of lights, scenery and sound systems and an appreciative audience are all that's needed for a great Panto.

Chaplins Travelling Mini Pantos presented a fun and energetic version of *Beauty and The Beast* at the Village Hall at the beginning of January. Tickets sold very well and the design of the seating was arranged to give everyone a great view of the stage. The children who came certainly enjoyed the production, judging by the noise and laughter.



David the roadie helping set up



Top-notch entertainers at work

We will look to bring Chaplins back next year and, given the reputation they've built themselves this year, we're pretty sure that tickets will sell out fast.

The Panto always costs far more to put on than we look to recover in ticket prices. Our aim is to always make our events affordable by all in the village. This is why we only asked £5 a ticket and included refreshments for small children. Thanks to a generous grant of £500 from our Parish Council we were able to break even on the event, keeping our reserves intact.

Next Event

We'll be fuelling the village children with chocolate again this year in the annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year it will take place on Saturday 11th April from 11am until 1pm. The cost to enter the hunt will be just £1 per child.

This is a great, fun event; we rope off a separate area for the smallest of the children and have some fun extras on the day. For the children, as well as the main event, we provide a snack bag to keep them nourished through the hunt and the competitions. On the subject of competitions, wear your best Easter Bonnet and stand the chance of winning a special Easter Egg. A colourful array of bonnets always adds to the fun of the event, so get creative for you and the children. There will be several age categories for winners. The artistic and talented children of the village will be challenged to a colouring competition. As in previous years this will be judged on an age basis and we expect to be massively impressed with the colourful efforts submitted by the children.



We've been putting the hunt on for a few years now and we've taken on board what we've learned over that time. We'll order up enough eggs so that every child who takes part will have the opportunity to earn the same regardless of the colour of tokens found (apart from the golden winner egg in each of the two categories). We believe we've printed enough 'passports' to cope with a 20% rise on last year's record numbers so there should be plenty of everything.

Please do try to get there in time for the start of the event. The briefing is given at the beginning and you need to be there for that. As the event progresses the availability of eggs naturally reduces. We always go out of our way to ensure we don't disappoint children at our events, so please help us in that by getting them there in time to make sure there are no problems.

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

Thanks to the Parish Council for the grant of £500 towards the Panto, it helps preserve the Committee's funds to put on more engaging events for the community.

Thanks also to Jackson Stops for their kind donation of £100 towards the price of Easter Eggs.

The Rissingtons Local History Society

Our January talk entitled *The Duttons of Sherborne* was excellent and very well attended, being a local topic. The February talk on *The building of Regency Cheltenham* I am sure will be fascinating.

Forthcoming events:

Friday 13th March @ 7.30pm. *The Thames at War.*

Bill King will talk on why the River Thames was such an important strategic feature in WW2 and its role in the defence of the country.

Venue: Upper Rissington School.

Friday 24th April 10.45 for 11.00am start. *Guided walk and talk around Chipping Campden.*

We will explore this beautiful and ancient town in search of its fascinating history.

Walk will take 1.5 – 2hrs, followed by lunch. Places limited to members only.

Details and to book a place – contact Kate O'Brien - katiebee@hotmail.com.

Friday 15th May @ 7.30pm. AGM and talk on *Transport and Coaching Inns in Georgian Gloucestershire.*

Nicholas Herbert will give us an insight into the routes of coaches, their competition for services and their effect on local communities.

Venue: Upper Rissington School.

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

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

or Sue Lee on 01451 822692/sueleeoffice@gmail.com

Village Hall Update



Management Update

This quarter saw us continuing to progress on our improvement plans. These are the plans that we're regularly reporting on in *The Breeze*. The improvement Plan was worked on with the Hall users and we created a three-phase plan with phase one being the quicker, less costly improvements. These were largely completed before the last edition of *The Breeze*.

We're now at stage two of the plan. In this stage we are looking at more expensive and resource-hungry projects. We need to ensure value for money and that our implemented solutions address the widest possible need. Consequently progress on this phase will be much slower.

We have started to look at the audio-visual capability in the Hall and have quotes for the community room and the main hall. We've met with a specialist in the field and they've provided us with quotes and identified sources of grant funding. Our hope is to provide the community room with a projection screen and audio system that will allow users to simply plug in a PC and play presentation material. We've also got quotes for a much more ambitious project establishing a facility in the main hall, allowing film nights and appropriate facilities for much larger group meetings. We'll report back on progress in the next Breeze.



The new paths are a welcome addition to our village. We do want to do our bit to maintain and develop the aesthetics in the Village Hall area. For this reason, the management committee authorised spend on new beech hedging to run alongside the path that runs down the front of the Village Hall. We have volunteers (Jackie and David Oliver) who have kindly offered to plant the hedge and I'm sure they'd appreciate the support and help of others when they start the job in the next month or so. The choice of a beech hedge was made so that we could maintain a consistency with our neighbours together with its hardiness and year-round colours. If you'd like to help out please get in touch at treasurer@urvh.org.

Activities over the Last Quarter

The Charity Commission Annual Report was submitted in time to meet the January 31st deadline. The report is available on the Charity Commission website. Our charity number is 1162683. The easiest way to find this is to search for 'find a charity', choose the gov.uk option from the search results which should then lead you on a self-explanatory route to all of our filed material. If you have trouble with this or would like a copy by email, please contact treasurer@urvh.org.

The new wheeled storage crates are proving a big success in helping to organise our limited storage. All community organisations using storage space have worked with us to organise the storage so that we can now safely navigate our way around the room.

For those of you aware of the heating problems that we've been managing over the past couple of years, I'm pleased to say that, since the replacement of the processor board in November, the system has operated free of any problems. So we now have a heating system that's been thoroughly overhauled and has a regular maintenance programme in place.

The Hall has a tremendously diverse range of activities. From activities such as indoor archery through community-focused groups such as Scouts, Curve, Little Hurricanes, Rotary and Pioneers. There are dance groups, self defence groups, yoga and relaxation as well as private celebrations and family events. The Hall hosts major community events. If you want to know what's going on in your Village Hall please visit our website at urvh.org. You can also view Hall availability and even request hire of the Hall. To get in touch with us email 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 are still looking to add strength to our Management Team. We would be particularly interested if you have book-keeping capabilities, organisational ability or time to help late at night with daily caretaking duties.

We currently have four Trustees and six 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 and leave a message or email secretary@urvh.org.

Thanks This Quarter

Big thanks this quarter go to Sue Barber who freely donated so much of her time and skill carrying out the inspection of the Trust accounts. This meant that we could get the Annual Report in to the Charity Commission in compliance with Commission requirements.

Thank you to the Rotary who this month awarded their Brian Honess Community Award to one of our wonderful volunteers for her work on the Village Hall borders. Well-deserved, Jackie Oliver.

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

P3 continues to visit Upper Rissington every week

P3 is a charity which supports and guides people who face housing/tenancy related issues. They are at Upper Rissington Village Hall every Wednesday from 10:00am until 2:00pm in order to provide free advice to members of the community who may be experiencing difficulties. This support may include accessing the internet for claims or applications, signposting to access other organisations/services and charities, or general advice and support. The ultimate goal of the service is to enable people to feel empowered and be confident to better manage and live more independently in the future. Please feel free to join us on the day and times mentioned above if you have any questions or would like support. You can also follow our outreach service on Twitter using the address [@p3mavis](https://twitter.com/p3mavis); alternatively you could visit our website, www.p3charity.org. Finally, P3 would like to thank Upper Rissington Village Hall for their support.



Parish Council News

Letter from the Chairman

Spring is almost here and workmen on site in Upper Rissington certainly seem to have a spring in their step. It's great to see that the volume of work has picked up over the past few weeks with all the new footpaths on the development nearing completion. There has been talk that the public open space will be completed by the end of June, but let's wait and see!

Meanwhile, the Parish Council has several projects that we are trying to push forward. A new Barrington Road footpath is programmed to be completed by the local Highways department by the end of March. This will provide better links between the north and south of the village.

In partnership with the County Council we also are beginning the process of trying to get the speed limit reduced to 30mph along the Barrington Road and to 20mph within the estate roads. The first stage is to carry out speed surveys, by placing sensor strips on Bristol Road and Michell Way.

As a Council, we have plenty of ideas to help make Upper Rissington a better place to live. Some plans are small – like a new drop kerb or extra dog-poo bin – and others are more ambitious. For instance, we are investigating how to provide lighting along Longmore Avenue and other roads as we feel this is essential to the village. Additionally, we would like to see bollards installed in a few locations, including on the new tarmac footpath across the playing field.

There are currently three vacancies on the Council. Come join our team and help make things happen!

Chairman Declan Torris

Your Parish Council Needs You!

Could you help to make a difference in Upper Rissington, by volunteering to serve on the Council?

Following recent resignations, the Parish Council now numbers eight councillors. To get back up to full strength of 11, we are looking to engage the help of three local residents who would be willing to give up some of their time on a monthly basis to help shape the future of the village and the community.

Because of the rules around how vacancies are filled, we are currently able to co-opt one new councillor next month and hope to engage two more in a by-election scheduled for May 2020.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in local matters. The more skills and experience we have on the Parish Council, the better the outcome for all.

All the Council meetings are open to the public; you are welcome to come and listen and find out what we do. There is always a public session early in the meeting when we take questions.

If you would like any more information about becoming a councillor, then please either speak to one of the councillors or contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. Contact details are on the back page of The Breeze and the website at www.upperrissington-pc.gov.uk.

Happy Birthday Rotary in the Rissingtons (RitR)



RitR marked its first birthday on Thursday 23rd January at the Village Hall. Members and guests celebrated the Club's achievements and presented its first 'Local Hero' Award.

And Jocelyn Jeary, who has been associated with RitR since its inauguration, blew out the candle!

Andrew Mitchell, Chair of the Club, reviewed the achievements of the past year. He recalled the summer days and many hours building the allotment garden at the Rissington School – from weeds to an outdoor classroom where pupils can learn to cultivate plants and see them grow. *Purple4Polio* events were held at both School sites and raised funds for more than 3000 inoculations against polio. The purple crocus bulbs planted will flower soon. In a busy year, RitR ran fundraising events, including providing afternoon teas at Chastleton



House which funded a local student attending the Rotary Young Leader Award residential course.

For the first anniversary of the club, those living in the four Rissington villages were asked to nominate someone who had given outstanding service. The Brian Honess Community Award was presented to Jackie Oliver - honoured for her many hours of voluntary work nurturing and developing the Village Hall garden and



surrounding areas, for all to enjoy. The award is named after a long-serving past member of North Cotswolds Rotary who did so much for his community; his widow, Mary Honess, was delighted to present the award. The award will be presented annually and the shield will be displayed in the village hall.

Rotary in the Rissingtons meets at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at Upper Rissington Village Hall. We're an informal and friendly group and all are very welcome.

For further information please contact Andrew at andrew.mitchell42@btpenworld.com or follow the club on Facebook.



Gardening On a Hill

Living on the top of a hill can be challenging at times and this week we've been seeing one of those challenges. As the winter wind blows you realise how exposed we really are living in Upper Rissington. Some say we are the highest point in a direct line from Moscow, which is why we get these very cold winds. I don't know how true that is but maybe one day when I have a bit of time on my hands I will look into it and find out whether we really are – it certainly feels like it at times and at the moment I really can't think of doing any gardening outside. It's far too cold out there!

I do wonder how it would feel up here if we had no trees to slow down that flow of air. Trees really do protect us in more ways than we care to notice, so we really do need to protect them.

Some readers may remember that a few years ago I started a campaign to save a tree-lined path in the village. The developers wanted to incorporate the path into the back gardens of the houses they were building, which I thought was both unfair to the locals who had used the path for many years, but also a threat to our biodiversity in Upper Rissington, which the developers had promised to protect. If taken away, such biodiversity takes many years to build up again and, meanwhile, so much of our wildlife habitat would be lost. The replacement trees that have been planted will take years to have an impact so maintaining as many of our mature trees as possible is vital.

With the help and support of several residents and lots of time spent talking to the Path Preservation Team, two metres of the path behind the houses was saved for public use, but the trees were included in the gardens. This was far from ideal, as large and shady trees can be difficult in small gardens since little will grow under them, and it was understandable that some residents would wish to remove them. The trees had tree protection orders (TPOs) on them but, with planning permission, even trees with TPOs can be – and have been – removed. It seems sad that government bodies that say they stand for protecting our trees and environment allow developments to go ahead without stronger safeguards in place.



It seems to me that we are slowly losing our right to keep our local environment how we want it to be for future generations. We think that if a government body is put in place to protect these things then we can just relax in the knowledge that it will be done. This is not the case. It needs plenty of action from people who care enough to take the time to make sure things are done to protect our environment. Please keep an eye out for planning request in the local area and if you feel as passionate as I do about our trees then please take the time to put in the reasons why you object.

Deadline of 2026

This brings me to an important change you may of heard about already. Our paths are one of our most precious assets, hidden in plain sight, and often taken for granted. Shaped by our ancestors over centuries, they tell the stories of our landscape, our history and our heritage; they describe how generations before us travelled to the pub, field or shops; and they allow everyone to enjoy the countryside, both on our doorstep and across Britain's iconic landscapes.

But an estimated 10,000 miles of paths across England and Wales are at risk of being lost forever, unless we come together to save them. These are rights of way that have been built up over hundreds of years, an important part of our historical landscape, and once lost, they are lost forever. It is so important to put them back on the map and not lose the rights and access that people have fought hard to secure. By protecting these historic paths, we are safeguarding our landscape and our right to access it for the future.

After 1 January 2026, we won't be able to use historical evidence to add rights of way to the Definitive Map (the legal record of rights of way). This date was set in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and was intended to bring a level of certainty for landowners. Initially government committed to supporting this work directly but as this hasn't happened, organisations like the Ramblers are stepping up and helping put these paths back on the map.

The ground-breaking National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (which paved the way for National Parks and National Trails) required all local authorities in England and Wales to keep an official record of public rights of way. This is called the Definitive Map and is what I looked up when applying to get right-of-way access on the tree-lined path. The Definitive Map and Statement is the legal record of the public's rights to use Public Footpaths, Public Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic. It shows the routes of thousands of rights of way, and the original map and working copies are available for public inspection.

Preparation of the Map started in the early 1950s, following the passing of the 1949 Act. Initial surveys were carried out by town/parish councils and walking groups, but the process of mapping wasn't straightforward, and many paths were missed out. The Ramblers (www.ramblers.org.uk) are now helping to finish the job of mapping these rights of way. To find, map and save thousands of miles of lost paths, they have launched the 'Don't Lose Your Way' mapping tool. Check in to the site and join the search for lost paths and hidden byways. We need to take action before it is too late so while you're out walking make notes of the path you're taking (and any you cannot access) and put this info on the site above so it can be checked and registered. Thank you.

Spring 2020 in the Garden

Good soil structure is the key to growing healthy vigorous plants. If your soil is still wet from winter rains, avoid walking or standing on it until it's had a chance to dry out. Use planks to spread your weight. Spread compost, well-rotted manure or other soil-improvers. Adding organic material into the soil will stimulate the billions of micro-organisms that maintain health and fertility. This will give established roses, herbaceous plants, climbers and bulbs a spring feed. If you only have farm manure, make sure it's well-composted, use at half the rate of garden compost, and keep away from plant stems. Fork in lightly, or just leave on the soil surface and let soil creatures mix it in. Whatever you plant this month, tree, shrub, or perennial, don't over-feed. A couple of handfuls of garden compost in the planting hole is enough, plus a light mulch around the base.

Jobs for March include:

- Hoe weeds on sight, especially annual weeds before they can seed.
- Protect tender plants from frost and new spring shoots from slugs
- Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes, plus summer-flowering bulbs
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials and prune bush and climbing roses
- Top dress containers with fresh compost and check pots for vine weevil larvae
- Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed) and prepare greenhouse for seedlings.

1st Upper Rissington Scout Group B-PSA *Traditional Scouting*



2020 is a special year for our scout group and the B-PSA as a whole. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Baden Powell Scouts and we will be holding special group sessions and activities to celebrate this.

Upper Rissington Scout Group has a fantastic group of children in all sections who are energetic and keen to learn and take part in all our activities. Since joining the B-PSA we have had to redesign our program which has led to some sessions being a bit less badge-orientated, but this hasn't stopped the group from doing their best and being very proud of themselves and the group.

Our groups have learnt about Chinese New Year, Burns Night and have had great fun cooking haggis, neeps and tatties, as well as pancakes, and starting work on their badges.

Unfortunately due to the weather we have not been able to go outside during our sessions yet this year but the groups have adapted and used the time to try some new activities and games. Hopefully as the weather improves we will be able to start making use of the outside a bit more.

In order to keep the group going we are looking for some new members of our committee. The committee is a vital part of our Scout group and meets three or four times a year to oversee how the group is performing and look at ways to provide additional funding for the group. This is – as every position with in B-PSA – a voluntary position, so please let us know if you would like to join our committee.

Also group leaders and assistants are desperately needed. Ahmeek (Kirsten) and Hawkeye (Martin) currently run and organise all three groups and activities that the children take part in as well as organising and running camps and days out. Bagheera (Andy) provides invaluable help in the Scout section, along with Bubbles (Charlene) helping out in all sections, but we could really do with extra help.

We provide free training through the B-PSA, including child safety, first aid and other courses. You will need to be DBS checked through the B-PSA. No experience is necessary but an energy and enthusiasm to provide the groups with advice and activities is a must. You will need to be available each Friday evening during term-time plus for any camps or activities outside of group times.

Please call in and see us if you are interested in helping to keep this group going and help the children progress through their scouting journey.

PIONEERS

Pioneers continues to meet on alternate Wednesdays in the community room at the Village Hall, though some weeks we're in danger of running out of chairs! If you've not been along yet, why not come and find out what we get up to? Refreshments are available all morning, so drop in any time between 10.30am and 12.30pm – you'll be made very welcome!



A CELEBRATION OF TALENTED LOCAL GYMNASTS

It's time to share a celebration of local talent! The Gym Centre Gymnastics Club and its directors Martin and Kerwen Collett would like to praise the efforts and aspirations of 2 local residents and their family. Emily and Charlotte Lord both began their gymnastics journey at The Gym Centres' satellite club held in Bourton on the Water at The Cotswold School. It was clear from the start that both girls had a natural talent for the sport. Starting their gymnastics journey in a fun and educational recreational class gave them the safe space to develop their ability and prepare them for more training in the future.

Emily was the first to take the step and be invited to start training in a competition squad, making weekly dedicated visits to a purpose-built facility in Gloucester. Emily has continued to develop her gymnastics and now trains 5 times a week, showing determination for improvement in all her sessions. She has been entered into multiple competitions, ranging from club to county level. In 2019, Emily took part in the West Country League alongside her teammates, coming 2nd in the Gloucestershire Level 6 Championships and 6th in the Gloucestershire Novice Level 3 Championships. Emily was also awarded a Commended in the Regional Womens Gymnastics Grades for her Grade 6 work. The club is delighted to see her hard work start to pay off as she has recently been invited to train as part of the Womens Gloucestershire Gymnastics County Squads!



Charlotte has followed in her sister's footsteps, paving a path from recreational gymnastics into a 2-day-a-week competition training squad. Charlotte has quickly developed her strength and desire to succeed and therefore is making fantastic progress. With only a year's squad training under her belt, Charlotte has recently entered into club competitions and was placed 6th in the Novice 1 (2012 born) Gloucestershire Novice Championships 2019. On top of all that, Charlotte will also join her sister as part of the Womens Gloucestershire Gymnastics County Squads!

Both girls love for the sport is shown in their fantastic attitude towards their training. They have shown stamina that both the club and their parents are proud of. Their approach to learning in the gym is consistent and to be commended. They are a pleasure to work with and highlight one of the reasons why the club coaches enjoy their training sessions so much. Being able to see personal growth within a gymnast is important to the club. We are focused on creating well-rounded, confident young people who have had the opportunity to pursue their sport to the best of their ability.

Mother of Emily and Charlotte, Helen Lord, also had comments to make about the girls gymnastics experience so far: *'Gymnastics plays a huge part in our family life, both my daughters love the sport and we are happy to support them in something they love! This is because, aside from the skills they are learning, gymnastics teaches them many life lessons in discipline, determination, dedication, teamwork and resilience. The Cheltenham School of Gymnastics is where I learned gymnastics when I was a child, and it is fantastic to see my children loving a sport that I was passionate about, with the trusted, established club that I trained with.'*

We hope to continue to share your local gymnasts' achievements with you as they progress. So keep an eye out! If you are interested in gymnastics, please get in touch on 07870624180.

(Photo used with parents' permission)



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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Have you ever thought of being a School Governor?

The Governing Board of *The Rissington School* is looking for additional governors and would really like to attract the skills and experience of people from our community, particularly those who may have experience in HR, marketing or finance.

School governors are volunteers who work on a diverse range of matters – from deciding what kind of school to be and thinking about how to get there, to setting school policies and ensuring money is spent on the right things. Much of the role is about exercising common sense. Generally, school governors are not specialists in education.

Whilst governors are primarily there to question and challenge the school's leaders on the standards of educational performance, they must also work with the school to deliver the best education and ensure children learn in an environment in which they feel happy and secure.

Governors are unpaid; doing what they do simply to try to make *their school* the best school it can be and to make a positive contribution to something of fundamental importance – educating our children.

This is a hugely exciting and rewarding time to be a governor at *The Rissington School*, which is currently rated *Outstanding* by Ofsted. It is truly a unique school in many ways – not least in the fact that it is 'one school on two sites'. This brings its own set of challenges and we continually seek ways to effectively balance our resources – all while ensuring we provide excellent learning for all our children.

The full governing board meets six times a year, generally on a week-night evening. In addition, separate committees (made up of smaller groups of governors) also meet four or five times a year. Meetings last around two hours and are lively and interactive. Many of our governors work full time and fit in their role around their other commitments.

If you think this is something that may be of interest to you and you could contribute to governance at our school, please do get in touch by emailing the school with your details: admin@greatrissington.gloucs.sch.uk.

We will then arrange for *Tim Fox*, Chair of Governors, to contact you and arrange a time for a conversation.

Kind regards,

Mr Tim Fox
Chair of Governors

Mrs Sue Dawe
Headteacher

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 were thrilled to have a visit from Santa this year, who found time in his busy schedule to drop in with his sack of gifts for our children. This was the first time Santa has paid us a visit and he truly made our last session extra special for the children and a surprise for the adults too. Songtime Sally joined us with some Christmas tunes and extra party food was shared to bring the Christmas spirit.

Thank you to Sally and Santa from your helpers, aka The Little Hurricanes Committee.



The start of 2020 has brought some more changes again to Little Hurricanes with new faces arriving and others moving on to pastures new. It is always lovely to see this group evolve and to welcome new babies and parents to our community. The group has been running for over 4 years now during which time over 21 committee members have changed hands to help keep us going and support our parents. Fresh faces bring new ideas to our group so keep an eye on our information board or our Facebook page for any new events planned in the coming months.

We celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Rat in January with some craft and cakes and Aquatots dropped in to share information on their swimming courses for babies.

We have Valentines Day crafts, more musical sessions and Story Massage with Relax Kids are all planned before Easter treats and holidays.

If you have never been to our group and are a new parent feeling a little anxious that you do not know anyone, please get in touch or drop in, we will always try to help you feel and home over a cuppa and a biscuit...or two!

[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



Sundays

CUR:ve B&B (Bible & Breakfast) is on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9.30am. Hot drinks are available all morning with optional light buffet-breakfast on arrival. This is followed by a relaxed informal service with activities for the whole family, finishing by 10.40am.

Lent

Wednesdays at 7.30pm (5th March – 8th April), usually at 5 Avro Road: Rev Tudor Griffiths is leading a series of studies entitled 'Changing Times: Unchanging God', looking at the lives of some of the Old Testament characters and exploring God's faithfulness and provision during times of change. Everyone is welcome, and there will be opportunities for discussion.

Mondays at 12.30pm: Lent lunches at St Lawrence Church Bourton, every Monday in March. Organised by Churches together, a lunch of soup and a roll is followed by a short Bible-based talk and some discussion. Lent:

Easter Day:

Sun 12th April: meet at the Village Hall at 8am to go for an Easter morning walk, - returning by 10am. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Introducing Tudor, Lydia and Mark:

We are delighted to welcome 3 people who will be working alongside us in the next few months. Canon Rev Dr Tudor Griffiths is getting to know the communities and taking services in the Rissingtons and the Windrush area as well as Upper Rissington! Lydia Holloway & Mark Smallwood are currently working in the Evenlode Vale Benefice but they will also be working here in Upper Rissington for about 6 months. Mark helped Rob French with some of the sport a few years ago, and Lydia is currently receiving training at PSALMS where Rob is now based. So they have good credentials! Lydia and Mark hope to be doing some sporting activities in the village. We have asked all three of them to introduce themselves.

Hello, I'm **Tudor Griffiths**, a long-time minister with the Church of England, having also worked in Wales and Uganda. I live in the shadow of Gloucester Cathedral with my wife Anna; I have two married sons and three and a bit grandchildren. I'm still passionate about the good news that is Jesus, even after all these years in church! A little (only a little) like believing in Welsh rugby, maybe."



Hello, I'm **Lydia**, the sports and outreach worker for Evenlode Vale Benefice. Last year I was on a gap-year programme in Manchester with Youth for Christ. I currently receive training from the sports ministry charity PSALMS, and am passionate about sharing faith through sport. I love playing football and play for a ladies' team. I also love travelling and being outdoors generally. I grew up in the Cotswold countryside alongside eight younger siblings."

Hello, my name is **Mark** - some of you may remember me as I used to help Rob French with Saturday morning football, holiday clubs and touch rugby! I am qualified as a Secondary School Religious Studies Teacher and used to live and work in South East London, but am now thrilled to be working as a Youth Minister at the Evenlode Vale Churches. I love Upper Rissington and am excited to get involved in the life of the village! My hobbies include trail running, rugby (I play for Stow Rugby Club), guitar and I have been known to dance salsa. See many of you soon I hope."



For more information about any of these activities, please email sendtocurve@gmail.com or check our Facebook page or curveweb.org

The Joy of Singing



Did you know that Upper Rissington has a choir? You might have seen us performing at the Primary School or Summer Fete and not taken much notice. If so, you would have missed the smiles on our faces and the fun we were having – the laughter when we 'got it right' and the groans when it all went a bit awry but above all the joy of singing together.

We don't hold auditions and welcome all abilities ... so before you say 'I can't sing' ... **STOP!** **THINK!** What benefits can singing bring to your life?

Well it can:

- Reduce Stress
- Help with Depression
- Relieve Anxiety
- Regulate Heartbeat
- Improve Breathing
- and Lower Blood Pressure ...to name a few!

We are the Upper Rissington Choir – bringing people together from all walks of life to sing and enjoy time together.

If you would like to know more about our choir please call Janet on 07722841308.

Remember: we don't have auditions and you can come along and meet us at the Upper Rissington Primary School on a Tuesday evening in term time. We start at 7pm and finish at 9pm, with a break for coffee and cake in the middle. First Visit is Free! You've nothing to lose and a lot to gain.

Looking forward to meeting you soon!



Behind the Road Names in Upper Rissington – part 12

Red Arrows Close

The Red Arrows, officially known as the RAF Aerobatic Team and now based at RAF Scampton, was formed towards the end of 1964 as an all-RAF team, replacing a number of unofficial teams that had been sponsored by RAF commands. One of the earliest RAF displays was at an RAF pageant held at Hendon in 1920, with teams from front-line biplane squadrons.



Red Arrows fly-by at Great Rissington 27 August 2017

There were a number of aerobatics teams over the years but there were a few that stand out due to their direct connection to the Red Arrows.

Hawker Hunter aircraft were first used for aerobatics teams in 1955. The official RAF team was provided by No. 111 Squadron in 1956 and, for the first time, the aircraft had a special colour scheme, which was an all-

black finish. After a demonstration in France, they were hailed as "Les Fleches Noires" and from then on were known as the Black Arrows.

In 1964, the Red Pelicans, based at RAF Little Rissington and flying six Jet Provost, assumed the role of the RAF's leading display team. In that same year, a team of five yellow Gnat trainers from No 4 Flying Training School displayed at the Farnborough Airshow. This team became known as the Yellowjacks after Flight Lieutenant Lee Jones's call sign, "Yellowjack".

In late 1964 all the RAF display teams were amalgamated, as it was feared pilots were spending too much time practising formation aerobatics rather than operational training. The new team-name took the word "red" from the fact that the Red Pelicans' planes had been painted red (for safety reasons, as it was a far clearer and more visible colour in the sky) and "arrows" after the Black Arrows.

Initially, they were equipped with seven Folland Gnat trainers inherited from the RAF Yellowjacks display team. This aircraft was chosen because it was less expensive to operate than front-line fighters.

They began life with RAF Little Rissington in Gloucestershire (then the Central Flying School) as their HQ, but flew initially from RAF Fairford. The Red Arrows moved to RAF Kemble, now Cotswold Airport, in 1966 after RAF Fairford became the place of choice for BAC to run test flights for Concorde.



Gnat T.1s on the flightline at RAF Kemble in 1973



Red Arrows Hawk landing at Brize Norton June 2018

After displaying 1,292 times in the Folland Gnat, the Red Arrows took delivery of the BAE Hawk in 1979. Since being introduced into service with the Red Arrows, the Hawk has performed with the Red Arrows in 50 countries. The Hawks are modified with an up-rated engine and a modification to enable smoke to be generated; diesel is mixed with a coloured dye and ejected into the jet exhaust to produce either red, white or blue smoke.



Red Arrows displaying at RIAT 2015

When RAF Scampton became the CFS headquarters in 1983, the Red Arrows moved there. As an economy measure, Scampton closed in 1995, so the Red Arrows moved just 20 miles to RAF Cranwell; however, as they still used the air space above Scampton, the emergency facilities and runways had to be maintained. Since 21 December 2000, the Red Arrows have been based again at RAF Scampton, near Lincoln.

The Red Arrows are considered by many to be the greatest aerobatic display team in the world. They embody the spirit of the Royal Air Force by proudly displaying the capability, daring and values of the British Armed Forces high up in the sky. Representing the oldest independent air force in the world, they fly the Union Jack all over the globe and represent the best of Britain.

Skylarks Crescent

The Skylarks aerobatic display team flying on four de Havilland Chipmunk trainers was formed in 1967 from the Royal Air Force Central Flying School at RAF Little Rissington.

The aircraft were in standard training colours with the "Skylark" badge at the tail and a green lightning flash added to the fuselage sides.

Whilst lacking some of the panache of the jet teams, The Skylarks performed low-speed precision aerobatics with their Chipmunk aircraft. The team's remarkable performances were at Silverstone Grand Prix and in Germany.

The Skylarks aerobatic team was disbanded in 1971.



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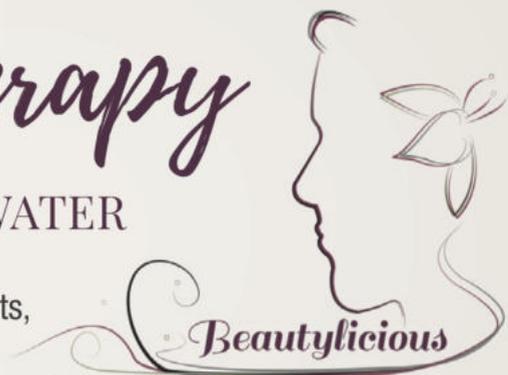
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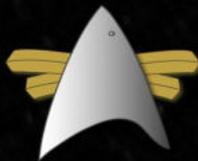


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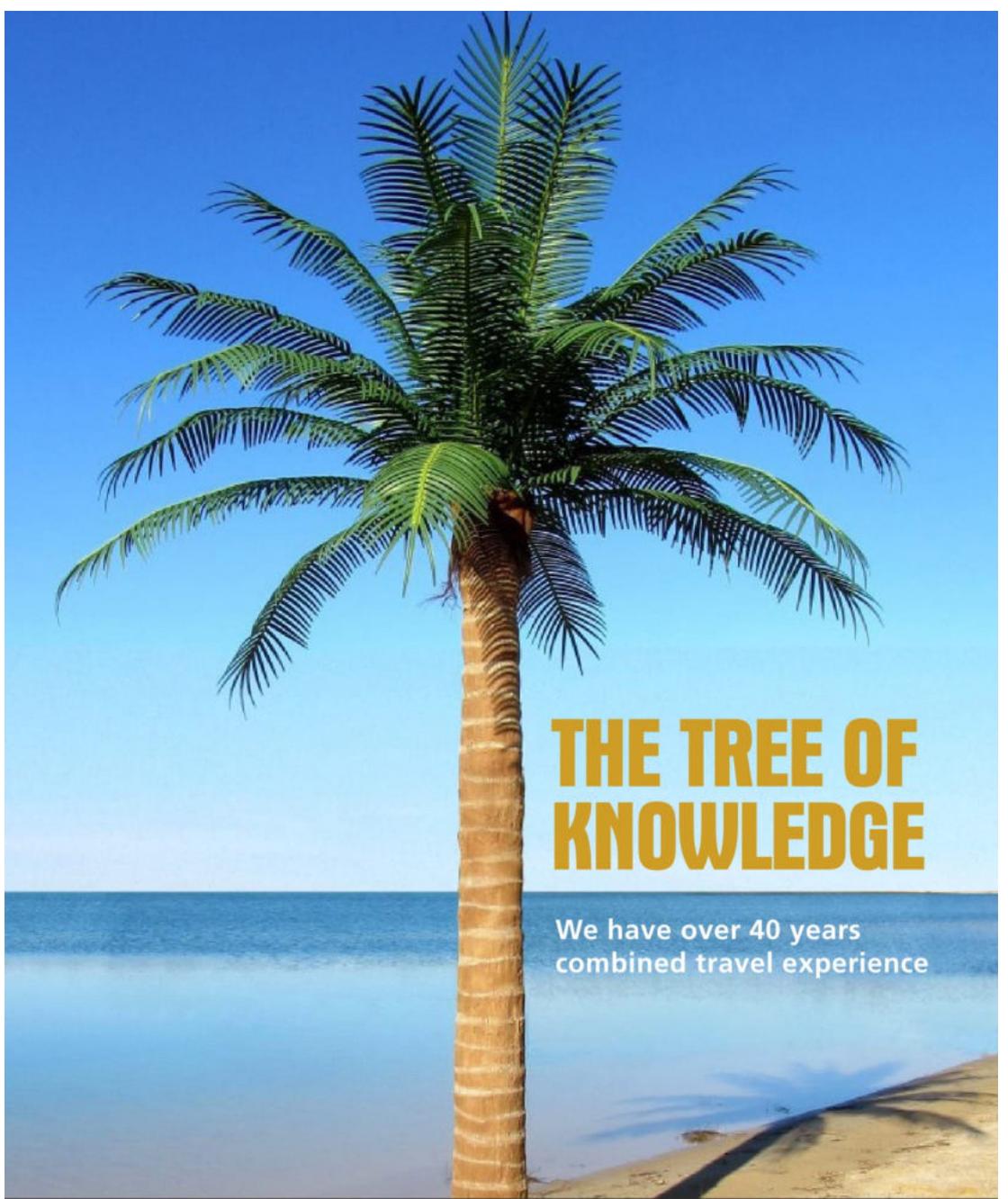
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Other useful sources of information about the village include the facebook page and the independent website www.upperrissington.org. Please note that any opinions expressed on these sites are personal to the contributors and are not promoted by 'The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

Name	Service	Web/email	Phone
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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	rissington.singers@btinternet.com	
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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 2020. 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 15th May 2020.

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

